



The GA Handicap System Section 6

Duties, Authorities, and Responsibilities of the Home Club

Version – September 2013

CONTENTS

- 1. CHECK-LIST OF HANDICAPPING DUTIES, AUTHORITIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HOME CLUB**

- 2. APPENDIX A – Requirement to Maintain the Overall Distance of a Rated Course**

- 3. APPENDIX B – Common Handicapping Scenarios – Procedures for Pro Shops & Handicapping Administrators (includes application of the correct GOLF Link score status)**

- 4. APPENDIX C – HANDICAPPING POLICY QUESTIONS THAT EACH CLUB WILL NEED TO RESOLVE**
 - A. Are we going to handicap the Conforming Social Scores of our Members? [GA Recommendation: SHOULD HANDICAP]
 - B. Are we going to handicap good Four-ball scores? [GA Recommendation: SHOULD HANDICAP]
 - C. Are we going to handicap 9-hole scores (and any other scores made over 8-17 holes)? [GA Recommendation: SHOULD HANDICAP]
 - D. Are we going to handicap scores returned in Aggregate Teams Events? [GA Recommendation: SHOULD HANDICAP]
 - E. Are we going to handicap scores returned in Pro-Am Events? [GA Recommendation: SHOULD HANDICAP]
 - F. Are we going to handicap good scores returned in Corporate/Trade Days that have been conducted by an entity that is not affiliated with GA? [GA Recommendation: SHOULD HANDICAP]
 - G. Are we going to handicap a score returned in a Competition that has been Declared Null and Void (where the conditions have not notably compromised the proper playing of the game for that player)? [GA Recommendation: SHOULD HANDICAP]
 - H. Are we going to handicap scores returned in Novelty Events such as Bisque Par and Three-Ball Competitions? [GA Recommendation: SHOULD HANDICAP]
 - I. Are we going to handicap the Score of a Player who has Played Within a Competition Field but who Hasn't Entered the Competition? [GA Recommendation: SHOULD HANDICAP]
 - J. Are we going to handicap good scores from a Competition that has as a Playing Condition That Players are Limited to a Number of Clubs that is Less than 14? [GA Recommendation: SHOULD HANDICAP]

1. CHECK-LIST OF HANDICAPPING DUTIES, AUTHORITIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HOME CLUB

- (i) An essential element of the *GA Handicap System* is that each affiliated club will ensure it is properly administered in accordance with the interpretations of *Golf Australia*. It is for each club to establish and maintain its own procedures for ensuring it properly administers the *GA Handicap System*.
- (ii) The duties, responsibilities, and authorities of each club are as follows (note: as a club does not always have complete control of the course or courses on which its members play, it should conform with the following to the extent that its authority permits):
 - (A) Responsible for ensuring compliance by the golf club with all aspects of the *GA Handicap System*, including the determination of each member's *GA Handicap*.
 - (B) Responsible for ensuring the set-up of its *course* (or *courses*) complies with the requirement to maintain the rated length (see **Appendix A**).
 - (C) Responsible for verifying that all required *Eligible Scores* made by their members are reported for handicap purposes and that only *Eligible Scores* are included in the handicap records of their members.
 - (D) Has the authority to determine if *course* conditions are so poor that handicapping of *competitions* at that facility should be suspended (unless the *Member Association* supplies different guidance). If handicapping is suspended for an extended period, the golf club must obtain approval from its *Member Association*.
 - (E) Responsible for ensuring the *Scratch Rating* and *Slope Rating* of each *Course* at the facility is posted in a prominent place (it is advisable for these ratings to be printed on the score card).
 - (F) The club should compare the *Scratch Rating* and *Slope Rating* of each *course* it regularly uses with those of other *courses*. Separate ratings must be made from each set of tee markers as practical for each gender. A club must accept and use the ratings issued by its *Member Association*. If a club disagrees with its ratings, it may request its *Member Association* to review the ratings in accordance with the relevant *GA* policy.
 - (G) The club should examine results of *competitions*. If net scores of any players appear exceptional, the club should take appropriate action as specified by this System.
 - (H) Ensure accurate maintenance of its members' handicap records. The club is responsible for reviewing the data entered into *GOLF Link* and received from *GOLF Link* and applying all other procedures of the *GA Handicap System*.
 - (I) Responsible for ensuring any existing handicap record of a new member of the club is appropriately transferred and incorporated into the new *GOLF Link* number. (Note: The handicap record of a member who resigns will be preserved automatically by *GOLF Link* for an indefinite period.) Phone the *GOLF Link* Customer Service Centre for assistance with 'Home Club Transfer' process – 1300 650 750.
 - (J) Responsible for reviewing the accuracy of handicap records of members of the club. Responsible for ensuring compliance with the published *GA* guidelines regarding when (and when not) to record the status of a round as "No Score – Not Approved" (see **Appendix B**). If errors exist, the club must move to have such errors corrected as soon as possible. A club may wish to consult its *Member Association* or *GOLF Link* for assistance.
 - (K) The club may check periodically and consult with other clubs, its *Member Association*, or *GA*, on matters including, but not limited to:
 - The allocation of handicap-stroke holes on the *course*.
 - The determination of handicap competition grades at the club (given that it is considered preferable by the club to split players into separate handicap grades for handicap competition purposes). To enable comparisons and consistency from club to club and from one set of tees to another set of tees, it is recommended that handicap competition grades be determined on the basis of *GA Handicaps*.
 - The determination of *course* set-up and par.
 - The determination if the condition of the *courses* being utilised by the club is so poor that handicapping should be suspended.
 - The maintenance of playing difficulty of the *course*.
 - Operation of any Local Rule on preferred lies or *tee up*.

