

Koninklijke Belgische Golf Federatie

Fédération Royale Belge de Golf

EGA

Handicap System

Amended Edition, 1 January 2016

FEDERATION ROYALE BELGE DE GOLF
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Table of Contents

(i) Foreword RBGF.....	4
(ii) Foreword EGA.....	5
(iii) Principal changes 2016.....	6
(iv) How to use the manual.....	7
(v) EGA Handicap Policy.....	8
(vi) System overview.....	9

THE EGA HANDICAP SYSTEM

1. Definitions	11
2. The Golf Course and Course Rating.....	16
2.1 Course rating.....	16
2.2 Course measurement.....	16
2.3 Alterations to courses.....	16
2.4 Tees	16
2.5 Par	17
2.6 Period for preferred lies.....	18
2.7 Permitted adjustments to a measured course.....	18
3. Handicapping	20
3.1 Rights and obligations of the Royal Belgian Golf Federation	20
3.2 Reserved.....	20
3.3 Rights and obligations of an affiliated club.....	21
3.4 Rights and obligations of the handicap committee	21
3.5 Rights and obligations of the player.....	22
3.6 Qualifying scores (included: Counting scores)	23
3.7 Reserved.....	24
3.8 Extra Day Scores (EDS)	25
3.9 EGA Playing Handicap; Playing handicap	25
3.10 Stableford.....	27
3.11 Attaining an EGA Handicap	28
3.12 Alteration of handicaps	28
3.13 Suspension and loss of handicaps	29
3.14 Restoration of handicaps.....	30
3.15 Handicap Review (HR)	31
3.16 General Play	32
4. Decisions	34
4.1 Handicap conditions	34
4.2 Rights and obligations of the player.....	34
4.3 Qualifying scores	35
4.4 Reserved.....	36
4.5 EGA handicap and EGA playing handicap.....	37
4.6 Alteration of handicaps.....	38
4.7 Confirmed Handicap, Not-Confirmed Handicap; Handicap Review.....	38
APPENDICES	39
A. Handicap record sheet.....	40
B. Handicap Review (HR) procedure.....	41
C. Playing Handicap Table.....	46
D. Handicap allowance in competitions	48
E. Handicap Stroke index Allocation.....	51
F. List of explanatory notes and guidance notes	52
INDEX.....	53



(i) FOREWORD RBGF

Since 1998 we are using the EGA-Handicap system in Belgium.

The Technical Committee of the RBGF monitors the changes EGA proposes and finalizes the Belgian Version of the EGA Hcp System.

In 2016 the EGA 2016 version of the Hcp System will be in use for Belgium. We have decided to change as little as needed to the actual system, we will not introduce CBA again, continue using "Counting" (Reduction only).

We are awaiting the first version of a world wide handicap system, knowing that some changes will be necessary.

This version will be in use for 4 years, until the end of 2019. If needed small adjustments will be made.

The Technical Committee of the RBGF

(ii) FOREWORD EGA

This is the fourth edition of the EGA Handicap System, since its inception in 2000. The EGA Handicapping and Course Rating Committee is delighted to present a revised System, which clearly recognizes the handicapping traditions of Europe, but also looks to the future by addressing the handicapping demands of a golfing population that is becoming increasingly diverse. The revised system seeks uniformity where this is considered essential for the integrity of European handicapping, but at the same time acknowledges that the varied golfing cultures within the EGA must be allowed to operate as independently as possible. For this reason, this edition of the EGA Handicap System gives the national associations considerable scope for “configuration” of the main features, ensuring that the system provides them with the means to grow the game of golf, add to the enjoyment of playing, and to cater to the needs of different player profiles.

Handicap Committee members and others who refer to this manual will notice that there are few changes in form from the previous version – the structure of the book and the presentation of the clauses has served our purpose well in the past and will continue to do so. The core elements of the system also remain substantially unchanged; USGA Course Rating and Slope Rating; an incremental handicap algorithm; a modified version of CBA; buffer zones; handicap categories; procedures for reviewing players’ handicaps for the purpose of ensuring accuracy (also improved). However, there are significantly extended discretionary powers given to national associations which will allow them to determine how, and to what extent, these core elements are allowed to interact with each other and with other aspects of the system. This represents a significant change in basic principle, but one that we believe is necessary in a modern handicap system.

The extensive work leading up to the 2016-2019 edition of the EGA Handicap System is very much a collaborative effort, reflecting a continued, and very successful, process of evolution and innovation through consultation between the EGA and you, the 37 national associations that have implemented and utilised the system. It is with fond memories and gratitude that we look back at the Committee’s interactions with players, officials and handicappers – at the many letters, e-mail correspondence and intense discussions we have had over the past years. We sincerely hope that this edition of the EGA Handicap System will serve you and the golfers in your country in the best possible way.

On behalf of the EGA Handicapping and Course Rating Committee,

Hans Malmström
Chairman



(iii) PRINCIPAL CHANGES 2016

This is a general overview of principal changes and does not include wording alterations.

Parts 1 – 3

- EGA Handicap designation: term “exact” removed (Definitions).
- New definitions have been introduced: confirmed, counting, counting round, EGA playing handicap differential, eligible scores, not-confirmed, Standard Gross Differential
- Handicap eligibility restrictions: discretion for national associations and/or affiliated clubs to impose eligibility restrictions for competition entry based on an EGA Handicap, (Confirmed / Not-Confirmed) (Clauses 3.1.18, 3.3.3).
- 9-hole qualifying scores: extended to handicap category 2.
- EGA Playing Handicap Formula: added handicap category 6 playing handicap formula for 18 and 9-hole rounds (Section 3.9).
- Maximum EGA Handicap: maximum EGA Handicap changed to 54 (Clause 3.11.2).
- Handicap categories: added handicap category 6, in substitution of Club handicap (Clause 3.12.6).
- Handicap increases: 0.1-increase extended to handicap category 5 (Clause 3.12.6).
- Attaining EGA Hcp (Clause 3.11).
- Handicap review and general play: extended discretion to handicap committees (Sections 3.15, 3.16).

Appendices

Introduced or revised:

- A. Handicap record sheet. Modified to insert Standard Gross Differential.
- B. Handicap Review (HR). New procedure.

(iv) HOW TO USE THIS MANUAL

Gender

Throughout the manual, reference to the masculine gender includes the feminine unless stated otherwise.

Table of Contents

The Table of Contents lists the principal elements of the EGA Handicap System 2016-2019 and provides an outline for how the manual is structured. Most of the time, it should be possible to identify the relevant section simply by reference to the Table of Contents.

Know the definitions

Whenever a word or expression is used that is defined in Part 1, the word or expression is printed in italics. A good knowledge of the defined terms is necessary for the correct application and interpretation of the EGA Handicap System.

Understand the words

The EGA Handicap System 2016-2019 is written in a deliberate fashion. Please note the following differences in word use:

"may"	=	option
"should"	=	strong recommendation
"must"	=	instruction/obligation

Supplementary information

In order to provide enhanced explanation and understanding and to facilitate a correct application of the EGA Handicap System, certain sections in the manual have been supplemented with explanatory text (Explanatory Notes- EN) and advisory text (Guidance Notes-GN). Such supplementary information is separated from the rest of the text to mark its special status.

(v) EGA HANDICAP POLICY

The EGA is the governing authority of the EGA Handicap System. The Executive Committee of the EGA has delegated the task to develop, maintain and monitor the correct application of the EGA Handicap System to the EGA Handicapping & Course Rating Committee.

Purpose

The purpose of the EGA Handicap System is to:

- enable as many golf players as possible, men and women, to obtain a handicap
- achieve equity and uniformity of handicapping throughout Europe
- incorporate flexibility in order to accommodate diverse golfing cultures
- produce fair handicaps that reflect the scoring potential of the players and enable players of differing abilities to take part in various forms of competitions on a fair and equitable basis
- provide flexibility in returning scores from multiple forms of play (as recognized by the EGA Handicap System), i.e. 9 or 18 holes, qualifying or counting competitions and qualifying or counting rounds, under conditions that truly reflect the player's scoring ability
- provide portability of handicaps from course to course, as well as from one set of tees to another on the same course
- provide playing handicaps that are adjusted in relation to the relative playing difficulty (Course- and Slope Rating) of the course being played
- enable players to monitor their own golfing development over time and
- aim for a balance between precision and flexibility of implementation, for players and administrators

Application

In order to maintain supervision of golf handicaps, the system may only be used for members of a club affiliated to an EGA Handicap System-licensed national association or individual players registered to a national association. The system is subject to quadrennial review, and only the current version may be implemented.

Rights and obligations

The European Golf Association (EGA) has overall jurisdiction over the administration of the EGA Handicap System in Europe.

The Royal Belgian Golf Federation (RBGF), known as “Koninklijke Belgische Golf Federatie” and “Fédération Royale Belge de Golf” has the overall jurisdiction for Handicap Policy in Belgium. The Board of Members has delegated this task to the Technical Committee of the RBGF which is also responsible for the Course Rating in Belgium. Policies of RBGF and Affiliated Clubs issuing EGA Handicaps will be consistent with the fundamental principles and regulations of the EGA Handicap System and the Rules of Golf as approved by R&A Rules Limited.

In order to achieve uniformity in the application of the EGA Handicap System, a national association may not amend the regulations of the system other than as provided by the specific options in some clauses in Part 3. Handicaps issued by a national association or an affiliated club not in full accordance with the EGA Handicap System, may not be called “EGA handicaps” and may not be identified as such on handicap cards or elsewhere. The Handicapping & Course Rating Committee has the right to obtain any information related to handicapping from a national association at any time.

Translation, Trademark and Legal

The European Golf Association (EGA) has the overall jurisdiction over the administration of the EGA Handicap System in Europe.

In Belgium the RBGF is exclusively licensed by the EGA to use the EGA Handicap System and will ensure the integrity of the EGA Handicaps in Belgium.

Only RBGF has the permission to translate the EGA Handicap System from English into Flemish, French or German language. The translation does not need to be literal and the RBGF may use the terminology that is commonly used in Belgium.

However, the system shall be called “EGA Handicap System” and the handicaps shall be called “EGA Handicaps”.

The term “EGA Handicap System” is a registered Trademark of the EGA.

In Belgium the RBGF is exclusively licensed by the USGA to use the USGA Course and Slope Rating System.

(vi) SYSTEM OVERVIEW

This section sets out the basic principles of the EGA Handicap System and provides the overall context of implementation.

Purpose

The main purpose of a handicapping system is to enable golf players of differing abilities, men and women alike, to compete on a fair and equitable basis, whilst enabling players to monitor their own golfing development over time. All handicapping systems establish and maintain a measure of playing ability, expressed as the number of strokes that the player is entitled to use to adjust his gross score.

Scores

All handicaps relate to, and are derived from, a player's current and historical scores. The player's round-by-round scores returned over time are used to adjust that handicap. A handicap based on many recent scores is typically more reliable as a reflection of a player's playing ability than a handicap based on fewer or dated scores.

Even for a correctly handicapped player, scores will be spread over a range distributed about the mean. Generally, the lower the handicap, the smaller will be the difference between best and worst scores and the tighter the distribution about the mean score. Typically, as handicaps increase, the mean gross score increases, as does the spread of the scores around the mean.

Handicap

The category structure of the EGA Handicap System reflects different scoring profiles. The frequency with which players play to their handicap or better is not the same across the handicap range; this is one fundamental way in which the system provides equity for all players. For example, it is likely that a handicap category 1-player plays to, or better, than his handicap in about 35% of rounds, whereas a correctly handicapped category 4-player would achieve handicap, or better, performance in only about 10% of rounds. An improving player will play better than his handicap more frequently than a correctly handicapped established player of the same handicap, until such time as his scoring profile becomes the same as others with a similar handicap. Likewise, an opposite pattern would be observed with a player whose general performance is declining.

Measurement of Performance

Measurement of performance against a standard is fundamental to establishing an EGA Handicap. Scores are made on golf courses under varying conditions. Golf courses may be situated in many different geographical areas and their designs differ substantially. It follows that one course may be more difficult than another and that scores must be adjusted to reflect this before being used to measure player performance.

The USGA Course Rating System provides the necessary standard and is the main adjustment mechanism in place. The system measures the difficulty of a golf course under normal conditions for scratch and bogey players, providing a USGA Course and Slope Rating respectively. A second adjustment mechanism is available to account for exceptional weather and course conditions that vary significantly from normal; this is the Computed Buffer Adjustment (CBA).

Course and Slope Rating

In order to calibrate the characteristics of a golf course, the EGA Handicap System has adopted the USGA Course Rating System. The Course Rating (CR) is a measure of the playing difficulty for a scratch player whereas the Slope Rating (SR) measures the playing difficulty for the bogey player relative to the scratch player. The playing handicap is computed by means of the CR and SR, thus equalising the difference in playing difficulty and making scores from different courses comparable. This feature makes handicaps portable across all of the national associations that have adopted the EGA Handicap System and from one set of tees to another on the same course.

