



Operational Requirements around Implementation of the new GA Handicap System: CHECK-LIST FOR CLUB ADMINISTRATIONS

ITEM 21: Is the Handicapping Authority at my club aware of how the following new regulation will work and when to apply it – “Manual Bonus Reduction for Exceptional Net Score”? (See Section 16 of the new handicap system.)

Note: A club should only effect a Manual Bonus Reduction if it considers that the normal calculation process has not produced an appropriate reduction.

The objective of the new ‘*Manual Bonus Reduction for Exceptional Net Score*’ regulation is to cater for the following type of situation:

- A player has returned an exceptional net score.
- The club believes that there is not a large enough impact on the player’s handicap as a result of this score being processed through GOLF Link, and that the player’s underlying ability aligns with a lower handicap.

In circumstances such as these, the Handicapping Authority at the club has the option of applying the table in the below regulation. There is NO need for the decision to be made by the club’s General Committee or Board of Directors.

Manual Bonus Reduction for Exceptional Net Score (Note: This is Section 16 of the new handicap system.)

- (i) Essential points of the Manual Bonus Reduction regulation are as follows:
 - Some golfers have inconsistent scoring patterns such that their underlying ability is not typically reflected in their handicap. As these players operate outside normal patterns, regular handicap system regulations do not always cater for them.
 - These players will sometimes return Exceptional Net Scores that are reflective of their underlying ability but not of their handicap.
 - It is GA’s position that a handicap system should not be designed around a small minority.
 - A handicap system should not penalise such players by unfairly limiting their capacity to achieve handicap reductions.
- (ii) Where such a player returns an Exceptional Net Score, their club should effect a Manual Bonus Reduction to their *GA Handicap*, unless there is clearly a good reason not to.
- (iii) An “Exceptional Net Score” is considered to be a score that produces a *Differential* (ie the value that is featured in the ‘Played to’ column on www.golflink.com.au) which is 7 or more better than the *GA Handicap* current at the time the round is played (or in a case where rounds have been played but not processed, the value at which the *GA Handicap* will be calculated once all previous rounds have been processed).
- (iv) Manual Bonus Reductions should not be effected in cases where the player’s club considers the Exceptional Net Score to be clearly not reflective of the player’s underlying ability, or where a Manual Bonus Reduction would see the player reduced to a *GA Handicap* that the player’s club considers would be clearly inappropriate for the player.
- (v) A Manual Bonus Reduction should only be effected after the score itself has been processed through GOLF Link. The club should not effect a Manual Bonus Reduction if it considers that the normal calculation process has produced an appropriate reduction.
- (vi) Any club of which the player is a member may make a decision on a Manual Bonus Reduction.

- (vii) It is solely for the player's club to determine whether or not to effect a Manual Bonus Reduction. It is solely for the player's club to determine which official or committee is authorised to make decisions on Manual Bonus Reductions. The player's club has absolute authority in this regard. Clubs are not required to refer such decisions to the club General Committee or Board of Directors.
- (viii) GA considers that a player's club will have an adequate feel of the player's underlying ability in order to make an informed assessment as to whether or not a Manual Bonus Reduction would be inappropriate. A club should not effect a Manual Bonus Reduction on a player for whom it believes it does not have an adequate feel for their underlying ability.
- (ix) The following table must be used when effecting Manual Bonus Reductions:

Number of Strokes the <i>Differential</i> (ie the value featured in the 'Played to' column on www.golflink.com.au) is Better than the GA Handicap in effect when the round was played	Number of strokes the new GA Handicap (after the Manual Bonus Reduction has been performed) will be lower than the GA Handicap in effect when the round was played
7-9	2
10-11	3
12-13	4
14 or more	5

Example:

- A player (with a GA Handicap of 17.4) returns a net score that produces a Differential of 7 (note: the Differential is the value that is featured in the 'Played to' column on www.golflink.com.au). This is 10 better than the player's GA Handicap.
- The club considers the normal calculation process to not have produced an appropriate reduction.
- The club considers that a Manual Bonus Reduction would be appropriate given its feel for the player's underlying ability.
- The player's GA Handicap is to be reduced so it will be 3 strokes less than the GA Handicap in effect when the round was played.
- The player's GA Handicap will be reduced to 14.4.

Note: The reduction to the player's handicap should be achieved via the Handicap Adjustment function in GOLF Link (or the club's Tier 3 software system).