In working with other clubs, the club has the responsibility to provide handicap information in a timely manner.

- (L) Responsible for ensuring new members of the club clarify in writing whether or not they have previously held an official Australian handicap or recognised overseas equivalent, what such handicap was, the lowest handicap the player has held, and timelines for each.
 - (M) Responsible for ensuring the proper application by the club of Section 15 of the GA Handicap System (“Manual Override by Club of Normal Handicap Calculation Process”).
 - (N) Responsible for ensuring the proper application by the club of Section 16 (“Manual Bonus Reduction for Exceptional Net Score”). The club should only effect a Manual Bonus Reduction if it considers that the normal calculation process has not produced an appropriate reduction.
 - (O) Responsible for ensuring that the committee in charge of each competition conducted by the club has determined whether or not to adopt the GA recommendation that any player whose *GA Handicap* has reverted to provisional status (as per Section 14(iii)) will not be eligible to win a prize in a competition or to win a competition.
 - (P) Where the *GA Handicap System* provides to a club flexibility for it to determine its own policy on a specific point (see **Appendix C**), the club should ensure it establishes a position on that point. To assist in determining such positions, a club may consult with other clubs, its *Member Association*, or *GA*. Note: Where a club has separate internal authorities for males and females, the bodies within the club responsible for each should engage in dialogue before establishing any policies relating to handicapping or competition management.
- (iii) Scores should be returned by players as soon as is practicable. If a club feels it is experiencing an unacceptable level of delay in score card return, it would be proper for it to set a reasonable time limit within which scores may be returned (whilst taking into account any individual cases of extenuating circumstances).
 - (iv) The club committee may determine which of its membership categories are eligible to hold *GA Handicaps*. Such handicaps shall only be available to golfers in respect of whom an annual affiliation fee is payable to the *GA Member Association*.

APPENDIX A

Requirement to Maintain the Overall Distance of a Rated *Course*

- (A) Whilst a *course* should generally be played at its rated length, a club does have a large degree of flexibility around the movement of tee markers from day to day provided overall *course* distance remains substantially the same. Where unusual weather or *course* conditions are in evidence, a club may wish to set the daily tee markers such that overall *course* distance is altered provided the overall change is no more than 100 metres.

When the position of the daily tee markers on the *course* played are more than 100 metres overall from the permanent rating markers for that *course* for an 18-hole round, the scores must not be handicapped.

Note i: If on one hole the tee markers are 15 metres forward and on another hole they are 10 metres back, the overall difference for these two holes is considered to be 5 metres from the rated length.

Note ii: For a round of less than 18 holes, a pro rata length must be calculated; eg for a 9-hole round, the distance is 50 metres.

- (B) Unless determined otherwise by the *Member Association*, handicap conditions do not prevail when the tee markers, under normal circumstances, are placed more than 20 metres in front or 20 metres behind the relevant set of permanent rating markers on more than three holes for rounds of 14-18 holes, or on more than two holes for rounds of 8-13 holes. (An exception applies for *courses* with cyclical permanent rating marker placements which have been approved by a *Member Association*.)
- (C) Where average tee marker placement over time on a *course* results in an effective average total *course* distance that is considered by the *Member Association* to be materially different to the rated *course*, the *Member Association* should amend the official *Scratch Rating* accordingly.
- (D) Hole placements are not taken into consideration in determining whether or not a club has satisfied the requirements around maintaining the overall distance of a rated *course*.