Handicap Review and General Play

Handicapping is not an exact science, but rather a statistical approximation of playing ability over a time frame. The system is robust for players with stable handicaps who return scores on a regular basis. However, as this may be true for only a section of the golfing population in any given national association, the Handicap System includes two features designed to safeguard proper handicapping of players: the Handicap Review (typically available in categories 1 – 5, with some discretions granted to the national association) and General Play adjustment. The former allows the handicap committee to conduct a review of handicaps, at least annually, and make decisions regarding the application of any recommended handicap adjustment. The latter is a feature that may be used at the committee's discretion in the period between handicap reviews in cases where a handicap review has not been requested or is not possible for some reason.



Fundamental Principles

The EGA Handicap System is based on the following fundamental principles:

- Every player will endeavour to make the best score he can at each hole during a qualifying round.
- Every player will return as many qualifying scores per year as possible, to provide reasonable evidence of his playing ability.
- Every affiliated club or handicapping authority will provide conditions for players to return qualifying scores, either in qualifying competitions, or as Extra Day Scores, and maintain the handicaps, strictly in accordance with the system.

The objective of the system is to produce handicaps that are portable not only from club to club, but also from national association to national association. This can best be achieved if all parties – national association, affiliated clubs, and players – honour their obligations to the best of their knowledge and ability.

PART 1 – DEFINITIONS

DEFINITIONS

Throughout the *EGA Handicap System* whenever a word or expression is used which is defined within the *definitions* section, the word or expression is printed in italics. The definitions are arranged in alphabetical order. For definitions in relation to the USGA Course Rating System see: www.usga.org.

AFFILIATED CLUB

An “*Affiliated Club*” is a golf club affiliated to the RBGF (see constitution of the RBGF).

Note: No body other than an *affiliated club* or the RBGF may administer the *EGA Handicap System*.

BOGEY GOLFER

A “*Bogey Golfer*” is a player who can play to the *bogey rating* from any set of tees. For handicapping purposes, it is defined as a player with an *EGA handicap* of approximately 20 (male) or 24 (female).

BOGEY RATING

The “*Bogey Rating*” (*BR*) is the *USGA* designation that indicates the evaluation of the playing difficulty of a course for *bogey golfers* under normal course and weather conditions. It is expressed as strokes taken to one decimal place, and is based on the extent to which yardage and other obstacles can affect the scoring ability of a *bogey golfer*.

BUFFER ZONE

The “*Buffer Zone*” is the range of Stableford scores within which the player’s *EGA handicap* remains unchanged. A Stableford score is within a player’s *buffer zone* when it is within the following ranges for his *handicap category* :

Handicap category	Buffer Zone (Stableford points)	
	18-hole scores	9-hole scores
1	33 – 36	not applicable
2	32 – 36	0 - 18
3	31 – 36	16 - 18
4	30 – 36	15 – 18
5	30 – 36	14 – 18
6	0 - 36	0 - 18

Note: *Buffer zones* for 9-hole scores are different from *buffer zones* for 18-hole scores in order to make them comparable for handicapping purposes.

CONFIRMED (new)

“*Confirmed*” is the designation of an *EGA handicap* that has been maintained by submitting at least four (4) *eligible scores* in the previous season, and that has been confirmed or adjusted during the *handicap review*.

Note: A *not-confirmed* handicap can become *confirmed* at any time by returning three *eligible scores* between successive *HRs*.

COUNTING COMPETITION (new)

A “*Counting Competition*” is a competition in which *handicap conditions* prevail and scores count for reduction only. Scores played in a *counting competition* are considered as *qualifying scores* for *handicap review* .

COUNTING ROUND (new)

A “*Counting Round*” is any round in a *counting competition*.



COURSE RATING; USGA COURSE RATING

The “*Course Rating*” (CR) is the designation that indicates the evaluation of the playing difficulty of a course for *scratch golfers* under normal course and weather conditions. It is expressed as strokes taken to one decimal place, and is based on the extent to which distance and other obstacles can affect the scoring ability of a *scratch golfer*.

DISTANCE POINT

A “*Distance Point*” is the point on a tee from which the length of the hole is measured and it must be indicated by a visible and permanent marker.

Note 1: The accurate placement of the permanent marker is imperative in the process of marking golf courses.

Note 2: The permanent marker should be placed centrally, but at least six (6) meters from the back and at least four (4) meters from the front of the tee. The markers should bear or be painted in the colour designated to the set of tees.

EGA

“*European Golf Association*”

EGA HANDICAP (EGA HCP)

An “*EGA Handicap*” is an index issued under the jurisdiction of a *national association* and attained and adjusted in accordance with the provisions of the *EGA Handicap System*. The *EGA handicap* is the EGA’s designation of the relative golfing ability of a player, on a course of standard relative playing difficulty (Slope of 113). It is expressed as a number taken to one decimal, for *handicap categories 1-5*, and as a whole number in *handicap category 6*, to a maximum value of 54.

Only players with an Amateur Status can have an *EGA handicap*.

EGA HANDICAP SYSTEM

The “*EGA Handicap System*” is the method approved by the EGA to evaluate the scoring potential of golf players and to enable players of differing abilities to take part in various forms of competitions on a fair and equitable basis.

EGA HANDICAPPING & COURSE RATING COMMITTEE (HRC)

The “*EGA Handicapping & Course Rating Committee*” is the body appointed by the EGA Executive Committee to develop, maintain and monitor the correct application of the *EGA Handicap System* for the *national associations* affiliated to the EGA

EGA PLAYING HANDICAP (= PLAYING HANDICAP)

The “*EGA Playing Handicap*” is the number of *handicap strokes* a player receives for a specific set of tees at the course being played. The *playing handicap* is calculated from the *EGA handicap* using the *EGA playing handicap Formula* or as indicated in the *playing handicap table*.

The *playing handicap* is expressed as a whole number (0.5 rounds upwards, “plus” 0.5 rounds upwards to scratch, and “plus” 1.5 to “plus” 1).

Note 1: A player with a “plus” *playing handicap* gives *handicap strokes* to the course, commencing at stroke index 18.

Note 2: The *playing handicap* is considered to be the handicap referred to in Rule 6-2 of the Rules of Golf.

EGA PLAYING HANDICAP DIFFERENTIAL (= PLAYING HANDICAP DIFFERENTIAL)(new)

The “*EGA Playing Handicap Differential*” is used in the *EGA playing handicap formula* for a *handicap category 6*. For 18 holes, it is calculated as the *playing hcp* for an *EGA handicap* of 36.0 at the course being played minus 36. For 9 holes, it is calculated as the *playing handicap* for an *EGA Handicap* of 36.0 at the 9 holes being played, minus 18.

EGA PLAYING HANDICAP FORMULA

An “EGA Playing Handicap Formula” converts EGA handicaps into playing handicaps.

The playing handicap formula for handicap categories 1 - 5 is:

$$\text{PLAYING HCP}_{\text{CAT 1-5}} = \text{EGA HCP} \times (\text{SI}/113) + (\text{CR-PAR})$$

Note: “Plus” handicaps must be expressed as negative values.

The playing handicap formula for handicap category 6 is:

$$\text{PLAYING HCP}_{\text{CAT 6}} = \text{EGA HCP} + \text{Playing Hcp Differential}$$

A handicap category 6 EGA playing handicap is determined by adding the EGA playing handicap differential of the set of tees being played to a player’s EGA handicap, taking gender into account.

EGA PLAYING HANDICAP TABLE (= PLAYING HANDICAP TABLE)

An “EGA Playing Handicap Table” is a table used for converting an EGA handicap to a playing handicap based on the course rating, slope and Par for a specific set of tees.

ELIGIBLE SCORES (new)

“Eligible Scores” are scores used for handicap review. All individual qualifying scores are eligible scores for HR with the following exceptions: no return, disqualified without score (DQ), unjustified quit (UNJQUIT)

EXTRA DAY SCORE (EDS)

An “Extra Day Score” (EDS) is a Stableford score returned under handicap conditions, other than in a qualifying competition, in accordance with the specifications set out in section 3.8.

GENERAL PLAY

“General Play” is a procedure to adjust the player’s EGA handicap other than resulting from a qualifying score in the period between handicap reviews to take account of a significant change in playing performance.

HANDICAP ALLOWANCE

A “Handicap Allowance” is the number of handicap strokes a player receives in a handicap competition. It is the percentage of the playing handicap determined by the Committee.

Note 1: A player with a “plus” playing handicap gives handicap strokes to the course, commencing at stroke index 18.

Note 2: Handicap allowances vary for different forms of competition, see Appendix C.

Note 3: The handicap allowance in a qualifying or counting round of individual play is: 100 % of the playing handicap

Note 4: The handicap allowance is considered to be the “number of strokes received” referred to in Rule 6-2 of the Rules of Golf.

HANDICAP CATEGORY

EGA handicaps are grouped within the following “Handicap Categories”:

Handicap Category	EGA Handicap
1	plus – 4.4
2	4.5 – 11.4
3	11.5 – 18.4
4	18.5 – 26.4
5	26.5 – 36.0
6	37 - 54



HANDICAP COMMITTEE

The “*Handicap Committee*” is the body appointed by an *affiliated club* to administer the *EGA Handicap System* within the club.

HANDICAP CONDITIONS

“*Handicap Conditions*” are the prerequisite conditions under which *qualifying scores* may be returned for handicapping purposes.

Handicap conditions are in place when:

- the round is played over a *measured course* with a measured length of not less than 2750 metres over 18 holes, or 1375 metres over 9 holes;
- the course being played has been rated by the *national association* or area authority in accordance with the *USGA Course Rating System*;
- the length of the course played does not vary from the length of the *measured course* by more than 100 metres over 18 holes, or 50 metres over 9 holes;
- the tee-markers used to designate the teeing ground (see the Rules of Golf, Definitions) are placed on the tees in accordance with clause 2.7.5;
- the round is played in accordance with the Rules of Golf (including the Conditions of Competition) as approved by R&A Rules Limited;
- the form of play is either stroke play, Bogey/Par or Stableford, provided that Bogey/Par and Stableford are played with full *handicap allowance* (= 100% of the *playing handicap*); and
- the score is marked by an approved marker.

For decisions from the *EGA Handicapping and Course Rating Committee* on “*handicap conditions*”, see section 4.1.

HANDICAP REVIEW (HR)

The “*Handicap Review*” (*HR*) is a mandatory procedure that requires the *handicap committee* to review the performance of all players under their jurisdiction against their current handicap and to confirm or adjust the handicap as considered appropriate.

HANDICAP STROKE

A “*Handicap Stroke*” is a stroke that a player is entitled to deduct from his gross score.

Note: A player with a “plus” *playing handicap* adds strokes to his gross score.

HANDICAP STROKE INDEX

A “*Handicap Stroke Index*” on the score card indicates the order of holes at which *handicap strokes* are to be given or received. A *handicap stroke index* must be published for each course (Rule 33-4 of the Rules of Golf).

Note: A player with a “plus” *playing handicap* gives *handicap strokes* to the course, commencing at stroke index 18.

HANDICAPPING AUTHORITY

The “*Handicapping Authority*” for a player is his *home club* or the RBGF.

HOME CLUB

A player’s “*Home Club*” is an *affiliated club* of which the player is a member, and which is responsible for the administration of his handicap.

Note: If the player is a member of more than one *affiliated club* he must nominate one as his *home club*.

MEASURED COURSE

A “*Measured Course*” is any course that has been measured according to the *USGA Course Rating Manual*.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

A “*National Association*” is any national golf organization affiliated to the *EGA* and authorized to act on behalf of the *EGA* for the administration of the *EGA Handicap System* within its own country. The RBGF is the *national association* for Belgium.

NO RETURN (NR)

“*No Return*” (*NR*) denotes any round for which no score card is returned.

NOT-CONFIRMED (new)

"Not-Confirmed" is the designation of a handicap that was maintained on three (3) or fewer *eligible scores* in a previous season and that has not been *confirmed* or adjusted during any following *HR* procedures.

Note: A *not-confirmed handicap* can become confirmed at any time by returning three eligible scores between successive *HRs*.

PERIOD FOR PREFERRED LIES

The "*Period for Preferred Lies*" is from 1st of November till 30th of April during which *handicap conditions* will apply notwithstanding the application of a Local Rule for "*preferred lies*" as a result of adverse conditions.

PLAYING HANDICAP (see EGA PLAYING HANDICAP)

PLAYING HANDICAP DIFFERENTIAL (see EGA PLAYING HANDICAP DIFFERENTIAL)

PLAYING HANDICAP TABLE (see EGA PLAYING HANDICAP TABLE)

QUALIFYING COMPETITION

A "*Qualifying Competition*" is any competition in which *handicap conditions* prevail.

QUALIFYING ROUND

A "*Qualifying Round*" is any round in a *qualifying competition* or a round played with the intention to return an *EDS*.

