

## HANDICAP INFORMATION 5 - PLAYER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

### As a player what are my responsibilities to the CONGU® Handicapping System?

To comply with the requirements of the CONGU® Handicapping System a player has the following obligations:

- If he is a Member of more than one golf club he must select one as his 'home' club and notify that club and the others of his decision. The 'home' club will administer the player's handicap. He must play from that handicap at all of the other clubs of which he is a member and notify them of any alterations to his playing handicap made by his home club.
- Before competing in a qualifying competition he should ensure that his entry has been recorded in the competition entry list, manually or by computer if appropriate.
- He should ensure that all scorecards in qualifying competitions whether or not complete with a score for every hole, are returned to the organising committee and computer entries made as required.
- If he plays in a qualifying competition away from his home club he is required to report to his Home club, as soon as practicable, all scores recorded including 'no returns' together with competition date, venue and Competition Scratch Score. He should be aware that failure to report 'away' scores when so required by the System is likely to lead to suspension of handicap.
- If he returns a qualifying score(s) below his playing handicap at his home club or away and he is unable to either ascertain whether or not his playing handicap has been reduced as a result of the score(s) or report an away score to his home club he must, before playing in another competition at his home club or away, for that competition make such reduction to his playing handicap as appropriate under the system by applying the competition scratch score, if known, otherwise the standard scratch score, to calculate his nett differential and handicap reduction. If he does not know your exact handicap, such reduction should be made from his playing handicap less 0.5 (e.g. if his playing handicap is 16 then the reduction should be made from 15.5) - see Clause 16.11 of the CONGU® Handicapping System

**I have played in a number of competitions away from home this year and have been taken to task by my home club for failure to report these scores to them. It is my understanding that the club hosting the 'open' competition is responsible for returning the scores of all entrants to their respective home clubs. Am I correct?**

NO, you are incorrect in this assumption. The system clearly states that it is the responsibility of the player to report to his home club as soon as practicable all qualifying scores (including no returns) returned away from his home club advising them of the date of the competition, venue, SSS and the CSS together with the following:

- After a stroke play qualifying competition the gross score returned and such further information as required by the home club.
- After a par qualifying competition the par of the course and the score versus par.
- After a stableford qualifying competition the par of the course and the number of points scored.

**The club has cut a player on general play and the player thinks it unfair; can the player appeal to the Association?**

The club is in the best position to judge whether or not a player should have a general play adjustment. The Association would not have the relevant information; thus an appeal is not considered appropriate. However, the club Handicap Committee should take care to justify the reduction and should follow the guidelines laid down by their National Association. The player could re-address the matter with the committee. In such circumstances the club is advised to refer the matter to National Association as appropriate.

**Some clubs require the player to register their intention to enter a medal competition ON THE DAY of the competition. Must a player follow this procedure in entering all Qualifying Competitions?**

YES, such a requirement is entirely consistent with Clause 8.6 of the UHS. Failure to comply with the requirement will mean that the score is ineligible for handicap purposes and should not be included in the CSS calculation. It is only by all players demonstrating that they have taken cards out BEFORE they play that Committees can ascertain the number who have actually played in the competition. Then the Committee can reconcile the number of cards taken out with those returned, identify any players who have not complied with Clause 8.8, and make an accurate CSS calculation. UHS Decision 1(n) also states “the R&A has ruled *‘that a Committee must lay down a procedure for entry and if a competitor fails to enter a competition in the correct manner he does not have an acceptable score’*. Accordingly such a player does not have a score, either for the competition or for handicap purposes.” Clearly requiring players to register on the day of competition, before they commence play, is entirely compatible with the R&A ruling.