



CONGU Changes for 2018

Supplementary Scores

Purpose of this document

This advisory document explains the changes introduced from January 2018 to the provisions of Clause 21 of the CONGU® UHS for Supplementary Scores. 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

- An unlimited number of score submissions now permitted per year - the limit of ten Supplementary Scores per annum for players in handicap Categories 2 to 6 removed;
- The removal of restrictions on the number of Supplementary Scores players may return within a week.

Why?

- Every club has players who regularly return only the three scores needed to maintain their 'c' status. In addition, a significant number only return four or five scores. These handicaps are not necessarily truly reflective of their underlying ability. Such players are often disadvantaged should they ever compete in recognised competitions or when playing social golf with friends.
- The new World Handicap System ("WHS") may be adopted as early as 2020. If so, it is likely that scores from 2018 and 2019 will form the basis of the new handicap allotted on transition. Players with fewer than 20 returns in these two years will not have as reliable a handicap as those with 20 or more recent scores. It is, therefore, very important that players who wish to bring forward a realistic handicap, for competitive and/or social golf, use these two years to build up a track record of recent scores.
- Ideally this will be achieved through organised club competitions. However, this is not always possible due to work/family commitments.

- Pre-registered Supplementary Scores can now be returned any time or day of your choosing (check for any restricted times with your own club) to augment often sparse information derived from competition play.

Implications for Clubs

2017 Playing Season (April – October) - % of Supplementary Scores returned

Total Number of Qualifying Scores	1,317,422
Number of Supplementary Scores	16,212
% Supplementary Scores	1.23%

More information = Better Handicapping

The above table illustrates that many players will need to increase the percentage of Supplementary Scores returned in order to provide a more robust, full handicap record in the transition towards WHS. Overcoming the reluctance of players to submit scores out with competitions remains a culture change for many players and clubs but if achieved can increase the accuracy and relevance of an official handicap for a significant proportion of a club's membership.

Considerations for clubs

- Specify the requirements for pre-registering a Supplementary Score. If no staff are around, or no PSI terminal is available, have a system in place to register in advance, for example, an entry sheet in the pro shop giving details of starting time and playing partner.
- Specify requirements for returning a Supplementary card, e.g a box beside the computer.
- Specify which times are restricted for submitting a Supplementary, for example, during weekend competition times.
- Specify which rated tees are available to play from for which Supplementary Scores may be submitted for both genders. When it is unavoidable and course conditions and/or set-up mean that Competition Conditions are not satisfied this information is available to players to avoid them submitting scores that will not be acceptable for handicapping purposes;
- Handicap committees will need to consider if they have available resources to manage the increased office administration as a result of more scores being returned.
- Encouraging groups within the club that organise regular 'roll-ups' or other semi-official/ social competitions to run them as qualifiers or to encourage their players who otherwise do not play frequently in official club competitions to register and submit a Supplementary Score when the format would be acceptable for handicapping purposes;

- Actively promote Supplementary Scores and the concept that three scores are not enough.

Summary Table of Supplementary Score provisions from 1st January 2018

Supplementary Score Feature	Handicap Categories 2 - 6	Handicap Category 1
Club(s) at which scores may be played	Home Club and at other clubs in CONGU jurisdiction at which the player is a Member	Home Club only
18- Hole rounds when Qualifying Conditions prevail and tees used are rated for the relevant gender	Yes	Yes
9-Hole rounds when Qualifying Conditions prevail and tees used are for the relevant gender	Yes – must be over a Designated 9-Hole course	Not permissible
Pre-registration required	Yes	Yes
Acceptable formats	Stroke play and Stableford	Stroke play and Stableford
CSS calculated or used	No	No
Handicap Adjustments	Per Clause 17 against the SSS	Per Clause 17 against the SSS
Treatment of No>Returns	0.1 increase in Exact Handicap	0.1 increase in Exact Handicap
Maximum number of scores per year	Unlimited	See Note below
Restriction on number of scores returned in a single week	No	No

Note re Maximum number of rounds for Category 1 players:

- Players with Exact Handicaps in the range 2.5 to 5.4 may return a maximum of 10 per year.
- Players with Exact Handicaps in range 2.4 to Plus Handicaps may return scores at any time to re-instate a lost 'c' status but if 'c' status held may only return Supplementary Scores during the period 1 September to 31 December in a calendar year and only the number of scores required to retain the 'c' status.
- Condition (a) above applies only in Scotland. In other CONGU jurisdictions Condition (b) above applies for all Category 1 players.