QUALIFYING SCORE

A "*Qualifying Score*" is any score returned in a *qualifying* or *counting competition*, including a *NR*, or a score adjusted under clauses 3.6.2 or any *EDS*.

SCRATCH GOLFER

A "*Scratch Golfer*" is a player who can play to the *Course Rating* from any set of tees. For handicapping purposes, it is defined as a player with an *EGA Handicap* of 0.0.

SLOPE

"*Slope*" (*SI*) is the *USGA* designation that indicates the relative playing difficulty of a course for players who are not *scratch golfers* relative to the *course rating* (i.e. compared to the difficulty of the course for *scratch golfers*). *Slope* is computed from the difference between the *bogey rating* and the *course rating*. A golf course of standard relative playing difficulty has a *Slope* of 113.

STANDARD GROSS DIFFERENTIAL (SGD)(new)

"*Standard Gross Differential*" is the *EGA hcp* the player would have needed to play 36 pts Stableford that round.

Standard Gross Differential (SGD) calculation:

1. Round over 18 holes, calculate the SGD using the formula:
$$\text{SGD} = \text{EGA hcp} + (\text{ND} * 113 / \text{Slope})$$
$$\text{ND} = \text{Net Differential} = 36 - \text{Stableford score}$$
2. Round over 9 holes, calculate the SGD using the formula:
$$\text{SGD} = \text{EGA hcp} + (2 * \text{ND} * 113 / \text{Slope})$$
$$\text{ND} = \text{Net Differential} = 18 - \text{Stableford score}$$

Example;

A player, with *EGA hcp* 14.7, receives an *playing handicap* of 16, he scores 31pts Stableford. This means that he misses 5 points to score 36 points and if his *EGA hcp* would have been $14.7 + (5 * 113 / \text{Slope}) = 19.1$, he would have scored 36 pts. The *standard gross differential* in this case is 19. It is a rounded number because it is an estimated *EGA hcp*.

USGA

"*United States Golf Association*"



PART 2 – GOLF COURSE AND COURSE RATING

2.1 COURSE RATING

- 2.1.1 All courses in Belgium must be rated by the RBGF, according to the *USGA* Course Rating System (*USGA* Course Rating Manual; www.usga.org).
- 2.1.2 The *USGA* Course Rating System is the property of the *USGA*. The RBGF is exclusively licensed by the *USGA* to use the system. No alterations are allowed. All interpretations are made by the *USGA*.
- 2.1.3 For handicapping purposes an *affiliated club* must only use *Course Ratings* and *Slope* issued by the RBGF.

EXPLANATORY NOTE: PRINCIPLES OF COURSE RATING AND SLOPE

The *Course Rating* (CR) and *Slope* (SI) values are used to relate the degree of difficulty of the course to the score and consequently the handicap of the player. The ratings are determined by a trained rating team in accordance with the rating manual of the *USGA* under normal course and weather conditions.

Firstly all holes are measured from the *distance point* to the centre of the green. These measurements are adjusted for the influence of roll, wind, elevation, altitude, doglegs, and lay-ups to effective playing lengths. Shot lengths are defined for scratch players and bogey players, men and women.

Apart from distance, the playing characteristics of a course are influenced by obstacle factors. These are topography (e.g. side hill lies), fairway width, green target properties, recoverability and rough, protection by bunkers, out of bounds and extreme rough, water hazards, trees (size and density) and green surface.

All factors are evaluated per hole for men and women and for both the scratch- and the bogey player. The system provides tables with values and correction factors based on extensive data gathered by the *USGA*.

The *Course Rating* is established from the effective playing lengths and obstacle factors over 18 holes. The number is expressed in strokes to one decimal point and represents the score that may be expected from a *scratch golfer*.

The *bogey rating* is established in the same way. It represents the score expected from the *bogey player* on that particular course. As one course may differ from another in the degree of difficulty presented to the *bogey player*, the player should receive more strokes on the more difficult course. The relationship between course and bogey rating is called the *slope*. It is a measure of the relative playing difficulty for the non-*scratch golfer* compared to the *Course Rating*. A golf course that is regarded as having the same relative difficulty for scratch- and bogey players has a *slope* of 113.

2.2 COURSE MEASUREMENT

Each hole must be measured along a horizontal plane from the *distance point* on each tee to the centre of the green according to the instructions in the *USGA* Course Rating Manual.

2.3 ALTERATIONS TO COURSES

When permanent alterations have been carried out to a course increasing or decreasing its length or playing difficulty, the *affiliated club* must request a new *course rating* and *slope* from the RBGF.

2.4 TEES

- 2.4.1 All courses should have at least one set of tees rated for each gender. Where it is appropriate, it is recommended that tees should be rated for both men and women.
- 2.4.2 There may be additional tees providing reduced playing length to accommodate different groups of players or tees providing increased length and challenge for highly skilled players. The table below sets out the recommended sequence of tee colour designation.

Tees	Length		No.	Men's CR*	Men's SI*	Women's CR*	Women's SI*
	Min	Max					
Black	6100	6600	61-66	74,9	136	-	-
White	5680	6200	57-62	73,9	130	Dep Length	Dep Length
Yellow	5260	5800	53-58	72,1	128	77,5	143
Blue	4840	5400	48-54	69,7	125	75,4	138
Red	4420	5000	44-50	67,3	120	71,8	131
Orange	4000	4600	40-46	64,5	104	69,2	112
Green	3580	4200	36-42	62,4	101	67,3	108
Pink	3160	3800	32-38	61,1	99	65,2	104
Brown	2750	3400	28-34	59,3	95	63,8	100

* Example values course rating and slope as in appendix F

Note: It is not recommended that any tees are rated for women if the total length is greater than 5800 metres.

2.4.3 All tees must be of sufficient size to provide a teeing ground which satisfies the Rules of Golf. Each set of tees must have a *distance point* which should be placed centrally, but at least six metres from the back. The *distance point* has to be visible at all times.

2.5 PAR

2.5.1 Par reflects the score that a *scratch golfer* would normally be expected to make for a given hole.

2.5.2 The Par figure for each hole must be printed alongside each hole on the score card.

2.5.3 Par for each hole must be fixed by the *affiliated club* in relation to the measured length and the playing difficulty of each hole and must be within the following distance ranges given in meters, from the standard tees:

Par	WOMEN	MEN
3	- - 200	- - 235
4	185 - 385	220 - 450
5	350 - +	415 - +

Example: The length of a hole with a dogleg is 430 metres. Depending upon its "effective playing length" and its average playing difficulty the hole may be allotted Par 4 or 5 (for men).

Note: Only in exceptional circumstances (following authorisation from the RBGF), may Par deviate from the table above.

2.5.4 The Par figures for the course must not be taken as the difficulty for a *scratch golfer*. The difficulty is defined by the *Course Rating*.

EXPLANATORY NOTE: RELEVANCE OF PAR

Par is not a very good measure of the playing difficulty of a golf course. Two courses having the same Par may vary substantially in length and design of the holes. For example, courses A and B were constructed in similar terrain and with the same relative playing difficulty.

Course A: Four Par 3 holes of 125 metres and fourteen Par 4 holes of 270 metres. The total length is 4280 metres, Par 68.

Course B: Four Par 3 holes of 200 metres and fourteen Par 4 holes of 360 metres. The total length is 5840 metres, Par 68.

It is obvious that the *scratch golfer* would find course B much more difficult to play. Both have a Par of 68 but the CR numbers could be in the order of 63 and 71.

As scoring is recorded against Par, the *playing handicap* would be adjusted by (CR-Par), for course A by (- 5) and for course B by (+3).



2.6 PERIOD FOR PREFERRED LIES

- 2.6.1 The *period for preferred lies* is from 1st of November till 30th of April during which *handicap conditions* will apply notwithstanding the application of a Local Rule for “*preferred lies*” as a result of adverse conditions. Outside the *period for preferred lies*, *handicap conditions* will not apply when a local rule for “Preferred Lies” is in operation unless the consent from the RBGF has been obtained.
- 2.6.2 Adopting *preferred lies* requires a detailed Local Rule that allows the player relief as set out in the Rules of Golf as follows:

“A ball lying on a “closely-mown area” through the green may be lifted without penalty and cleaned. Before lifting the ball, the player must mark its position. Having lifted the ball, he must place it on a spot within **15 cm** of and not nearer the hole than where it originally lay, that is not in a hazard and not on a putting green.

A player may place his ball only once, and it is in play when it has been placed (Rule 20-4). If the ball fails to come to rest on the spot on which it is placed, Rule 20-3d applies. If the ball when placed comes to rest on the spot on which it is placed and subsequently moves, there is no penalty and the ball must be played as it lies, unless the provisions of any other Rule apply.

If the player fails to mark the position of the ball before lifting it or moves the ball in any other manner, such as rolling it with a club, he incurs a penalty of one stroke.

* PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE:

Match Play - Loss of hole; Stroke Play - Two strokes.

* If a player incurs the general penalty for a breach of this Local Rule, no additional penalty under the Local Rule is applied.”

Note: *Handicap Conditions* will only apply when the specified area in the Local Rule is restricted to “within 15 cm”. In exceptional circumstances the specified area may be up to one Club Length if approved by the RBGF.

- 2.6.3 A Local Rule allowing *preferred lies* on a section of holes may be adopted by the Committee when more localised conditions so determine.

GUIDANCE NOTE: PREFERRED LIES

The purpose of *preferred lies* (sometimes referred to as “Winter Rules”) is to allow *qualifying scores* to be returned when playing conditions would otherwise not allow proper play due to adverse conditions of the course such as extreme wetness and mud.

It is a widely held misconception that *preferred lies* are to protect the course. Rather the opposite is true as the player may move the ball to the best turf from which he subsequently takes a divot.

Remember that *preferred lies* conflict with the fundamental principle of playing the ball as it lies. Indiscriminate use of *preferred lies* should be avoided.

2.7 PERMITTED ADJUSTMENT TO A MEASURED COURSE

- 2.7.1 Each *affiliated club* must endeavour to maintain the length of its *measured course* at all times in order to provide ample opportunity for players to play under *handicap conditions*.
- 2.7.2 *Handicap conditions* will only prevail if a *measured course* has a measured length of not less than 2750 metres over 18 holes, or 1375 metres over 9 holes.
- 2.7.3 *Handicap conditions* do not prevail when the length of the course played varies from the length of the *measured course* by more than 100 metres over 18 holes, or 50 metres over 9 holes.
- 2.7.4 In order to maintain the *course rating* characteristics of the course, and subject to the provisions of clause 2.7.3, the tee-markers used to designate the teeing ground (see the Rules of Golf, Definitions) must, normally, not be placed more than 10 metres in front or 10 metres behind the relevant *distance point*.
Note: Only in exceptional circumstances may this 10 metre range be exceeded. This is only to be accepted if maintenance reasons (or extreme weather conditions) force the club to move the tee markers outside this range. Nevertheless, the maximum 100 metre deviation in clause 2.7.3 cannot be exceeded. If so, *handicap conditions* do not prevail.
- 2.7.5 Placement of the tee markers should be balanced so that the length of the course played is approximately equal to the measured length from day to day. This is done by using both front- and back sections of the tees according to course conditions.
- 2.7.6 The use of one temporary green per nine holes of a course is allowed, provided that the length of the course played does not vary more than allowed (see 2.7.3).
- 2.7.7 The club must notify the RBGF when permanent changes are made to the course. Permanent changes to the course require the RBGF to review the current *course rating* and *slope* and to determine whether a re-rating is necessary.

GUIDANCE NOTE: COURSE SET-UP AND MAINTENANCE

A golf course is rated on its effective playing length and its playing difficulty under normal conditions that should prevail on average in mid season when most rounds are played. If length and/or playing difficulty changes, scores will be affected and handicaps distorted.

The objective of the course committee and greenkeeping staff should be to maintain rating conditions as constant as possible throughout the season. The following points are worth consideration:

Vary the difficulty of hole locations, i.e. six easy six average six difficult.

Vary the set up of the teeing grounds while maintaining the measured length.

Maintain the parameters of the rating, most importantly length, rough height, width of the landing zones, and green speed.

Consider applying for a temporary rating, rather than declaring the course non-qualifying if major repair or reconstruction work is planned. This situation might occur when a hole has to be shortened considerably, temporary tees are in use, bunkers are reconstructed and taken out of play or the length of the course has to be reduced by more than 100 metres. Contact the *national association* for advice.

The USGA Course Rating System Manual, section 15, provides good detailed advice on maintenance of rating parameters and the potential impact on *course rating* and *slope* values.

