

The World Handicap System



This time we learn about **GENERAL PLAY & COMPETITION ROUNDS**

What scores can be accepted for our handicap record and therefore included in the calculation of our Handicap Index? The list below shows which rounds played are acceptable.

Acceptability of Scores

Rounds played:

- In an authorized format of play;
- Over a minimum number of holes;
- By the Rules of Golf;
- In the company of at least one other person or player;
- On a course with a current Course Rating and Slope Rating.

1. In an authorized format of play.

Below is a list of formats which are acceptable in England.

You will see that all singles competition rounds, both 9 or 18 holes are mandatory, whether played at home or away.

Social (general play) scores must be pre-registered to be acceptable.

At this stage England Golf will not accept scores from four-ball or match play events, however these may be acceptable in other parts of the world and if so the score must be brought back to your home club. Those of you who regularly play in competitions abroad should take note of this.

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Authorized Formats of Play

Format of Play	Type of Round	Number of Holes			
		9	✓	18	✓
Individual Stroke play	Organized competition	9	✓	18	✓
	General play	9	✓	18	✓
	Stableford - organized competition	9	✓	18	✓
	Stableford - general play	9	✓	18	✓
	Par / bogey - organized competition	9	✓	18	✓
	Par / bogey - general play	9	✓	18	✓
	Maximum Score - organized competition	9	✓	18	✓
	Maximum Score - general play	9	✓	18	✓
	Four-Ball Stroke play	Organized competition	9		18
General play		9		18	
Stableford - organized competition		9		18	
Stableford - general play		9		18	
Par / bogey - organized competition		9		18	
Par / bogey - general play		9		18	
Individual Match play		Organized competition	9		18
	General play	9		18	
Four-Ball Match play	Organized competition	9		18	
	General play	9		18	

When you enter a competition you automatically pre-register your intent to submit a score for handicap. Entering does not include booking a time or adding your name to a draw, You have to sign in before you play on the day.

Pre-Registration

Within GB&I players are required to pre-register their intent to submit a score in general play for handicap purposes.

Such pre-registration must be made:

- Before the player starts the round, and
- In the manner prescribed by the club where the score is being played.

I imagine that Club VI will replace the option to submit a supplementary score currently on their app with the same option for general play after 2nd November. If this changes, then the Club will advise you.

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The Committee should consider that scores from a regular, organized social event with other players (Swindles and roll up), Should be preregistered score that are to be included in the players scoring record.

The Club Committee should treat these events as competitions in future when you will sign in before play.

2. Over a minimum number of holes.

Minimum Number of Holes

- If playing an 18 hole round and the player completes more than 9 holes, the score is added to the record.
- If playing a 9 hole round all holes must be played.

If you can't finish your round for a valid reason, your score should still be entered into the computer and scores for the holes with very high scores or those not played will be recorded as follows.

Hole scores may be adjusted:

- By Net Double Bogey for a high hole score.
- Or
- If all hole haven't been played, recording a Net Par on the holes not played.

Exception: if less than 14 holes of an 18 hole round have been played, net par + 1 stroke must be added to the first hole not played and net par to the remaining unplayed holes

These adjustments are made using the Course Handicap and will be applied by the computer.



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- If the minimum number of holes are not played the score is discarded and not included in the players record.

This does not mean that if you are having a bad round you can walk off the course. If the committee discover that you have no valid reason for not completing the round then they will apply a penalty score to your record.

A penalty score can be:-

A score equal to the player's current handicap index - if the player is trying to gain a downwards advantage.

A score equal to the lowest score in the player's record - if the player is trying to gain an upwards advantage.

The Handicap Committee should consider disciplinary procedures for players who repeatedly fail to submit their scores or who fail to complete rounds.

3. By the Rules of Golf

A golfer is expected to play by the Rules and if they are known to have been in breach of the Rules and not applied the correct penalty, or they have deliberately ignored the Rules, then the score is not acceptable for handicap purposes.

There may be instances of technical breaches, to be decided by the Committee, where, although disqualified from the competition, the score can be used for handicap purposes.

4. In the company of at least one other person or player.

In order for the player's score to be certified in accordance with the Rules of Handicapping - at least one other person needs to witness the round being played. The marker must be a person acceptable to the Handicap Committee.

5. On a course with a current Course Rating and Slope Rating.

The course must have a current Course and Slope Rating Issued by England Golf and any changes to the measured course must be reported and authorised by England Golf.

Only 35 days to go.

If anything else crops up I think you should know I will be in touch.

In the meantime please continue to visit the websites, enrol as a member of England Golf, if not already done so and watch those videos I have recommended.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.