APPENDIX B – Common Handicapping Scenarios – Procedures for Pro Shops & Handicapping Administrators (includes application of the correct GOLF Link score status)

(Note: Non-GOLF *Link* clubs should refer to Section 12(ix) of the GA Handicap System for full details of the required GOLF *Link* score status options stipulated in the Handicapping Action column.)

SCENARIO	COMPETITION ACTION	HANDICAPPING ACTION / GOLF <i>Link</i> SCORE STATUS
1. No handicap on card. (i) STROKE (Rule 6-2b) (ii) PAR & STABLEFORD (Rule 6-2b & 32-2a)	(i) Disqualified from net event. (ii) As above. Note: If gross event is held, card accepted for gross.	(i) & (ii) Apply correct handicap and use for handicapping. <u>Choose the “Non-Standard Entry” option in GOLF Link. Enter the player’s Stableford score (note: add 36 to the result for Par competitions; eg enter ‘34’ for -2, or enter ‘40’ for +4) into the Handicapping Score box. Leave the Competition Score box blank.</u>
2. Card not signed (Rule 6-6b). Or card handed in after <i>competition</i> has closed.	Disqualified from the <i>competition</i> .	Use for handicapping as returned. <u>Choose the “Non-Standard Entry” option in GOLF Link. Enter the player’s Stableford score (note: add 36 to the result for Par competitions; eg enter ‘34’ for -2, or enter ‘40’ for +4) into the Handicapping Score box. Leave the Competition Score box blank.</u>
3. Higher handicap on card which affects the number of strokes received. (i) STROKE (Rule 6-2b) (ii) PAR & STABLEFORD (Rule 6-2b & 32-2a)	(i) Disqualified from net event. (ii) As above. Note: If gross event is held, card accepted for gross.	(i) & (ii) Apply correct handicap and use for handicapping. <u>Choose the “Non-Standard Entry” option in GOLF Link. Enter the player’s Stableford score (note: add 36 to the result for Par competitions; eg enter ‘34’ for -2, or enter ‘40’ for +4) into the Handicapping Score box. Leave the Competition Score box blank.</u>
4. Higher score recorded on a hole than actually taken in Stroke, Par and Stableford (Rules 6-6d & 32-2a) which affects the player’s <i>Competition Score</i> .	Card accepted as returned.	<u>Choose the “Non-Standard Entry” option in GOLF Link. Enter the player’s actual Stableford score (note: add 36 to the result for Par competitions; eg enter ‘34’ for -2, or enter ‘40’ for +4) into the Handicapping Score box. Enter the score as listed on the score card into the Competition Score box.</u>
5. Score not listed on score card in Stroke for hole or holes which have been completed.	Disqualified from the <i>competition</i> .	(A) If the correct score/s can be readily identified (to a reasonable degree of certainty), it is to be used for handicapping. <u>Choose the “Non-Standard Entry” option in GOLF Link. Enter the player’s actual Stableford score into the Handicapping Score box. Leave the Competition Score box blank.</u> (B) If correct score/s cannot be identified, the player is deemed to have had 2 points for each missing score. <u>Choose the “Non-Standard Entry” option in GOLF Link. Enter the player’s Stableford score into the Handicapping Score box. Leave the Competition Score box blank.</u>
6. Lower score recorded than actually taken on a hole in Stroke (Rule 6-6d).	Disqualified from the <i>competition</i> .	<u>Choose the “Non-Standard Entry” option in GOLF Link. Enter the player’s actual Stableford score into the Handicapping Score box. Leave the Competition Score box blank.</u>