PART 3 – HANDICAPPING

3.1 RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE ROYAL BELGIAN GOLF FEDERATION

The RBGF:

- 3.1.1 Has the jurisdiction for the administration of the *EGA Handicap System* within Belgium, subject to the overall jurisdiction of the *EGA*.
- 3.1.2 May not change or deviate from the regulations and specifications of the *EGA Handicap System* unless it is stated that a certain aspect of the *EGA Handicap System* is at the discretion of the *national association*; the main reason being to achieve uniformity of application across *national associations*.
- 3.1.3 Has appointed the Technical Committee to administer the *EGA Handicap System* within Belgium.
- 3.1.4 Reserved.
- 3.1.5 Has ensured that all courses approved by the RBGF for handicapping purposes have *course rating* and *slope* determined according to the *USGA Course Rating System*.
- 3.1.6 Has a license from the *EGA* in order to use the *EGA Handicap System*.
- 3.1.7 Ensures the integrity of the *EGA handicaps* issued under its jurisdiction.
- 3.1.8 Assumes the responsibility as *handicapping authority* at its discretion.
Note: If a *national association* assumes the responsibility as *handicapping authority*, it should also perform the obligations set out in sections 3.3 and 3.4, if applicable.
- 3.1.9 Has the right to obtain any information related to handicapping from *affiliated clubs* at any time.
- 3.1.10 Has appointed the Technical Committee to settle any dispute or doubtful point referred to it. Its decision is final. If the RBGF cannot come to a decision, it must refer the dispute or doubtful point to the *EGA Handicapping & Course Rating Committee*, whose decision is final.
Note: When exercising its powers, the RBGF must recognise and apply the correct legal procedures.
- 3.1.11 Reserved
- 3.1.12 Has determined limitations of 9-holes and *EDSs* as per clause 3.6.1 c. and section 3.8
- 3.1.13 Has determined the procedure to register *EDSs*: section 3.8
- 3.1.14 Has determined the period of preferred lies. Clause: 2.6.1
- 3.1.15 Requires a Golf Ability Certificate – “Golfvaardigheidsbewijs”, “Brevet d’Aptitude au Golf” or “Platzreife Bestätigung” to attain an *EGA Handicap*.
- 3.1.16 Has determined a procedure to adjudicate upon the suspension of *EGA Handicaps* according to sections 3.13 and 3.14.
- 3.1.17 Has determined the appeal procedure to be made available to a player who is dissatisfied with a decision under sections 3.13 and 3.14.
- 3.1.18 May at its discretion direct that a *confirmed handicap* is a prerequisite for entry into a competition for which an *EGA handicap* is required, see clause 3.15.5.
- 3.1.19 Audits the *EGA handicap* of all players with an *EGA handicap* of + 1.0 and better in order to control a fair entry into national and international championships which require a maximum *EGA handicap*.

GUIDANCE NOTE: PURPOSE OF AUDIT OF LOW HANDICAP PLAYERS

The purpose of the audit of low handicap players is to provide assurance that their handicap records have been maintained in accordance with the *EGA Handicap System* and, in particular, that all away scores have been entered correctly. To facilitate the audit, handicapping authorities are required by the *national association* to provide, as part of the *handicap review* procedure, the handicap records for all low handicap players (the elite end of the very low handicap spectrum) identified by the *national association*, in accordance with Clause 3.1.19 and any additional players as so directed by the *national association*.

The audit must be based on the comparison of these records with the official scores from a wide range of national and international competitions.

Experience has shown that players with incomplete handicap records tend to have lower handicaps than they are entitled to. Whilst this does not influence scratch stroke play competitions, it does have an important bearing on entry into prestigious tournaments. Through auditing, the *national association* can better ensure a level playing field and avoid placing those players who honour their obligations at a disadvantage.

3.2 RESERVED

3.3 RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE AFFILIATED CLUB

An affiliated club:

- 3.3.1 Is the *handicapping authority* for all members for whom it is the *home club* subject to the overall jurisdiction of the RBGF.
Exception: The RBGF may, at its discretion, assume the responsibility as *handicapping authority* for the members of affiliated clubs under its jurisdiction.
- 3.3.2 Must ensure that the *EGA Handicap System* is correctly applied at the club. Failure to comply with this requirement would justify the RBGF withdrawing the club's right to act as a *handicapping authority* or imposing such conditions as the RBGF may consider appropriate.
- 3.3.3 May at its discretion direct that a *confirmed handicap* is a prerequisite for entry into a competition under its jurisdiction for which an *EGA handicap* is required. See clause 3.15.5.
- 3.3.4 Must appoint a *handicap committee* to perform the obligations set out in section 3.4 and to ensure the integrity of the *EGA handicaps* issued by the club. This committee may be combined with another committee with similar regulatory functions if it is deemed appropriate.
- 3.3.5 Is responsible for ensuring that *EGA handicaps* are maintained in accordance with the procedures laid down in the *EGA Handicap System* and in accordance with any specific procedure imposed by the *national association*.
Note: Any complaint regarding the application of the system, which cannot be resolved by the *affiliated club*, must be made to the RBGF, which may at its discretion carry out such investigation as it considers appropriate. If, following such an investigation, it is found that the *affiliated club* is in breach of its responsibilities, the *affiliated club* shall be directed by the RBGF to rectify matters. Failure to resolve the matter satisfactorily may justify the RBGF declaring that handicaps at that *affiliated club* are not valid *EGA handicaps*.
- 3.3.6 Must retain the handicap record in the central database of the RBGF of all members for at least the current and previous calendar year.
- 3.3.7 Must use RBGF approved software to enter *qualifying scores* and to register handicap records in the Central Database.

3.4 RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE HANDICAP COMMITTEE

The handicap committee:

- 3.4.1 Must maintain lists in which the names of players must be entered prior to any *qualifying* or *counting round* and the *handicap committee* must have procedures to ensure that all score cards are returned to the *handicap committee* including incomplete cards.
- 3.4.2 Reserved
- 3.4.3 Must ensure that the *EGA handicap* of each member is recorded as required by the RBGF and made available at all times.
- 3.4.4 Must ensure that all *qualifying scores* are recorded as soon as possible and that all *EGA handicaps* have been correctly calculated in relation to scores recorded in chronological order.
- 3.4.5 Must, when a member changes his *home club*, inform the new *home club* of his current *EGA handicap* and provide the *handicap committee* of that club with a copy of the player's handicap record for the current and previous year.
- 3.4.6 Must exercise the power to suspend handicaps as described in sections 3.13 and 3.14. and the power to adjust handicaps described in section 3.16 and must advise players accordingly.
Note: When exercising its powers, the *handicap committee* must recognise and apply the correct legal procedures.
- 3.4.7 Has the right, on the day of a *qualifying competition* and before the commencement of play, to declare a round of that competition as a *counting round* or a *non-qualifying round* because of exceptionally bad weather and/or course conditions, see also clause 3.6.2 i. In case of *counting competition* a round can be declared non-qualifying.
Note: The *handicap committee* should never deprive a competition of its status as *qualifying* or *counting competition* only to circumvent the regulations of the *EGA Handicap System* and prevent scores from counting for handicapping. Such action is contrary to the spirit of the *EGA Handicap System*. The *handicap committee* should give players the opportunity to return as many *qualifying scores* as possible.
- 3.4.8 Must conduct a *handicap review* of the *EGA handicaps* of all members at least once a year, as well as for any player upon request, as prescribed in section 3.15.

GUIDANCE NOTE:

THE PURPOSE AND COMPOSITION OF THE HANDICAP COMMITTEE

Administrative staff and club managers in an increasing number of clubs are charged with the day-to-day administration of handicaps. To assist them in their task, the 2016-2019 edition of the *EGA Handicap System* is supported by computer assisted procedures and most functions can be run in an automated fashion. Yet it remains important for the *handicap committee* to be responsible for the proper application of the clauses and in particular to be in charge of the *handicap review*. The final decision regarding which handicaps are to be adjusted under the *handicap review* and the value of the adjustment rests with the *handicap committee*.

The *handicap committee* has the ultimate authority to decide whether *handicapping conditions* are satisfied but may delegate the task to the committee in charge of the competition.

Knowledge of the system and its intent is a prerequisite requirement for *handicap committee* members and continuity of the capabilities within the committee should be safeguarded. The committee responsible for handicapping (possibly among other responsibilities) must consist of at least three members preferably representing both genders.

3.5 RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE PLAYER

The player:

- 3.5.1 Must have only one *EGA handicap* which must be allotted and recorded by his *handicapping authority*. That handicap applies everywhere where the *EGA Handicap System* applies.
- 3.5.2 Must, if he is a member of more than one *affiliated club*, select one *affiliated club* as his *home club* and notify that club and the others of his choice.
- 3.5.3 Is free to change his *home club* at all times. He must notify his former *home club* and the RBGF of his decision.
- 3.5.4 Must ensure that before playing a *qualifying* or *counting round* his entry is registered as required.
- 3.5.5 Must ensure that all *qualifying scores*, whether or not complete, are returned to his *handicapping authority*. If played at an *affiliated club* other than his *home club*, the player is obliged to report all these scores to his *home club*.
- 3.5.6 Must prior to playing in any competition at any *affiliated club*, ensure that appropriate alterations of his *EGA handicap* have been made.
- 3.5.7 Must apply the increase or reduction to his *EGA handicap* where required after a *qualifying* or *counting round* for a score not yet recorded on his handicap record. The adjustment should be made against the CBA, if known, and assuming it is applied.
- 3.5.8 Must enter his current *playing handicap* on all score cards returned after a *qualifying* or *counting round* (Rules of Golf, Rule 6-2b). For handicapping purposes, the player should also enter his current *EGA handicap* on the cards, even though the round may be a scratch competition.
- 3.5.9 Must return at least four (4) *eligible scores* each calendar year to provide his *handicapping authority* sufficient information about his playing ability to confirm or adjust his *EGA handicap* at the *handicap review*.
Note: If a player fails to report at least four (4) *eligible scores*, his *EGA Handicap* is statistically not reliable and may not be acceptable for entry into some, certain competitions which require an *EGA Handicap*, see clauses 3.1.17, 3.3.3, 3.12.4 - 3.12.7 and 3.15. 2.
- 3.5.10 Must endeavour to comply with the intent and purpose of the fundamental principles of the *EGA Handicap System* at all times.

For decisions from the *EGA Handicapping* and *Course Rating* Committee on “Rights and obligations of the player”, see section 4.2.

3.6 QUALIFYING SCORES

3.6.1 To be acceptable for handicap purposes, *qualifying scores* have to meet the following requirements:

- a. The round must be played under *handicap conditions*.
- b. The round must be played on a course at an *affiliated club* or a course approved by the *national association* rated in accordance with the *USGA Course Rating System*. Alternatively, the round must be played in a country outside the jurisdiction of the *national association* on a course rated in accordance with the *USGA Course Rating System* or according to the CONGU Standard Scratch Score System.
- c. The round must consist of 18 holes and for players in *handicap categories* 2-6 rounds consisting of 9 holes are also acceptable. A 9-hole score may not be part of an 18-hole score. A player can only return one 9-hole qualifying score per day for handicapping purposes.
- d. The round must be either played in a *qualifying* or *counting competition* run by: i) an *affiliated club*, ii) the RBGF, iii) other organisations approved by the RBGF, or the round is played as an *EDS* (see section 3.8).
- e. Scores made outside the jurisdiction of the RBGF in a *qualifying competition* run by an *affiliated club* of another *national association*, or an organisation approved by another *national association*, must be returned.
- e. The scores must be converted to Stableford points.

3.6.2 Notwithstanding the requirements of clause 3.6.1, a score is a *qualifying score* even if:

- a. the round has been cancelled by the committee in which case the round becomes "Reduction Only" (Counting).
- b. reserved.
- c. the player is disqualified. See GN: Score used in case of Disqualification.
- d. the round is played with a Local Rule for *preferred lies* in operation, see section 2.6.
- e. the round is a single round in an aggregate or eclectic competition provided that players who are partners do not play in the same group.
- f. reserved
- g. the player fails to return his scorecard. See GN: Encoding results in *qualifying* or *counting competition*.
- h. the round is played in a *qualifying* or *counting competition* in which different groups start the round from different tees (e.g. shot gun).
- i. the competition is declared non-*qualifying round* in accordance with clause 3.4.7, but the player decides to play an *EDS* in accordance with section 3.8

3.6.3 Notwithstanding the requirements of clause 3.6.1 and section 3.8 (*Extra Day Score*) a score is not a *qualifying score*, if:

- a. the round, other than an *EDS*, is played in a competition that is run by a third party not approved by the RBGF.
- b. reserved
- c. reserved
- d. the round is played in any competition in which the player plays with one or more partners (exception aggregate, see 3.6.2 e).
- e. reserved
- f. the round was played as part of a Pro-Am-Competition.

GUIDANCE NOTE: SCORE USED IN CASE OF DISQUALIFICATION

A. Disqualified with valid score.

If the player has been disqualified for one of the hereunder mentioned rules, an adjusted score must be calculated in spite of his disqualification for technical offences. The *handicap committee* must carefully investigate all details.

Note: All penalty strokes must be taken into account as well as the correct handicap and hole-by-hole scores.

