



CONGU Changes for 2018

Nine-Hole Qualifying Scores

Purpose of this document

This advisory document explains the changes introduced from January 2018 to the provisions of Clause 22 of the CONGU® UHS for Nine-Hole Qualifying Competitions. It is essential reading for all who administer handicaps within Scottish Golf Clubs and for players who will be affected by the change.

Details of the Change

The existing regulations are enhanced:

- The ability for clubs to offer Nine-Hole Open competitions. When clubs take advantage of this it is important to obtain the players' Exact Handicaps as this is used in the calculation of the Handicap Allowance;
- Through the optional provision of results printed-out in a medal stroke play format (i.e. nett scores) rather than Stableford points although the calculations and handicap adjustments on a player's record will remain as Stableford.

Implications for Clubs

Increasingly this shorter format is being recognised by clubs and players as being a way forward to grow the game by encouraging new players of all ages and by helping in the retention of existing players who may be time-limited or find the 18-hole format too demanding.

The changes for 2018 give clubs the opportunity to promote nine-hole golf as a recognised additional option within their competitive schedule and this may well appeal to those Members who do not often participate in traditional 18-hole events. In particular, Nine-Hole Opens may be an attractive option for:

- Younger juniors, especially those in Categories 5 and 6;
- Mid-week evening events targeted at the working players who are time limited;
- Players who enjoy the shorter format

Summary of Key Points for Nine-Hole Qualifying Scores

Feature	Regulation
Permitted course	Must be over a Designated Nine-Hole Course and played from tees rated for the relevant gender when Qualifying Competitions Conditions prevail. Each rated set of tees has a Nine-Hole SSS expressed as an 18-hole value determined by the National Association.
Eligible Handicap Categories	<p>Competitions: Categories 1 to 6 at any club of which the player is a Member and in Open Nine-Hole Qualifying Competitions.</p> <p>Supplementary Scores: Categories 2 to 6 only at any club of which the player is a Member.</p>
Formats	Stableford – for competition purposes only the results may also be expressed as a stroke play (nett score) output rather than in Stableford points.
CSS calculated	No – handicap adjustments are against the SSS.
Permitted for Initial Handicap allotment	Yes – providing over Designated Nine-Hole Course. Nine-hole scores are added in chronological order to create an equivalent 18-hole score.
9 Hole Competition Handicap Allowance (“CHA”)	<p>Players are given a 9-hole CHA accounting for the difference between the par and SSS of the 9-hole course.</p> <p>Calculated using the player’s Exact Handicap according to the formula: $CHA = [\text{Exact Handicap} + \text{Nine-Hole SSS} - (2 \times \text{Nine-Hole Par})] / 2$ Strokes are taken according to the Stroke Index of the designated 9-hole course.</p>
Calculating a 9-Hole Allowance	Handicap conversion tables are available from Scottish Golf.
Application of Appendix O	No adjustment is needed for mixed events or for multi-tee single gender events since the calculation of the CHA adjusts for any differences in the relationship between Par and SSS. The target to play to handicap is 18 actual points scored which added to the neutral 18 points gives 36 points.

Qualifying Score for handicap purposes	Initially, 18 Stableford points are added to the actual points scored to give the Qualifying Score which is then assessed for handicap purposes against the Nine-Hole SSS and the player's Nine-Hole Buffer Zone.	
Buffer Zones	Category 1	36 points
	Categories 2 and 3	35 – 36 points
	Categories 4 to 6	34 – 36 points
Handicap Record Entries and Adjustments	If the points scored for the nine holes played plus the 18 neutral points added are within or better than the Buffer Zone this total is recorded on the player's handicap record and the Nett Differential calculated accordingly. If this total is not within or better than the Buffer Zone the total points recorded is double the actual Stableford points scored and the Nett Differential calculated accordingly. A 0.1 increase is applied to the player's Exact handicap.	
Provision for Abandoned Competitions	Yes – Handicap adjustments apply to completed rounds on the basis of Reduction Only against the Nine-Hole SSS.	
Treatment of No Returns	No returns attract an increase of 0.1 to the Exact Handicap unless the competition has been abandoned.	