SCENARIO	COMPETITION ACTION	HANDICAPPING ACTION / GOLF <i>Link</i> SCORE STATUS
<p>7. Lower score recorded than actually taken in Par and Stableford. (Refer to Rule 32-2a and relevant Rules of Golf Decisions.)</p>	<p>(i) If result of hole affected – Disqualified from the <i>competition</i>. (ii) If result of hole not affected, no penalty applies and card accepted for the <i>competition</i>.</p>	<p>(i) Choose the <u>“Non-Standard Entry”</u> option in GOLF <i>Link</i>. Enter the player’s actual Stableford score (note: add 36 to the result for Par competitions; eg enter ‘34’ for -2, or enter ‘40’ for +4) into the <i>Handicapping Score</i> box. Enter the score as listed on the score card into the <i>Competition Score</i> box blank. (ii) Use for handicapping as returned. GOLF <i>Link</i> Score Status: <u>“Normal Score”</u>.</p>
<p>8. Player fails to complete all holes in the round due to any of the following being considered by the club to be of reasonable significance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Illness ▫ Injury ▫ Emergency ▫ Bad weather (<i>Note: In this context, ‘bad weather’ does NOT generally need to be bad enough to force a suspension or cancellation of play. If some players are willing to continue does not mean it is necessarily unreasonable in this context for others to stop. Clubs should be reasonably understanding in determining when weather is considered ‘bad’. It should be remembered that club golfers play the game as a recreation.</i>) ▫ Other reason for stopping which is considered valid by the club. <p>(i) PLAYER HAS COMPLETED LESS THAN 8 HOLES. (ii) PLAYER HAS COMPLETED 8 HOLES OR MORE.</p>	<p>(i) & (ii) The player’s result in the <i>competition</i> should be recorded as “Withdrawn”.</p>	<p>(i) Not used for handicapping. GOLF <i>Link</i> Score Status: <u>“No Score – Approved”</u>. (ii) (A) In Stableford and Par, if the player’s incomplete score is identified and the player has returned a legitimate score card, the club’s GOLF <i>Link</i> administrator should enter this into GOLF <i>Link</i> as the player’s <i>Competition Score</i>. The <i>Handicapping Score</i> is determined in accordance with Section 10(vi) – ‘Scores Returned Over 8-17 Holes’. Choose the <u>“Non-Standard Entry”</u> option in GOLF <i>Link</i>. Enter the player’s Stableford score into the <i>Handicapping Score</i> box. Leave the <i>Competition Score</i> box blank. (B) In Stroke, choose the <u>“Non-Standard Entry”</u> option in GOLF <i>Link</i>. If the player’s incomplete score is identified, the club’s GOLF <i>Link</i> administrator should enter into GOLF <i>Link</i> the player’s <i>Handicapping Score</i> as a Stableford score which has been determined in accordance with Section 10(vi) – ‘Scores Returned Over 8-17 Holes’. The <i>Competition Score</i> entry box will be left blank. (C) If the club does not, or cannot, create an 18-hole score, the card is not used for handicapping. GOLF <i>Link</i> Score Status: <u>“No Score – Approved”</u>.</p>
<p>9. Lower handicap on card in Stroke, Par or Stableford (Rule 6-2b & 32-2a).</p>	<p>Card accepted for <i>competition</i> as returned.</p>	<p>The club’s GOLF <i>Link</i> administrator should enter into GOLF <i>Link</i> as the player’s <i>Competition Score</i> the net score they had with the inaccurate handicap. (Note: GOLF <i>Link</i> will then automatically calculate the correct <i>Differential</i>.) GOLF <i>Link</i> Score Status: <u>“Normal Score”</u>.</p>

SCENARIO	COMPETITION ACTION	HANDICAPPING ACTION / GOLF <i>Link</i> SCORE STATUS
10. Score for hole omitted in Par & Stableford where hole has been played.	Card accepted as returned. (No obligation under the Rules of Golf to record a score for every hole in Par or Stableford.)	<p>(A) If the player's complete score is identified, the club's GOLF <i>Link</i> administrator should enter into GOLF <i>Link</i> the player's incomplete <i>Competition Score</i>, as well as the score they actually had into the <i>Handicapping Score</i> box. <u>GOLF <i>Link</i> Score Status: "Non-Standard Entry".</u></p> <p>(B) If correct score/s cannot be identified, the club's GOLF <i>Link</i> administrator should enter into GOLF <i>Link</i> the player's incomplete <i>Competition Score</i> as well as their <i>Handicapping Score</i>. The <i>Handicapping Score</i> is determined in accordance with Section 10(vi) – 'Scores Returned Over 8-17 Holes'. <u>GOLF <i>Link</i> Score Status: "Non-Standard Entry".</u></p>
<p>11. When NOT APPROVED by the club:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Player fails to complete all holes in the round, or; ◆ Card not returned. <p>(i) PLAYER HAS COMPLETED LESS THAN 8 HOLES.</p> <p>(ii) PLAYER HAS COMPLETED 8 HOLES OR MORE.</p>	Disqualified from the <i>competition</i> .	<p>(i) <u>The round should be entered into GOLF <i>Link</i> with a Score Status of: "No Score – Not Approved".</u></p> <p>(ii) (A) If a disqualified player's incomplete score is identified, the club's GOLF <i>Link</i> administrator should enter into GOLF <i>Link</i> the player's <i>Handicapping Score</i> as their score for the round. The <i>Handicapping Score</i> is determined in accordance with Section 10(vi) – 'Scores Returned Over 8-17 Holes'. <u>Leave the <i>Competition Score</i> box blank. GOLF <i>Link</i> Score Status: "Non-Standard Entry".</u></p> <p>(B) In Stableford and Par, if the player's incomplete score is identified and the player has returned a legitimate score card, the club's GOLF <i>Link</i> administrator should enter into GOLF <i>Link</i> the player's <i>Handicapping Score</i> as a Stableford score which has been determined in accordance with Section 10(vi) – 'Scores Returned Over 8-17 Holes'. The player's actual score is entered into the <i>Competition Score</i> entry box. <u>GOLF <i>Link</i> Score Status: "Non-Standard Entry".</u></p> <p>(C) If a complete 18-hole score is identified, it is used for handicapping as played. <u>Choose the "Non-Standard Entry" option in GOLF <i>Link</i>. Enter the player's Stableford score (note: add 36 to the result for Par competitions; eg enter '34' for -2, or enter '40' for +4) into the <i>Handicapping Score</i> box. Leave the <i>Competition Score</i> box blank.</u></p> <p>(D) If the player's score is not identified, or if the <i>Handicapping Authority</i> decides not to apply the 'Scores Returned Over 8-17 Holes' regulation; <u>the round should be entered into GOLF <i>Link</i> with a Score Status of: "No Score – Not Approved".</u></p> <p>GENERAL NOTE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the vast majority of cases where a player has failed to return a score card or has failed to complete a round without good reason, it is because they have played poorly. As a result, it is equitable and accurate that the player be attributed a poor score by GOLF <i>Link</i>. • It is also the case that there exists a small minority of players who repeatedly fail to return score cards or