- a. Rule 3-2: Failure to hole out
- b. Rule 3-4: Player refuses to apply a rule in stroke play (incl. Stableford and against Par) which affects the rights of another player.
- c. Rule 6-2b: The handicap marked on the score card is higher than that to which he is entitled. The correct handicap should be used to calculate the adjusted score.
- d. Rule 6-3: Player fails to tee-off at the time designated by the tournament committee, but nevertheless returns a score card.
- e. Rule 6-6b: Score card is not signed by the player or the marker unless the marker has not signed the score card for a valid reason.
- f. Rule 6-6d: Recorded score is lower than actual score for any hole.
- g. Rule 6-7: Competitor unduly delays play, repeated offence.
- h. Rule 6-8: Competitor discontinues play.
- i. Rule 14-3b: Use of distance measuring device.
- j. Rule 33-7: Disqualified by the committee for serious breach of etiquette

B. Disqualified (without score)

If the player has been disqualified for one of the hereunder mentioned rules, it cannot be determined how much of an advantage the player may have gained by breaching a rule and his hcp will be increased by 0.1 .

- a. Rule 1-2: Serious breach when taking deliberate action to influence the movement of the ball or to alter the physical conditions.
- b. Rule 1-3: Competitors agree to exclude the operation of a rule or to waive a penalty incurred.
- c. Rule 4-1, 4-2, 4-3 and 4-4: Use of a club(s) which is/are non-conforming or otherwise used in breach of the rules.
- d. Rule 5-1 and 5-2: Use of a ball that is non-conforming or otherwise used in breach of the rules.
- e. Rule 6-4: Use of more than one caddie (leading to disqualification).
- f. Rule 7-1b: Practice on the tournament course on the day of, and prior to the tournament.
- g. Rule 11-1 or 14-3: Use of a non-conforming tee, use of an artificial device or unusual equipment (except a distance measuring device).
- h. Rule 22-1 Agreeing not to lift a ball that might assist any competitor.

GUIDANCE NOTE: ENCODING RESULTS IN QUALIFYING OR COUNTING COMPETITION

As we are working with different "Club Management Systems" and they all connect to a centralised system, all *qualifying scores* are sent to this system. We have developed a set of status-options a player can receive when playing a *qualifying* or *counting* round:

- a. the player notifies not to be able to play before his starting time: "Forfait" this doesn't count as QS.
- b. the player doesn't show up: "No Show" this doesn't count as QS.
- c. the player quits playing for a medical condition or serious reason: "Justified Quit" this doesn't count as QS.
- d. the player returns his scorecard: "Return" score count as QS.
- e. the player doesn't return his scorecard: "No Return" (NR) this count as QS => +0,1
- f. the player quits playing for other reasons: "Unjustified Quit" (UNJQUIT) this counts as QS=> +0,1
- g. the player was disqualified for technical offences when it cannot be determined how much advantage the player may have gained by breaching a rule: "Disqualified" (DQ) this counts as QS=> +0,1
- h. the player was disqualified with a score and an adjusted score can be calculated in spite of his disqualification for technical offences: "DQ with Valid Score" (DQVASCO) this count as QS, with the score as calculated.

3.7 RESERVED

3.8 EXTRA DAY SCORES (EDS)

- 3.8.1 An *EDS* subject to the provisions of clauses 3.8.2, 3.8.3, 3.8.4 and 3.8.5, is a *qualifying score* for handicapping.
- 3.8.2 The number of *EDS* is limited to a maximum of 5 in any calendar year.
- 3.8.3 Players may mark *EDS* only at *affiliated clubs* in Belgium.
Note: The player may be restricted to the course of his *home club* or course(s) designated by his *handicapping authority*.
- 3.8.4 Only players with an *EGA handicap* in *handicap categories* 2- 6 may return an *EDS* for handicapping.
Note: A player of *handicap category* 1 may return a maximum of three *EDS*s for the purpose of confirming a *not-confirmed* handicap.
- 3.8.5 An *EDS* only counts for handicapping when the player has registered his name and Federal Card Number on the *EDS* entry list before starting the round. His entry must include the number of holes to be played (9 or 18 holes), date and hour of entry, name and Federal Number of the Marker, *EGA-* and *playing handicap*.
- 3.8.6 The player must record the same details as mentioned in clause 3.8.5 on his score card and he must return the score card signed by the marker and countersigned by himself.
- 3.8.7 If the player, after registration on the *EDS* entry list, does not return his score card, a *NR* will be recorded for handicap purposes.
- 3.8.8 A player's *EGA handicap* cannot be reduced to a *handicap category* which is excluded from returning an *EDS*.
Example: A player with an *EGA handicap* of 4.7 returns an *EDS* of 41 Stableford points. His *EGA handicap* will only be reduced by 0.2 to 4.5 and not by 0.7.

EXPLANATORY NOTE: EXTRA DAY SCORES

The *EGA Handicap System* (as well as other handicap systems) is based on the premise that every player will return a sufficient number of scores to provide reasonable evidence of his playing standard. The *EGA* has accepted four scores as a minimum requirement, but every additional score will improve the accuracy of the handicap substantially.

Although committees may consider that in the course of the season ample opportunity is provided to participate in golf competitions, experience has shown that many players struggle to return a sufficient number of scores to maintain a handicap that reflects their playing ability. This may be due to:

- work or family commitments preventing participation in competitions.
- difficulty in obtaining acceptable starting times on preferred days.
- a declining desire to play regular competition golf.

*EDS*s provide a format to supplement scores from *qualifying competitions* for handicap purposes. The intent is to augment the sometimes sparse information from competition golf and to enable players to meet the minimum requirement of four scores in a season. Since the commitment to return the score, good or bad, is made before the round starts and *handicap conditions* must be in operation, the *EDS* round technically compares to a competition round.

3.9 EGA PLAYING HANDICAP (PLAYING HANDICAP)

- 3.9.1 The *playing handicap* is the number of *handicap strokes* a player receives for a specific set of tees at the course being played.
- 3.9.2 If the *playing handicap* is negative, termed a “plus” *playing handicap*, the player must give *handicap strokes* to the course, commencing at stroke index 18.
- 3.9.3 A player's *playing handicap* is determined by applying his *EGA handicap* to the *playing handicap formula*:
- a) The *playing handicap formula* for *handicap categories* 1-5 is:

$$\text{PLAYING HCP}_{\text{Cat 1-5}} = \text{EGA HCP} \times (\text{SI} / 113) + (\text{CR} - \text{PAR})$$

Note: The *playing handicap* is expressed as a whole number, 0.5 rounds upwards. This means -0.5 [= “plus” 0.5] rounds upwards to 0 [*scratch*] and -1.5 [= “plus” 1.5] to -1 [= “plus” 1].

- b) The *playing handicap formula* for *handicap category* 6 is:

$$\text{PLAYING HCP}_{\text{CAT 6}} = \text{EGA HCP} + \text{Playing Hcp Differential}$$



3.9.4 For a 9-hole, player's *playing handicap* is determined by applying his *EGA handicap* to the 9-hole *playing handicap formula*:

a) The 9-hole *playing handicap formula* for *handicap categories 2-5* is:

$$\text{PLAYING HCP}_{\text{Cat 2-5}} = \frac{\text{EGA HCP} \times 9\text{-HOLES SI} / 113 + (9\text{-HOLES CR} - 9\text{-HOLES PAR} \times 2)}{2}$$

Example: The *EGA handicap* of a player is 11.8. He plays the front 9-holes of a course from the yellow tees.

Yellow tees men			
	18 holes	Front 9-holes	Back 9-holes
Course Rating	72.4	71.6	73.2
Slope	127	122	132
Par	72	35	37
Handicap Strokes	14	7	6

His *playing handicap* is:

$$\text{Playing Handicap} = \frac{11.8 \times 122 / 113 + (71.6 - 2 \times 35)}{2} = 7.17 \rightarrow \text{rounded} = 7$$

b) The 9-hole *playing handicap formula* for *handicap category 6* is:

$$\text{PLAYING HCP}_{\text{CAT 6}} = (\text{EGA HCP}/2) + \text{Playing Hcp Differential}_{9\text{-hole}}$$

3.9.5 A player's *playing handicap* may also be determined by applying his *EGA handicap* to a 9-hole or 18-hole *playing handicap table*, see Appendix C.

3.9.6 The *handicap allowance* is the number of *handicap strokes* a player receives (or gives) in a handicap competition. It is the percentage of the *playing handicap* determined by the Committee in charge of the competition.

3.9.7 *Handicap strokes* are allocated hole by hole according to the *handicap stroke index* indicated on the score card. Strokes in 9-hole rounds are taken according to the relevant *handicap stroke index*.

Example: When playing 9-holes to which the even stroke indices have been allocated the player, receiving seven strokes, receives strokes at the holes with *handicap stroke index* 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14.

3.9.8 An *EGA handicap* may convert to a *playing handicap* exceeding the maximum *EGA handicap*.

EXPLANATORY NOTE: PLUS HANDICAPS

Originally, golf handicaps were derived for stroke play. They were assessed against the scratch player and were strokes to be taken off a player's score. When it became necessary to handicap a player who had demonstrated that he was better than the national scratch player, rather than re-handicapping the scratch player and all other players upwards, the concept of adding strokes to a score was accepted and such handicaps were designated as "plus handicaps". As a net score is determined by subtracting the player's handicap from the gross score, mathematically the plus handicap becomes a negative number. Handicaps as low as plus 5 have been attained.

EXPLANATORY NOTE: 9-HOLE SCORES

There is a certain analogy to *EDS* in the reasoning for introducing 9-hole competitions and 9-hole *EDS*. Again, in response to the demands of working and family life or physical limitations, 9-holes scores have been introduced to provide additional opportunities to return *qualifying scores*.

Since its introduction in 2007, the 9-hole *qualifying round* has become very popular in several countries, sometimes amounting to 30 % of all rounds for a particular group of players, such as senior players and participants in evening competitions with restricted daylight.

However the traditional way for a round of golf, i.e. over 18 holes, is still considered to be the preferred format for handicapping. For that reason the player who can play 18 holes in one day is not allowed to return two 9-hole scores in one day.

For decisions from the *EGA Handicapping and Course Rating Committee* on *EGA handicap* and *EGA playing handicap*, see section 4.5.

3.10 STABLEFORD

3.10.1 For handicapping, all *qualifying scores* must be converted to Stableford points based on a *handicap allowance* of 100 % of *playing handicap*.

3.10.2 For handicapping, the Stableford points are awarded in relation to the Par at each hole as follows:

Net score on a hole	Points
More than one over Par or no score returned	0
One over Par	1
Par	2
One under Par	3
Two under Par	4
Three under Par	5
Four under Par	6

3.10.3 For 18-hole or 9-hole *qualifying scores* the result is recorded on the player's *handicap record*. 9-Hole *qualifying scores* must be clearly identified on the player's *handicap record* (see Appendix A).

3.10.4 Reserved

3.10.5 Any score in a Par/Bogey *qualifying* or *counting competition* must be converted to a Stableford score by adding 36 points to the player's final result.

Example:

2 down :	-	2	+	36	=	34	Stableford points
5 up :	+	5	+	36	=	41	Stableford points
All square :		0	+	36	=	36	Stableford points

3.10.6 A player plays exactly to his handicap when he returns a score of 36 Stableford points over 18 holes or 18 Stableford points over 9 holes.

EXPLANATORY NOTE: STABLEFORD

The purpose of applying the Stableford point calculation for handicapping is to reduce the impact of a particularly bad score on a hole which does not truly reflect a golfer's playing ability. Other handicap systems use similar measures for stroke control such as net double bogey adjustment.

This restricts the score on a bad hole for a total adjusted stroke play score for handicapping purposes. It also allows a failure to hole out on a hole in a stroke play competition to be converted to a score for handicapping purposes.

Stableford scoring is a measure of performance against Par; the system was designed so that a player playing to handicap scores 36 Stableford points over 18 holes. The *EGA Handicap System* adjusts handicaps by assessing performance against *Course Rating* so a stroke allowance is included in the playing handicap formula (CR-Par) to allow for any differences between *Course Rating* and Par.

3.11 ATTAINING AN EGA HANDICAP

- 3.11.1 An *EGA Handicap* can only be obtained by a member of an *affiliated club* who has successfully passed his "BAG or GVB" exam.
- 3.11.2 The attributed *EGA handicap* is 54 for both men and women.
An *EGA handicap* may convert into a *playing handicap* exceeding this number.
- 3.11.3 It is strongly recommended that the initial *EGA handicap* attained under this Clause is monitored by the *handicap committee* and if necessary a *general play* adjustment following the procedures set out under section 3.16 should be applied.

