



## **CONGU Changes for 2018**

### **Allotting an Initial Handicap**

#### **Purpose of this document**

This guidance document explains the background to the change to Clause 16 – the Initial Handicap Allotment - implemented in the CONGU® UHS from 1 January 2018. It is essential reading for all who administer handicaps within Scottish Golf Clubs.

#### **Details of the change**

- Cards used solely for the calculation of the initial handicap are now adjusted so that the maximum score per hole will be double the Par of the hole. This applies to all players irrespective of gender or age;
- The resulting Adjusted Gross Differential (“AGD”) is reduced according to the algorithm in existing Clause 16.3 for all new handicaps.

#### **Drivers for the change**

- With the retirement of the Club Handicap and the extension of the maximum handicap for both genders to 54 it was recognised that a single method applicable throughout the handicap range irrespective of gender or age would be desirable;
- The previous separate calculation for the initial Club Handicap could generate very different values for players whose handicaps were at or near the existing maxima of 28 for men and 36 for women for the same gross scores returned.

#### **Summary of the Procedure from 1 January 2018**

- Players requiring an initial handicap (beginners, returnees, re-instated professionals, players holding handicaps from jurisdictions other than CONGU) are required to submit cards covering 54 holes worth of scores at their Home Club;
- The cards can be returned over 18 holes or 9 holes or a combination thereof. For the purposes of the initial handicap any 9-hole scores are combined in chronological order to generate 18-hole equivalent cards;

- All cards must be returned from tees that have been rated and have a current SSS for the relevant gender of the player. In the case of 9-hole scores they must be returned over a Designated Nine-Hole Course;
- The cards must be marked by someone acceptable to the Committee. Clubs may permit players to submit cards when playing alongside others who are playing in a club competition;
- Scores in excess of double the Par for each hole shall be adjusted to a maximum of double Par, the resulting total being the Adjusted Gross Score. Using this value the Adjusted Gross Differential (“AGD”) is determined:

$$\text{AGD} = \text{Adjusted Gross Score} - \text{SSS for the course/tee used}$$

The Lowest Adjusted Gross Score is determined (“LAGD”) from the three 18-hole equivalent returns;

- The best AGD from the three 18-hole cards (or equivalent cards) is used to calculate the initial handicap as in Clause 16.3 (b) 3 & 4:

$$\text{Initial Handicap} = (\text{LAGD} + (\text{LAGD} * 0.13)) / 1.237 \text{ truncated to a whole number.}$$

### Considerations for Clubs

- Before allotting this Initial Handicap the Handicap Committee must consider any other information relating to the player, in particular any previous handicap held or handicap from another jurisdiction. The calculation is a recommendation based on the scores returned and other information may lead the Committee to allot a different Initial Exact Handicap.
- The computer software will apply the reducing algorithm across the handicap range as this gives an allowance for the potential of the player to improve quite quickly thus protecting the field in competitions. For Category 1 handicaps this very often results in a lower handicap than is justified and may give a player access to team places or prestigious competitions ahead of established players. A Category 1 handicap should be earned and for this reason all Category 1 initial handicap allotments must be referred to Scottish Golf. Quite often the resulting handicap is higher than the software calculation may suggest from the cards. Please ensure that as much information as possible regarding each player’s previous history and current golfing circumstances is provided when applying for Category 1 authorisation.