SCENARIO	COMPETITION ACTION	HANDICAPPING ACTION / GOLF <i>Link</i> SCORE STATUS
		<p>who fail to complete rounds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A handicap will lose its full status in the event that a player should accrue in their most recent 20 <i>Actual Scores</i> (ie their list of <i>Live Scores</i>) five or more entries with a status of 'No Score – Not Approved'. Such a handicap will be known as a "<i>Provisional GA Handicap</i>". • Clubs are able to access through GOLF <i>Link</i> a report listing the number of "<i>No Score – Not Approved</i>" entries each member has in their list of <i>Live Scores</i>. For assistance in accessing this report, ring the GOLF <i>Link</i> Customer Service Centre on 1300 650 750.
<p>12. Player disqualified for a breach of the Rules that makes the estimation of a score, or the use of the round for handicapping purposes, to be inappropriate (eg use of non-conforming clubs, use of non-conforming balls, cheating).</p>	<p>Disqualified from the <i>competition</i>.</p>	<p>Not used for handicapping. <u>GOLF <i>Link</i> Score Status: "<i>Illegitimate Score</i>".</u></p>
<p>13. Player repeatedly fails to provide Stableford scores on their score card either in a Stableford <i>competition</i>, or for the purposes of complying with the SHA regulation in a Stroke <i>competition</i>.</p>	<p>No penalty in <i>competition</i> being played.</p> <p>(Note: While it is not permissible to penalise a player under the Rules of Golf for failing to calculate their Stableford points, the Committee may, in order to assist in the administration of the <i>competition</i>, introduce a 'club regulation' to this effect and provide disciplinary sanctions (eg ineligibility to play in the next club <i>competition</i>/s).</p> <p>GA will support in writing clubs who apply such sanctions. It is fundamental to the culture of Australian golf that players assist their clubs by recording Stableford scores on</p>	<p>Use for handicapping as returned. <u>GOLF <i>Link</i> Score Status: "<i>Normal Score</i>".</u></p>

SCENARIO	<i>COMPETITION ACTION</i>	HANDICAPPING ACTION / GOLF <i>Link</i> SCORE STATUS
	score cards when required.)	

Note: GA encourages clubs to pay particular note of the guidance provided in the above scenarios 8 and 11.

APPENDIX C

Where the GA Handicap System provides to a club flexibility for it to determine its own policy on a specific point, the club should ensure it establishes a position on that point. To assist in determining such positions, a club may consult with other clubs, its Member Association, or GA **[GA guidance is noted within each item in bold red text]**. Note: Where a club has separate internal authorities for males and females, the bodies within the club responsible for each should engage in dialogue before establishing any policies relating to handicapping or competition management.

The handicapping regulations around which a club will need to determine its own local policies are as follows:

A. CONFORMING SOCIAL SCORES

Questions for each club to resolve around Conforming Social Scores:

- Will we allow the members at our club to return Conforming Social Scores? **[GA encourages the handicapping of CSS, provided it does not place an undue administrative burden on the golf club.]**
- If yes, how will we get our members to nominate the round as a CSS prior to them teeing off? (Some clubs will have the player write their name on a sheet of paper, others will have the player enter their name into a computer, etc.)

