

Non-Qualifying & Reduction Only Competitions

Definition – What is a non-qualifying competition?

A *Non-Qualifying Competition* is a competition when the requirements of a *Qualifying Competition* are not satisfied.

When a competition is declared ***Non-Qualifying***, handicaps can **neither be reduced nor increased**.

A fundamental principal of the CONGU Unified Handicapping System is that handicap adjustments, upwards and downwards, are only applied in qualifying competitions, in relation to CSS.

The easiest way to approach this is to look at what constitutes a *Qualifying Competition* and if any of stated the criteria are not met, the competition is deemed Non-Qualifying.

Definition – What is a Qualifying Competition?

A *Qualifying Competition* is any competition in which *Competition Play Conditions* prevail and for handicap adjustment and record purposes full handicap allowance is applied and a Competition Scratch Score is calculated.

A competition is deemed *Qualifying* provided:

- It is played over a Measured Course, which is a course of an affiliated club which has been measured and certified for which a Standard Scratch Score has been allocated.
- Not more than two temporary greens are in play.
- It is played under the Rules of Golf from Competition Tees.

Permitted Adjustment to a Measured Course

Whilst each Affiliated Club must endeavour to maintain the length of its Measured Course for Qualifying Competitions, Competition Play Conditions nevertheless prevail when the length of a course has been reduced or increased in the following circumstances:

When, to allow for the use of temporary, or alternative, tees and not more than two temporary greens:

- The length of a course has been reduced or increased by not more than 100 yards (91 metres) from the length of the Measured Course; the Standard Scratch Score remains unaltered.

- To allow work to proceed on course alterations it may be necessary to reduce or increase the playing length of the Measured Course by between 100 and 300 yards (91 and 274 metres). In these circumstances, the club must reduce or increase as the case may be the Standard Scratch Score of the Measured Course temporarily by **one stroke and report to the Union**, or Area Authority if so delegated, such alteration and appropriate reasons. The club must also notify the Union or Area Authority when the course has been restored to its measured length and the official Standard Scratch Score re-instated.

Note: The permitted course length adjustments specified that apply to courses of 18 holes are halved for Nine-Hole Qualifying Competitions.

'Reduction Only' Competitions

A club **does not** have the authority to run competitions in which handicaps can be reduced but not increased.

There are only **two situations** within the CONGU Unified Handicapping System when handicaps can be reduced but not increased. These are:

- A competition where the application of the CSS calculation determines that the competition is Reduction Only. (i.e. calculated CSS of 'SSS+3 R/O')
- When a competition has been abandoned for a valid reason, reductions of handicaps are made on the basis that CSS is equal to the SSS with no handicap increases being applied.