3.12 ALTERATION OF HANDICAPS

- 3.12.1 The recording of *qualifying scores* must be kept as Stableford points. The *handicap committee* must record the player's *qualifying scores* in chronological order
- 3.12.2 For each *qualifying score*, the *standard gross differential* will be calculated and marked.
- 3.12.3 A player's *handicap record* (example in Appendix A) must contain:
 - a. the date of the round
 - b. the date of entry
 - c. information on where the round was played
 - d. the score and type (9-hole scores and 18-hole scores must be clearly identified)
 - e. the qualifying Stableford score
 - f. the *standard gross differential*
 - g. the revised *EGA handicap*
 - h. designation *confirmed* or *not-confirmed*
 - i. *course rating, slope, Par, ...*

Note: Adjusted (*qualifying*) scores are Stableford scores computed by the *handicap committee* based on a disqualification or, see section 3.6.
- 3.12.4 A player must return at least four (4) *eligible scores* each calendar year to provide his *handicapping authority* with the necessary information about his playing ability in order to properly maintain his *EGA handicap* in accordance with the provisions of clause 3.12.8 - 3.12.15 and to be able to confirm or adjust his *EGA handicap* at the HR. Such a handicap is designated *confirmed*.
- 3.12.5 A confirmed *EGA handicap* must be clearly marked as such on the player's handicap record.
- 3.12.6 An *EGA handicap* maintained on three (3) or fewer *eligible scores* in the past calendar year is based on insufficient current data and cannot be reliably verified, and is therefore designated *not-confirmed*. In the absence of adequate and necessary information for adjustment and revision, that handicap may not truly reflect the scoring potential of the player and must remain unchanged at the *handicap review*.
- 3.12.7 An *EGA handicap* which is *not-confirmed* will become confirmed, as soon as the player has returned three *eligible scores*.
- 3.12.8 If a player returns a *qualifying score* within his relevant *buffer zone* his *EGA handicap* remains unchanged.
- 3.12.9 With the exception of *counting competition*, if a player returns a *qualifying score* with fewer Stableford points than his *buffer zone* or records a NR, DQ, UNQUIT, his *EGA handicap* is increased by 0.1 for *handicap category 1 to 5*.
- 3.12.10 If a player returns a *qualifying score* above his *buffer zone*, his *EGA handicap* is reduced by an amount per Stableford point in excess of the *buffer zone*, the amount per point being determined by his *handicap category*.

3.12.11 *EGA handicaps* must be adjusted as follows:

Handicap Category	EGA Handicap	Buffer Zone		Stableford-points below the buffer zone: add only	Subtract for each Stableford-point above the buffer zone:
		18-hole scores	9-hole scores		
1	plus – 4.4	33 – 36	–	0.1	0.1
2	4.5 – 11.4	32 – 36	0 – 18	0.1	0.2
3	11.5 – 18.4	31 – 36	16 – 18	0.1	0.3
4	18.5 – 26.4	30 – 36	15 – 18	0.1	0.4
5	26.5 – 36.0	30 – 36	14 – 18	0.1	0.5
6	37 – 54	0 – 36	0 – 18	0	1

Example:

If a player playing off handicap 11.2 returns a Stableford score of 31 points, his *EGA handicap* becomes 11.3. If he then returns a Stableford score of 42 points, his *EGA handicap* is reduced by $(42-36) \times 0.2 = 1.2$, i.e. to an *EGA handicap* of 10.1

- 3.12.12 When a player's *EGA handicap* is to be reduced from a higher *handicap category* to a lower *handicap category*, it must be reduced at the rate appropriate to the higher category only so far as to bring his *EGA handicap* into the lower category and the balance of the reduction must be at the rate appropriate to the lower category.

Example: If a player playing off handicap 19.1 (*handicap category* 4) returns a Stableford score of 42 points, his *EGA handicap* is reduced as follows:

$19.1 - (2 \times 0.4) = 19.1 - 0.8 = 18.3$, taking him into *handicap category* 3, now the reduction is 0.3 per point giving $18.3 - (4 \times 0.3) = 18.3 - 1.2 = 17.1$

- 3.12.13 Increases and reductions of a player's *EGA handicap* must be made and registered by the *handicapping authority* as soon as practicable.

Note: It is the responsibility of the player to apply the increase or reduction to his *EGA handicap* where required after a *qualifying round* for a score not yet recorded on his handicap record (see clause 3.5.7).

- 3.12.14 A player's *EGA handicap* cannot be reduced by returning an *EDS* score to a *handicap category* 1.

- 3.12.15 A player's *EGA handicap* cannot be reduced by returning a 9-hole *qualifying score* to a *handicap category* 1.

3.13 SUSPENSION AND LOSS OF HANDICAPS

- 3.13.1 The RBGF or the *handicapping authority* of a player may suspend the player's *EGA handicap* if, in its opinion, he has deliberately failed to comply with his obligations imposed by the *EGA Handicap System*.

- 3.13.2 If it is established to the satisfaction of the player's *handicap committee* after due investigation that a player has failed to report away *qualifying scores*, the *EGA Handicap* of the player may be suspended for such a period as the *handicap committee* considers appropriate to obtain the necessary information to reinstate and adjust the player's handicap.

- 3.13.3 The player must be notified of the period of suspension and of any other conditions imposed. No player's handicap may be suspended without first affording the player the opportunity of appearing before the *handicap committee* of his *handicapping authority*.

- 3.13.4 Disciplinary proceedings with respect to an alleged offence committed at a player's *home club* must be initiated and determined by his *home club*. In all other cases the player's *handicapping authority* must hear and determine the issue.

- 3.13.5 If a player is a member of more than one *affiliated club*, a club which is not his *home club* may not suspend his *EGA Handicap*.

- 3.13.6 If a player is suspended from membership of his *home club*, his *EGA handicap* must be suspended automatically until the membership is reinstated.

- 3.13.7 A player is not eligible to compete in or enter any golf event which requires an *EGA Handicap* whilst his handicap is suspended.

- 3.13.8 The suspension of a player's handicap applies at all *affiliated clubs* of which the player is, or becomes, a member during the period of suspension.
- 3.13.9 A player who is dissatisfied with a decision under clause 3.13.1 – 3.13.8 may file appeal within 20 days of the date of the letter communicating the decision to him, and this by means of registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt.
Two copies of the motivated request for appeal should be sent to the RBGF at the attention of the Secretary General who will forward it to the Technical Committee as soon as possible but no later than 20 calendar days after receipt.
An appeal filed in due course does not suspend the enforcement of the decision which is subject to appeal.
The Secretary-General will request the documents from the relevant club and forward them accordingly to the Technical Committee. The relevant club has 20 days to submit the requested documents to the RBGF.
The player must be heard by the Technical Committee.
The player will be summoned at least 10 days before the hearing. The player will be notified by registered mail of the date, time and place of the hearing. At the request of the player or his counsel, a copy of the report is available for examination.
The hearing is public. The procedure takes place in a contradictory manner.
If the player fails to attend or be represented at the hearing, the Technical Committee will take a decision by default.
The Technical Committee shall conclude the decision of the hearing within 20 days. The decision will be communicated to the Secretary General in writing, who in turn shall forward copy of the decision to the player as soon as possible by registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt.
A copy of the decision will also be forwarded to the club concerned.
If a decision is rendered by default, the player may oppose to the decision by means of registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt sent to the attention of the Secretary General and this within 20 days of the date of the letter communicating the decision to him. An opposition made beyond this date will be inadmissible.
The opposition must be motivated. It does not suspend the enforcement of the decision which is subject to opposition.
The player will again be summoned by the Technical Committee according to the procedure set out above. If the decision is rendered by default, a further opposition will be inadmissible.
- 3.13.10 Except when a player changes *handicapping authorities*, a player's *EGA handicap* is immediately lost when the player ceases to be a member of any *affiliated club* or *national association*.
- 3.13.11 If a player loses his Amateur Status, his *EGA handicap* must be suspended automatically until he is reinstated in his Amateur Status.

3.14 RESTORATION OF HANDICAPS

- 3.14.1 A player whose *EGA handicap* has been suspended under the provisions of clause 3.13.1 and 3.13.2 can regain his *EGA handicap* in such manner as the *handicap committee* of his *handicapping authority* decides subject to the provisions of clause 3.14.3.
- 3.14.2 If the *EGA handicap* of a player is to be reinstated within 24 months of the date on which the handicap was suspended or lost in accordance with clause 3.13.6, 3.13.10 or 3.13.11, it must be reinstated at the same handicap the player last held, except under exceptional circumstances. In all other cases the player will be allotted a new *EGA handicap* after he has submitted at least three *eligible scores* over 18 holes on basis of his last held *EGA Hcp*.
Note: If applicable, a *handicap review* should be carried out before the handicap is reinstated.
- 3.14.3 When allotting a new handicap to a player, the *handicap committee* must give due consideration to the handicap last held. A *handicap category 1* handicap must not be allotted without the written approval of the RBGF.

3.15 HANDICAP REVIEW

3.15.1 The *handicap* committee of a *handicapping authority* must perform a *handicap review (HR)* as soon as possible after the end of the season (as from 1st till 31st of January). The *HR* is mandatory for all players in categories 1-5.

Note: In addition, a player may also request a *handicap review*, at any time, under the provisions of Clause 3.15.3

3.15.2 The *handicap committee* must use the Handicap Review Procedure in Appendix B in order to:

- list *confirmed handicaps* and *not-confirmed handicaps*
- implement the suggested adjustments for *confirmed handicaps* in categories 1-5
- constitute and announce the *HR-report*

3.15.3 At the discretion of the RBGF or *handicap authority*, a *confirmed EGA handicap* is a prerequisite for entry into a competition for which an *EGA Handicap* is required.

Note: Directing that a *confirmed EGA handicap* is a prerequisite for entry into a competition for which an *EGA Handicap* is a requirement is consistent with the aims of creating a fair and level playing field. *Not-confirmed* handicaps may be allowed to compete without being eligible to win a (net) prize or for social golf and the like.

EXPLANATORY NOTE: HANDICAP REVIEW

The *HR* has two main objectives:

To identify those players who have returned enough scores to be assessed effectively

To assess whether the scoring performance of all such players in *handicap categories* 1 to 5 is representative of the players' ability as indicated by their current *EGA handicap*.

The *HR* is an essential procedure within the *EGA Handicap System* and therefore mandatory. It is designed to check that players have handicaps that reasonably reflect their ability.

It is accepted that the committee's ability to apply the process objectively varies widely from club to club as it is heavily dependent on the experience and knowledge of the committee. After considerable statistical research, a procedure has been designed that will enable committees to carry out the *HR* in a uniformly objective manner.

Confirmed and Not-Confirmed handicaps

As part of that research it was determined that it was necessary for a player to return at least four (4) *eligible scores* in the period between *HRs* for an effective assessment to be made of his performance against handicap. Such players have confirmed handicaps and are included in the *HR* assessment.

Players that have returned three (3) or fewer *eligible scores* are excluded from the performance assessment process within the *HR* and are regarded as having *not-confirmed* handicaps. Such players retain an *EGA handicap* but it cannot be definitely verified as the committee has been presented with too little information to make that judgement. However an *not-confirmed* handicap can be taken as a general indication of the player's competence and is perfectly acceptable for any form of play where such an indication is all that is required.

The Review Process

It is anticipated that if all parties, particularly the *handicapping authority* and the players, have fulfilled their responsibilities, the vast majority of players will require no adjustment under the *HR* and this is another reason to carry out the process by having a statistical analysis using the procedure. The more scores a player presents for the *HR* the more reliable the process becomes. Because of this, where a player has returned fewer than eight eligible scores in the *HR* period, the previous year's eligible scores will be included in the current review.

The software using this procedure will suggest adjustments and the *Handicap Committee* Must verify, accept and or modify the propositions.

3.16 GENERAL PLAY

3.16.1 The *handicap committee* may, at its discretion, adjust the *EGA handicaps* of players outside the *HR* process on an individual basis; when exercising this discretion the *handicap committee* is strictly limited in its actions by 3.16.2-3.16.7.

3.16.2 When a player's *handicap committee* has significant evidence that a player's current *EGA handicap* does not reflect his playing ability, then the *handicap committee* may adjust the *EGA handicap* as it considers appropriate, but by no less than one whole stroke.

3.16.3 If the *handicap committee* considers that the *EGA handicap* of a *handicap category 1* player is to be reduced or that the *EGA handicap* of a *handicap category 2* player is to be reduced into *handicap category 1*, the *handicap committee* must refer the matter to the RBGF.

3.16.4 When deciding whether to implement or recommend an adjustment of *EGA handicap*, the *handicap committee* of the player's *handicapping authority* must consider all available information regarding the player's golfing ability. In particular:

- the frequency of rounds played;
- the frequency of rounds played in proportion to the number of *qualifying scores* returned;
- the number of *qualifying scores* recently returned, not only scores to and below his *EGA handicap* but also scores in the *buffer zone* or worse;
- the player's achievements in match play, four-ball (match play/stroke play) competitions and other non-*qualifying rounds*.

Note 1: The *handicap committee* should be particularly vigilant both of players whose general standard of play is known to be improving, and of players who have medical or other reasons which may adversely affect their scoring ability.

Note 2: The *handicap committee* may use the *handicap review* report to help identify players whose *EGA Handicap* may need a *general play* adjustment and for the purpose of determining an appropriate (adjusted) *EGA Handicap*.