Other GA answers to FAQs are:

- Clubs are permitted to cap the number of CSS rounds a member may play per year.
- There is no GA regulation which would prevent a club from introducing an administrative fee for CSS rounds.

The regulations around Conforming Social scores are as follows:

All Conforming Social Scores played at courses with a Scratch Rating determined in accordance with a system which is officially recognised by Golf Australia will be used for handicapping purposes

A Conforming Social Score will be deemed to have been made when the following has occurred:

- The player's Home Club has determined to accept Conforming Social Scores for handicapping.
- The round has been played in accordance with the current Rules of Golf as approved by R&A Rules Limited.
- A score card attested by a Marker as defined within the GA Handicap System has been submitted to the Handicapping Authority or its representative. The Marker must have accompanied the player for all of the holes for which they are attesting scores.
- The score format must be singles Stableford.
- The player has nominated prior to playing a stroke on their first hole to be played that the score is to count for handicapping purposes and the number of holes they will play. If the round is played at the player's Home Club, or is being controlled by the player's Home Club, such nomination must be in accordance with the requirements of the Handicapping Authority of the player's Home Club.
- If the round is not played at the player's Home Club and is not being controlled by the player's Home Club, such nomination must be in accordance with a procedure that is acceptable to the player's Home Club.

Note i: There is nothing in the GA Handicap System, or in any other GA regulatory code, which prevents a Handicapping Authority from deeming specific individuals, or specific groups of individuals, or individuals who hold specific categories of membership, ineligible to return Conforming Social Scores.

Note ii: There is nothing in the GA Handicap System, or in any other GA regulatory code, which prevents a Handicapping Authority from limiting the number of Conforming Social Scores a

member (or specific members) may return within a given period of time, or from making rounds played away from the Home Club ineligible for consideration as Conforming Social Scores.

- Note iii: There is nothing in the GA Handicap System, or in any other GA regulatory code, to prevent a club from requiring the payment of a fee as an additional eligibility criteria for a Conforming Social Score.
- Note iv: Conforming Social Scores will be processed for handicapping and will be treated by the GA Handicap System in the same manner as scores returned in Competitions (this includes instances where a player has pre-nominated that their score is to count for handicapping purposes and where the player does not return a score card in accordance with the requirements of the Rules of Golf, or plays less than the pre-nominated number of holes).
- Note v: A Stipulated Round of less than 18 holes is eligible to serve as a Conforming Social Score at the discretion of the Handicapping Authority of the player's Home Club.

B. FOUR-BALL SCORES

(A) WHEN TO USE SCORE OBTAINED IN FOUR-BALL COMPETITION FOR HANDICAPPING PURPOSES

Four-ball scores (including from mixed events) **SHOULD** be used for handicapping an individual player but only if the following requirements are met:

- The pair has a score of at least 6 better than the Scratch Rating.
- The individual player's score appears at least 9 times on the four-ball score card.
- The adjusted score (after the method described in (B) below has been followed to create an individual score card) is equal to or better than the individual player's official Daily Handicap for that round.

(B) PROCEDURE FOR CREATING INDIVIDUAL SCORE CARD FROM FOUR-BALL SCORE CARD FOR HANDICAPPING PURPOSES:

- Where an individual player's score is to be handicapped (irrespective of whether the competition is played as Par, Stroke, or Stableford), it must be processed as a Stableford score in accordance with the procedures contained within this regulation.
- When a player's score is not recorded on the four-ball card, they are given 1½ Stableford points. (Exception: When a player's score is not recorded on the four-ball card, and their partner's score is 1 Stableford point, the player is given 1 Stableford point.)
- When a player's score counts on the four-ball card for a hole, they are given the appropriate number of Stableford points for that hole. (When both players have 0 Stableford points on a hole, they are both considered to have their score listed on the score card, including for the purposes of 'being on the card 9 times or more'. For the purposes of creating an adjusted individual score card, each player will have 0 points listed on the individual card for this hole.)
- If two identical net scores are recorded by partners on a hole, both scores are eligible to be used on an adjusted individual score card. However, if the first player to hole out can be readily identified, the second player is deemed to have not recorded a score for that hole.

Note: Clubs are to strongly discourage players from recording the scores of both partners on a hole or holes unless a concurrent singles event is being played. Players who regularly return four-ball score cards featuring identical net scores for both players in the same hole will not be eligible to have these rounds handicapped under Section 10(v) of this System – clubs should consider using Section 15 of this System to accommodate such players.

