

REVISIONS TO THE CONGU® UHS 2008-2011

We would draw Handicap Committees attention to a new definition of a Member along with an associated FAQ and decision introduced into the CONGU® UHS, in late 2008. Further details can be found at www.congu.com.

“Revised Definition of a Member

“A Member is an amateur golfer who is eligible to compete throughout the year in all Qualifying Competitions arranged by his Affiliated Club subject only to exclusion by virtue of one or more of the following:

- Restrictions imposed relating solely to the handicap of the players who may compete; or
- Restrictions imposed relating solely to the age or gender of the players who may compete; or
- Restrictions arising from category of club membership.

Notwithstanding the above, a Member must have the opportunity to compete in a reasonable number of Qualifying Competitions at his home club in a calendar year.

Note: Under this definition a Member as defined by the UHS is not necessarily a member as defined by the constitution or rules of his Affiliated Club or Clubs”.

New Decision 8 - Handicap and Competition Handicaps (and the like)

Q. Do forms or categories of golf club membership such as ‘Handicap Only’ or ‘Competition Membership’ satisfy the intent of the definition of a ‘Member’ as contained in the CONGU® Unified Handicapping System?

A. It is a matter for individual golf clubs to determine the nature of their categories of membership. However, forms or categories of membership such as ‘Handicap Only’ or ‘Competition Membership’ satisfy neither the spirit nor intent of the definition of a ‘Member’ as contained in the CONGU® Unified Handicapping System and do not qualify for the allotment of a CONGU® Handicap.

To satisfy the definition, ‘Members’ of a golf club should have a reasonable and regular opportunity to play golf with each other including participating in Qualifying Competitions. Peer review is an essential component of the Unified Handicapping System.

Affiliated Clubs if, and when, considering the introduction of new or modified forms or categories of Membership can obtain guidance in regard to compliance with the definition of a ‘Member’ and eligibility for allotment of a CONGU® Handicap from their National Union / Association.”

New FAQ clarifying ‘Exceptional Circumstances’ in Clause 23.7

Q. Clause 23.7 of the CONGU® UHS states that ‘In exceptional circumstances the Handicap Committee may adjust the handicap of a player in the period between Annual Reviews if there is compelling evidence that his Exact Handicap does not reflect his current playing ability’. What are ‘exceptional circumstances’?

A. Circumstances that may be regarded as ‘exceptional’ include:

- Impaired golfing ability resulting from extended illness or injury.
- The need to correct a handicap that was allocated at an inappropriate level.
- The return of a series of good scores in Qualifying Competitions within a short timeframe by a hitherto infrequent competitor.
- A number of, probably three or more, good playing performances in Non-Qualifying competitions such as Mixed Foursomes, Four-Ball Better Ball events, Corporate or Society days by a player who otherwise may not participate with any regularity in Qualifying Competitions.