3.16.5 The *handicap committee* must advise the player of any change to his *EGA handicap* under this clause and the change becomes effective when the player becomes aware of the adjustment.

Note: If the player is dissatisfied with the committee's decision, he must be afforded the opportunity to appear before the committee. At that meeting, the player must also be informed of his rights and obligations imposed by the *EGA Handicap System*. When exercising the powers described in clause 3.16.1 – 3.16.4, the *handicap committee* must recognise and apply relevant legal procedures.

3.16.6 A player who is dissatisfied with a decision under clause 3.16.1 – 3.16.5 may file appeal within 20 days of the date of the letter communicating the decision to him, and this by means of registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt.

Two copies of the motivated request for appeal should be sent to the RBGF at the attention of the Secretary General who will forward it to the Technical Committee as soon as possible but no later than 20 calendar days after receipt.

An appeal filed in due course does not suspend the enforcement of the decision which is subject to appeal. The Secretary-General will request the documents from the relevant club and forward them accordingly to the Technical Committee. The relevant club has 20 days to submit the requested documents to the RBGF. The player must be heard by the Technical Committee.

The player will be summoned at least 10 days before the hearing. The player will be notified by registered mail of the date, time and place of the hearing. At the request of the player or his counsel, a copy of the report is available for examination.

The hearing is public. The procedure takes place in a contradictory manner.

If the player fails to attend or be represented at the hearing, the Technical Committee will take a decision by default.

The Technical Committee shall conclude the decision of the hearing within 20 days. The decision will be communicated to the Secretary General in writing, who in turn shall forward copy of the decision to the player as soon as possible by registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt.

A copy of the decision will also be forwarded to the club concerned.

If a decision is rendered by default, the player may oppose to the decision by means of registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt sent to the attention of the Secretary General and this within 20 days of the date of the letter communicating the decision to him. An opposition made beyond this date will be inadmissible.

The opposition must be motivated. It does not suspend the enforcement of the decision which is subject to opposition.

The player will again be summoned by the Technical Committee according to the procedure set out above. If the decision is rendered by default, a further opposition will be inadmissible.

3.16.7 The *handicap committee* or the body organising a competition at a club which is not the player's *handicapping authority* may reduce his handicap, if it has valid reasons to conclude that his *EGA handicap* is too high. Any reduction made under this clause shall apply only to the competition for which it is made. The player's *home club* must be notified and provided with full details.

GUIDANCE NOTE: GENERAL PLAY ADJUSTMENTS

The *handicap committee* should adjust the player's handicap between *handicap reviews* if there is compelling evidence that his handicap does not reflect his current playing ability.

It is important to note that one very good or bad isolated, score is not a valid argument to reduce or increase the handicap more than the system prescribes. A *general play* adjustment is a reduction or increase based on the general performance of the player. If there is a pattern indicating a mismatch of the handicap and actual scores the committee would be justified to make the adjustment.

General play adjustments are reactions to situations that can occur during the year and should be made under the same basic criteria used in the *handicap review*.

PART 4 DECISIONS

4.1 HANDICAP CONDITIONS

4.1.1 Do handicap conditions prevail when golf carts/buggies are permitted?

The Rules of Golf do not prohibit the use of golf carts/buggies. Therefore the use of a golf cart/buggy by itself will not cancel the status of *handicapping conditions*.

Even if the conditions of the competition prohibit the use of golf carts/buggies and because of the breach of those conditions the player was disqualified, the score will be considered for handicapping purposes.

4.1.2 Do handicap conditions prevail when distance measuring devices are permitted?

The Rules of Golf prohibit the use of distance measuring devices unless they are allowed by a Local Rule, see note to R14-3 Rules of Golf. However, even without a Local Rule, *handicap conditions* are considered satisfied when distance measuring devices are used during *qualifying competitions* or *EDSs*. Thus, if the player was disqualified because of a breach of Rule 14-3 for using a distance measuring device when not permitted, the score should still be considered for handicapping purposes, see clause 3.6.2 c.

4.1.3 Do handicap conditions prevail when green staff has carried out maintenance work during the competition?

It is not desirable for maintenance work to be carried out during a competition.

However, where this occurs and the committee has not taken any action such as suspending or cancelling the competition, the scores should be considered returned under *handicap conditions*. Thus, the scores will be considered for handicapping purposes.

4.1.4 Do handicap conditions prevail when artificially surfaced tees are in use?

Artificially surfaced tees (e.g. Astroturf or concrete-based tees), even if they do not strictly satisfy the Rules of Golf definition of a teeing ground, do not have a disruptive effect on the *handicap conditions*, as long as the artificial tees are located in positions that comply with the measurement of the relevant hole. Therefore, scores returned from rounds played from artificial tees are considered *qualifying scores* returned under *handicap conditions*.

4.1.5 Do handicap conditions prevail when artificially surfaced putting greens are in use?

Artificially surfaced putting greens are acceptable under the Rules of Golf provided the proper provisions have been made in a Local Rule to declare the artificially surfaced putting greens not to be immovable obstructions but integral parts of the course.

The USGA Course and Slope Rating Committee has confirmed that artificial turf may be rated under the USGA Course Rating System. When both these conditions have been fulfilled scores returned from rounds played from artificially surfaced putting greens are considered *qualifying scores* returned under *handicap conditions*.

4.1.6 Do handicap conditions prevail in extended competitions with eclectic or aggregate awards?

If, from a series of scores, special prizes are awarded for the best eclectic score or the best net or gross aggregate of a prescribed number of scores, each individual score in the series is:

- a *qualifying score* provided each score is returned under *handicap conditions* in a *qualifying* or *counting* competition.
- a *non-qualifying score* if it was returned solely for the purpose of eclectic, net or gross aggregate awards.

4.1.7 Is a competition a qualifying competition where players are allowed to start from different tees (e.g. a two-tee or shotgun start)?

Competitions in which competitors are authorised to start from different tees, such as with shotgun starts, are *qualifying competitions* provided *handicap conditions* prevail.

4.2 RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE PLAYER

4.2.1 May players be required to enter their own scores into a computer?

Usually score cards have to be returned to the committee in charge of the competition. The committee will then enter the scores into the computer. However, if the *handicap committee* requires players to enter their own *qualifying scores* (including *EDSs*) into the computer of the club, players must return an adequately signed scorecard to the *handicap committee* for verification purposes as soon as practicable. Other arrangements to allow the *handicap committee's* verification of any *EDS* are acceptable, provided that the *handicap committee* is satisfied that the correct score was recorded.

4.2.2 *May a committee impose a penalty under the Rules of Golf for failure to enter a score into a computer?*

Players may be required by a Condition of the Competition to assist the *handicap committee* in several ways such as:

- Provide the score total and apply the correct handicap
- Enter the Stableford points total on the card
- On completion, enter the hole-by-hole scores into a computer

A *handicap committee* may not impose a Rule of Golf penalty when a player fails to comply with any of the above conditions.

The Rules of Golf are very specific as to what the player's and any committee's obligations are with respect to score cards. Conditions of the Competition cannot change these requirements. No penalty under the Rules of Golf can be imposed provided the player complies with Rule 6-6. However, the *handicap committee* would be justified to consider disciplinary action such as suspension of the handicap, see section 3.13, or exclusion from the next competition(s).

4.2.3 *May a player have two home clubs?*

Yes, under certain conditions, but a player may never have more than two *home clubs*.

Generally, if a player is a member of two *affiliated clubs* affiliated to two different *national associations*, he has to select one club as his *home club* which administers and performs the *HR* of his handicap. However, if the player resides in each country for periods of three or more consecutive months, he may nominate two *home clubs*. Both clubs may administer his handicap only for the time he is residing in the respective country. As soon as he moves to the other country, he must present his handicap record to his *home club* in that country for update. Furthermore, the player must declare which of those two *home clubs* is to perform the *HR*. Generally, this should be the club at which the player has returned most *qualifying scores*.

4.3 QUALIFYING SCORES

4.3.1 *A player returns a qualifying score from a round played under the jurisdiction of another national association (which is not the player's handicapping authority). How can this score be applied for handicapping purposes?*

Generally the player has to provide his *home club* with the following information:

- Evidence that it was a *qualifying score* (e.g. a copy of Conditions of Competition or a list of official scores)
- Name of the club at which the round was played, and information about which association/federation is the *national association* for that club
- A score card with the hole-by-hole scores
- Par of each hole
- Handicap stroke index of each hole played
- *USGA Course Rating* value of the course (tees) played
- *Slope* value of the course (tees) played
- CBA of the competition round, if applicable

This information enables the player's *handicap committee* to establish the correct *playing handicap* and to use the away score for handicapping purposes, by converting the score into Stableford points according to the requirements of the *EGA Handicap System*. If applicable, the CBA-calculation must be applied before handicap adjustment.

4.3.2 *A player returns a qualifying score from a round played under the jurisdiction of another national association which has not adopted the EGA Handicap System. How can this score be applied for handicapping purposes?*

CONGU:

The *USGA Course Rating* value will be replaced by the Standard Scratch Score (SSS) and the CBA by CSS (Competition Scratch Score). Scores played under the jurisdiction of *CONGU* will have to be converted into Stableford points according to the requirements of the *EGA Handicap System*. The *playing handicap* applied for the conversion into Stableford points must be calculated as follows:

a. If no *Slope* is available:

$$\text{PLAYING HCP} = \text{EGA HCP} + (\text{SSS} - \text{PAR})$$

The result must be rounded to the nearest whole number.



b. If Slope is available:

$$\text{PLAYING HCP} = \text{EGA HCP} \times (\text{SI}/113) + (\text{SSS} - \text{PAR})$$

In both cases the (SSS – CSS) must be applied to the players Stableford score as the CBA.

USGA:

Scores returned from rounds played under the jurisdiction of the USGA will have to be converted into Stableford points according to the requirements of the *EGA Handicap System*.

The playing handicap which the conversion into Stableford points is based on, must be calculated as follows:

$$\text{PLAYING HCP} = \text{EGA HCP} \times (\text{SI}/113) + (\text{CR}-\text{PAR})$$

The result must be rounded to the nearest whole number.

No CBA.

Other countries

Countries outside CONGU and USGA which use the USGA Course Rating: see USGA.

Scores from rounds played in other countries are not acceptable as *qualifying scores*.

4.3.3 *How will a score returned in a competition where handicap limits apply, but where the player's handicap exceeds the limit, be treated for handicapping purposes?*

The score is a *qualifying score*. It will be used for handicapping purposes, assessed against the player's *EGA handicap*, even though that *EGA handicap* exceeded the limit. Other than for the competition result, the Stableford points used for handicapping will be calculated from the actual *playing handicap*. The competition result will, however, be calculated using the *EGA handicap* limits imposed by the conditions of competition.

Example:

HCP Limit = 24.0; EGA HCP 28.2; CR = 71.3; SI = 129; Par = 72

PLAYING HCP for competition = $(24.0 \times \text{SI} / 113) + \text{CR} - \text{Par}$

⇒ $(24.0 \times 129 / 113) + 71.3 - 72 = 26.6$ ⇒ 27 handicap strokes

PLAYING HCP for Handicapping = $(28.2 \times \text{SI} / 113) + \text{CR} - \text{Par}$

⇒ $(28.2 \times 129 / 113) + 71.3 - 72 = 31.4$ ⇒ 31 handicap strokes

4.3.4 *How should scores returned in stroke play competitions where handicaps do not apply be used for handicapping purposes?*

Even if handicaps do not apply for the competition results, the scores played in such rounds are *qualifying scores*, provided the *handicap conditions* are satisfied. The *handicap committee* must calculate the Stableford score for each player using the *playing handicap* based on the *EGA handicap*.

4.3.5 *May an EDS 9-hole score, returned when 18 holes have been played, be accepted for handicapping purposes?*

Yes, provided that the player had previously registered the 9-hole *EDS* as required. The provision that a 9-hole score may not be part of an 18-hole score is meant to prevent the player choosing the better of the two 9-hole scores. This may appear to be against the spirit and intent of allowing 9-hole scores, but it would not be appropriate, or practicable, to interfere with the way players want to spend their time.

4.3.6 *Two 9-hole competitions are organised by a club on the same day. May scores from the second round be accepted for handicapping purposes?*

No

4.3.7 *What is the status of the score of a player who was allowed by the Committee to play in a competition for which he did not satisfy the entry requirements?*

A player returns a *qualifying score* after playing in a competition in which he was allowed to play by the Committee without being eligible to win a prize, e.g. a player holding a not-confirmed handicap or a junior in senior event. Provided the requirements of section 3.8 (*EDS*) are met, the status of the score is equivalent to an *EDS*.

4.4 Reserved

4.5 EGA HANDICAP AND EGA PLAYING HANDICAP

4.5.1 How should the playing handicap of players from outside the jurisdiction of the EGA Handicap System be applied when they participate in a competition played according to the EGA HCP System?