- When all the gaps in the card have been filled in, the points are totalled, and where a half appears in the total, the points total is rounded to the next lower whole number.
- (C) If an extended 18-hole individual score obtained via this method is processed through GOLF Link, the score type option to be chosen in GOLF Link by the administrator **MUST** be 'Four-ball'.
- (D) The course rating GOLF Link will use for this purpose is the Scratch Rating, not a DSR. In all other respects regarding the inclusion of the score in the player's handicap record, the score will be treated as a regular 18-hole singles competition score.
- (E) The Handicapping Authority should have in place a policy stipulating whether or not such scores will be processed for handicapping. Exceptions to the policy may be made to cater for events that have a character which is not typical to the club (such exceptions should be announced prior to the relevant day's play).

C. 9-HOLE SCORES (AND ANY OTHER SCORES RETURNED FROM PLAY OF ANYWHERE BETWEEN 8 AND 17 HOLES)

Scores returned from 8-17 holes of play may be used for handicapping purposes at the discretion of the Handicapping Authority.

[GA encourages the handicapping of scores played over 8-17 holes, provided this does not place an undue administrative burden on the golf club, and provided there is not a clear novelty nature to the competition.]

The Handicapping Authority should have in place a policy stipulating whether or not such scores will be processed for handicapping. Exceptions to the policy may be made to cater for events that have a character which is not typical to the club (such exceptions should be announced prior to the relevant day's play).

See Decision 8 and Decision 11 in Appendix B for GOLF Link score entry instructions.

The following conditions will apply to 8-17 hole scores.

- (A) Where 16-17 holes inclusive have been played, the player will be deemed to have had net par for the remaining holes (unless it is considered the player has discontinued play with a view to achieving a specific score for handicap purposes). The score will be processed as an 18-hole score.
- (B) Scores returned over 8-15 holes will not be doubled or extended. They will be entered into GOLF Link as 9-hole scores.
- (C) Where only 8 holes have been played, the player will be deemed to have had net par on the 9th hole. The score will be entered into GOLF Link as a 9-hole score.
- (D) Any score of less than 8 holes will be disregarded.
- (E) Where 10-15 holes inclusive have been played, the first 9 holes played will be used and the remaining holes will be disregarded.
 - Note i: Should the player not have started from the 1st or 10th holes (as per the order on the score card), it is holes 1-9 or 10-18 that will be used with the remainder being disregarded.
 - Note ii: If the player has not played the complete 1st nine holes on the score card OR the complete 2nd nine holes on the score card, but has played as many as 8 holes of either of the two nines, it is those 8 holes that will be used, with all others being disregarded. In such a case, the player will be deemed to have had net par on the unplayed hole on the nine to be used.
 - Note iii: The scores shall not be used for handicapping if the player has not played as many as 8 holes of either the 1st nine holes OR the 2nd nine holes on the score card.
 - Exception: If a club is regularly conducting events on an 8-16 hole configuration that does not include as many as 8 holes of either the 1st nine holes OR the 2nd nine holes on the score card, and where the club wishes to be able to use such scores for handicapping, it should contact its Member Association. The Member Association will provide a Scratch Rating that will enable the use of such scores.
- (F) The initial 9-hole score a player returns is to be entered into GOLF Link; it will not immediately be used in the calculation of the player's GA Handicap. It will be automatically held by GOLF Link in the player's handicap record until another 9-hole score is entered. The two 9-hole scores will be combined automatically by GOLF Link to create a single 18-hole score.
 - Note: The rating for each 9 holes is retained in the GOLF Link database, so it does not matter whether the two 9-hole scores to be combined come from the same course or different courses – GOLF Link will add the two 9-hole scores together, it will also add the two 9-hole Scratch Ratings together, and then compare the two totals (the average of the two Slope Ratings will be used). It is this 18-hole score that will be used in the calculation of the player's handicap.
- (G) A 9-hole score will be retained for combination with another 9-hole score until it is older than the 20th oldest 18-hole Actual Score. 9-hole scores will be combined in the order they are received by GOLF Link, and not necessarily by date order.
- (H) An 18-hole score created by the combination of two 9-hole scores will display the date and course name of both 9-hole scores. It will also display the average of the two 9-hole Slope

Ratings, and the rounded sum of the two 9-hole Scratch Ratings (these Slope Rating and Scratch Rating values will be used in the calculation of the Differential).

D. SCORES RETURNED IN AGGREGATE TEAMS EVENTS

Scores returned in Aggregate Teams Events (eg Two-ball Aggregate and Two-Ball Multiplier competitions) **SHOULD** be used for handicapping.

Note A: To be used for handicapping, these events must require each player to play their own ball on each hole until it is no longer reasonable for them to record at least 1 Stableford point. It is each player's individual score that is used for handicapping.

Note B: The Handicapping Authority should have in place a policy stipulating whether or not such scores will be processed for handicapping. Exceptions to the policy may be made to cater for events that have a character which is not typical to the club (such exceptions should be announced prior to the relevant day's play).

Note C: The Handicapping Authority should advise all players prior to the commencement of the competition that the Rules of singles stroke play will apply – with specific attention being drawn to the Advice Rule and also to the Rule regarding Order of Play.

Note D: From time to time a committee may be concerned that the Rules of singles play may not have been strictly adhered to. In such a case, the competition should only be disqualified from being processed for handicapping if the committee makes the determination that the results have been clearly impacted by widespread non-adherence to the Rules of singles play.

E. SCORES RETURNED IN PRO-AM EVENTS

Scores returned in Pro-Am events may, at the discretion of the committee, be used for handicapping provided one of the following requirements is met:

- (A) The Rules of singles stroke play are adhered to and each player's hole-by-hole scores are recorded on the submitted score card.
- (B) The Rules of four-ball stroke play are adhered to.

[GA encourages the handicapping of these scores, provided it does not place an undue administrative burden on the golf club.]

F. SCORES RETURNED IN CORPORATE/TRADE DAYS THAT HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED BY AN ENTITY THAT IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH G.A.

A score returned in a corporate/trade day or the like, not played in a Competition round but played in accordance with the Rules of Golf, may be used but only where it is equal to or better than the player's official Daily Handicap for that round.

Note: The Handicapping Authority should have in place a policy stipulating whether or not such scores will be processed for handicapping. Exceptions to the policy may be made to cater for events that are unusual in character (such exceptions should be announced prior to the relevant day's play).

[GA encourages the handicapping of these scores, provided it does not place an undue administrative burden on the golf club.]

G. SCORES RETURNED IN A COMPETITION THAT HAS BEEN DECLARED NULL AND VOID

A score returned by a player in a competition declared null and void **SHOULD** be used for handicapping purposes provided course or weather conditions have not notably compromised the proper playing of the game for that player.

The Handicapping Authority should have in place a policy stipulating whether or not such scores will be processed for handicapping.

H. SCORES RETURNED IN EVENTS SUCH AS BISQUE PAR AND THREE-BALL COMPETITIONS

Scores returned in novelty events such as Bisque Par and Three-Ball competitions may be used for handicapping at the discretion of the Handicapping Authority but only after conversion to a regular Stableford format, and only if the Rules of singles stroke play have been adhered to.

The Handicapping Authority should have in place a policy stipulating whether or not such scores will be processed for handicapping. Exceptions to the policy may be made to cater for events that have a character which is not typical to the club (such exceptions should be announced prior to the relevant day's play). **[GA encourages the handicapping of these scores, provided it does not place an undue administrative burden on the golf club, and provided there is not a clear novelty nature to the relevant competition.]**

I. PLAYER PLAYS WITHIN COMPETITION FIELD BUT DOESN'T ENTER COMPETITION

When a person plays within a competition field, but does not actually enter the competition, their score, if attested by a member of any golf club or golf association recognised by Golf Australia (or a person otherwise approved by the Handicapping Authority), **SHOULD** be used for handicapping purposes at the discretion of the Handicapping Authority.

The Handicapping Authority should have in place a policy stipulating whether or not such scores will be processed for handicapping. Exceptions to the policy may be made to cater for events that have a character which is not typical to the club (such exceptions should be announced prior to the relevant day's play).

If the Handicapping Authority determines to use such scores, they will be deemed to be Conforming Social Scores.

J. COMPETITION CONDITION LIMITS NUMBER OF CLUBS TO LESS THAN 14

When a competition limits the number of clubs that may be used to less than 14, only a score that is equal to or better than the player's official Daily Handicap for that round may be entered into GOLF Link. **[GA encourages the handicapping of these scores, provided it does not place an undue administrative burden on the golf club.]**

Note i: These scores must be entered into GOLF Link as Ad Hoc scores. They must not be used in any DSR calculation. The Scratch Rating will be used in the Differential calculation, not any DSR.

Note ii: The Handicapping Authority should have in place a policy stipulating whether or not such scores will be processed for handicapping. Exceptions to the policy may be made to cater for events that have a character which is not typical to the club (such exceptions should be announced prior to the relevant day's play).