CONGU:

The *playing handicap* of a golfer holding a CONGU ® Exact Handicap has to be calculated as follows:

$$\text{PLAYING HCP} = \text{CONGU} \text{ ® EXACT HCP} + (\text{CR-PAR})$$

Example:

CONGU ® EXACT HCP = 19.5; CR = 70.2; SI = 125, Par = 72
 $\Rightarrow 19.5 + (70.2 - 72) = 19.5 + (-1.8) = 19.5 - 1.8 = 17.7 \Rightarrow 18$

USGA:

The *playing handicap* of a golfer holding a USGA Index has to be calculated as follows:

$$\text{PLAYING HCP} = \text{USGA INDEX} \times (\text{SI}/113) + (\text{CR-PAR})$$

Example:

USGA INDEX = 19.5; CR = 70.2; SI = 125, Par = 72
 $\Rightarrow (19.5 \times 125/113) + (70.2 - 72) = 21.6 + (-1.8) = 21.6 - 1.8 = 19.8 \Rightarrow 20$

Note: A CONGU ® Exact Handicap is not based on Slope, thus, a Slope adjustment is not required to calculate the *EGA Playing Handicap*. A USGA Index is, however, based on Slope, as is an *EGA Handicap*, thus it is necessary to account for the Slope factor of the course played when calculating the playing handicap. CONGU ® Exact Handicaps therefore have a different definition as compared to the USGA Index and the *EGA Handicap*. USGA Index and *EGA Handicap* are more or less comparable.

4.5.2 How may handicaps determined by handicapping systems other than the EGA Handicap System be converted into EGA Handicaps?

Generally a handicap other than an *EGA Handicap* will only be converted into an *EGA Handicap* if the player moves to a country where the *EGA Handicap System* has been adopted and he becomes a member of an affiliated club which he nominates as his *home club*. A copy of the handicap record should be obtained and retained by his new *home club*.

The following calculation does not apply for players from outside the EGA jurisdiction for single competitions. See decision 4.5.1

Conversion of CONGU ® EXACT HCP into EGA HCP

Any conversion of handicaps from *CONGU* to *EGA* can only be approximate.

As *Slope* is not part of the CONGU®Handicapping System, the *CONGU* handicaps are not directly comparable with *EGA Handicaps*. Therefore they have to be Slope-adjusted as follows:

$$\text{EGA HCP} = \text{CONGU} \text{ ® EXACT HCP} \times 113 / 124$$

(the approximate average of course slopes in *CONGU*)

Conversion of USGA Index into EGA HCP

As *USGA* Indexes are based on Slope, no additional conversion has to be done. Therefore the *USGA* Index will become the *EGA Handicap*.

$$\text{EGA HCP} = \text{USGA INDEX}$$

In all other cases, the player must return three scores as soon as possible played under *handicap conditions*, to allocate him a new *EGA Handicap* under the requirements of clause 3.11.3.

4.5.3 *How should the player ensure that his playing handicap on the score card is correct? May the Committee waive the penalty of DQ?*

To satisfy Rule 6-2 and Rules of Golf Decision 6-2/1 the player is recommended to act as follows, specifically when playing away:

1. Write the *EGA handicap* on the card if it does not appear in the printed section. Check the *playing handicap* with the *playing handicap table*, enter or adjust if required.
2. If the *EGA handicap* is printed on the card, check the value and correct if required. Check the *playing handicap* with the *playing handicap table*, enter or adjust if required.
3. If no *playing handicap table* is readily available* check with the Committee when the *EGA handicap* is missing or incorrectly recorded. Otherwise assume the computation is correct.

* "Readily available" means displayed in the area where score cards are issued close to the starting tee or in the recording area.

The above routine does not absolve the player from his responsibility under Rule 6-2, but will normally take care of wrong *playing handicap* information for an individual player due to recent alterations to his *EGA handicap* or other administrative errors.

When, however, a systematic error has been made in computing the *playing handicap(s)* and no means of verification are available to the player(s), this is a Committee error that should warrant waiving the penalty of disqualification under Rule 33-7.

4.6 ALTERATION OF HANDICAPS section 3.12

4.7 CONFIRMED HANDICAP, NOT-CONFIRMED HANDICAP; HANDICAP REVIEW section 3.15

4.7.1 *May a player with a not-confirmed handicap be allowed to play in a competition for which an EGA handicap is required?*

Clause 3.15.3 stipulates that a confirmed *EGA handicap* normally is a prerequisite for entry into any competition for which an *EGA handicap* is required at the discretion of the *national association* or *handicap authority*. If the *national association* does not exercise that option or restricts it to national competitions, the *handicap authority* can direct the same requirement for club competitions. The *handicap authority* may grant exceptions for players to participate with *not-confirmed* handicaps in competitions in order to return a *qualifying score* provided they are not eligible to win a (net) prize.

4.7.2 *Does a score used to confirm a not-confirmed EGA Handicap count in the HR?*

Yes, provided all the other requirements of the *HR*-process have been met.

These decisions are only current at the time of publication. The HCRC may publish, on the official website, decisions that arise from time to time subsequent to publication. www.ega-golf.ch

Appendices

- A. **Handicap Record Sheet**
- B. **Handicap Review (HR) Procedure**
- C. **Handicap Allowance in Competitions**
- D. **Stroke Index Recommendation**
- E. **Playing Handicap Table**
- F. **List of Explanatory Notes and Guidance Notes**

APPENDIX A

HANDICAP RECORD SHEET

[illegible]

For general (introductory) information on Handicap Review (HR in this appendix), refer to the Explanatory Note on Handicap Review in section 3.15.

Clause 3.4.8 requires handicap committees and national associations to carry out a HR at least once a year, typically at the end of each playing season. The procedure has now been modified not only to apply to the HR process itself, but also to other handicap committee decisions (i.e. General Play, allotment of first handicap). The HR is an important adjunct to the handicapping process and is mandatory for all players, in handicap categories 1 – 5. The HR will only use scores from the last 12 months of the player's handicap record. However, not all scores from within the time frame are eligible for HR. Cancelled rounds are suitable for handicap review. 9-hole scores, however, must be included.

In order to compare scores posted from different sets of tees and courses, and to compare the score directly against the EGA Handicap, all scores must be ported to the Course of Standard Relative Difficult (COSRD, a course with SR=113)). The Gross Differentials of such a course are fully comparable against the player's EGA Handicap at the revision date. Once all scores are comparable, the HR calculates their mean and standard deviation. With those two metrics, the algorithm will yield a range of expected handicap, which is the player's handicap expected handicap range. Finally, the algorithm will provide a proposed handicap; however, the proposed handicap will never be higher or lower than the current EGA Handicap plus/minus 3 strokes.

ELIGIBLE SCORES

All individual qualifying scores are eligible scores for HR, with the following exceptions:

- rounds cancelled by the committee,
- No Return,
- DQ without score,
- UNJQUIT

STANDARD GROSS DIFFERENTIAL (SGD) CALCULATION

1.- For every eligible round over 18 holes, calculate the SGD using the formula:

$$\text{SGD} = \text{EGA Hcp} + (\text{ND} * 113 / \text{Slope})$$

Where ND = Net Differential = 36-Stableford score

2.- For every eligible round over 9 holes, calculate the SGD using the formula:

$$\text{SGD} = \text{EGA Hcp} + (2 * \text{ND} * 113 / \text{Slope})$$

Where ND = Net Differential = 18-Stableford score

RBGF will include the SGD value in the Handicap Record Sheet. (Rounded to a whole number)

REVIEW PROCESS

1. Determine *confirmed handicap* / *not-confirmed handicap*

All handicaps of players who have returned three or fewer *eligible scores* are identified as *not-confirmed* and excluded from further analysis and are included in the *not-confirmed handicap* report.

2. Identifying players with 8 or more *eligible scores* for inclusion in the review process

- 2.1 All players who have 8 or more *eligible scores* in the current review period are included in the review process i.e. if a player has returned 20 scores in the period, all twenty are analyzed and not just the last eight.
- 2.2 Players with less than 8 *eligible scores* in the review period. Interrogate the previous year's *eligible scores* and select sufficient (in chronological order and with latest first) number to bring the total in the current analysis to 8. All players with 8 *eligible scores* after this process must be included in the review process.
- 2.3 Players with more than three *eligible scores* in the period of review but with less than 8 after the procedure in 2.2 has been applied are excluded from further analysis and must be listed as having *confirmed handicaps* but too few scores to analyze. New handicaps are also in this group.

3. Run Review Process

- 3.1. Calculate the mean of all SGD ($\overline{\text{SGD}}$) calculated previously.
- 3.2. Calculate the Standard Deviation (Bessel's corrected) of all the SGD (σSGD).
- 3.3. Calculate the Degrees of Freedom (DF) adding to the total number of 18-hole rounds, the number of 9-hole rounds divided by 2 (0.5 rounded up), and subtract 1:

$$\text{DF} = N_{18} + (N_9/2) - 1$$

Where:

DF: Degrees of Freedom

N_{18} : number of 18-hole rounds

N_9 : number of 9-hole rounds.

- 3.4. Calculate the factor a using the two tails t-Student table⁽¹⁾ for an error of 0,01 and the Degrees of Freedom (DF) calculated in the previous point.
- 3.5. Calculate the factor b using the two tails t-Student table⁽¹⁾ for an error of 0,05 and the Degrees of Freedom (DF) calculated in the previous point.
- 3.6. Calculate the upper and lower estimated SGD using the formulas:

$$\text{uppereSGD} = \overline{\text{SGD}} + a * \frac{\sigma\text{SGD}}{\sqrt{(n+1)}}$$

$$\text{lowereSGD} = \overline{\text{SGD}} - b * \frac{\sigma\text{SGD}}{\sqrt{(n+1)}}$$

- 3.7. Convert both upper and lower eSGD into upper and lower Index limits using the formula:

$$\text{upperINDEX} = (\text{uppereSGD} - 2.1) / 1.13$$

$$\text{lowerINDEX} = (\text{lowereSGD} - 2.1) / 1.13$$

- 3.8. If the player's EGA Handicap falls between the upper and lower Index limits (lowerINDEX , upperINDEX) no adjustment is needed.
- 3.9. If the player's EGA Handicap is below the lower Index limit $< \text{lowerINDEX}$, such limit will be the Reviewed Handicap. Calculate the adjustment by subtracting the Reviewed Handicap from the EGA Handicap, rounding the positive difference up to the next integer (away from zero).
- 3.10. If the player's EGA Handicap is above the upper limit $> \text{upperINDEX}$, such limit will be the Reviewed Handicap. Calculate the adjustment by subtracting the Reviewed Handicap from the EGA Handicap, rounding the negative difference up to the next integer (towards zero).
- 3.11. For each handicap category the following maximum adjustments must be applied:

Hcp Category	1	2	3	4	5
Maximum	± 1	± 2	± 3	± 3	± 3

- 3.12. Calculate the Proposed Handicap adding to the EGA Handicap the adjustment calculated taking into account the maximum adjustments provided in table 3.11.
- 3.13. Any player whose initial EGA Handicap is higher than the final EGA Handicap should not be adjusted up as a result of HR.

4. General HR-Report

The procedure should produce an *HR*-report of the general format detailed below.

Handicap Review Report					
Club / Authority				Total players covered by report	
Period of Report	[from]	[To]	[number of players reviewed]		
The following players returned 3 <i>eligible scores</i> or fewer and handicaps are designated not-confirmed					
Player[list]	<i>handicap category</i>	gender			
The following players did not return 8 <i>eligible scores</i> aggregated over 2 years and handicaps are designated confirmed but not assessed					
Player[list]	<i>handicap category</i>	gender	EH		
The following players have returned 8 or more <i>eligible scores</i> , EGA Hcp \geq ^{upper} INDEX + 3 3.0 decrease in EGA Handicap (Cat 3-5) applied (-2 in Cat2 /-1 in Cat1)					
Player[list]	Old EH	New EH	Player[list]	Old EH	New EH
The following players have returned 8 or more <i>eligible scores</i> , EGA Hcp \geq ^{upper} INDEX +2 2.0 decrease in EGA Handicap (Cat 2-5)applied (-1 in Cat1)					
Player[list]	Old EH	New EH	Player[list]	Old EH	New EH
The following players have returned 8 or more <i>eligible scores</i> , EGA Hcp \geq ^{upper} INDEX +1 1.0 decrease in EGA Handicap (Cat 1-5)					
Player[list]	Old EH	New EH	Player[list]	Old EH	New EH
The following players have returned 8 or more <i>eligible scores</i> , their EGA Handicap is between (_{lower} INDEX, ^{upper} INDEX) handicaps are designated confirmed but not changed					
Player[list]	Old EH	New EH	Player[list]	Old EH	New EH
The following players have returned 8 or more <i>eligible scores</i> , EGA Hcp \leq _{lower} INDEX - 1 1.0 increase in EGA Handicap (Cat 1-5) applied					
Player[list]	Old EH	New EH	Player[list]	Old EH	New EH
The following players have returned 8 or more <i>eligible scores</i> , EGA Hcp \leq _{lower} INDEX - 2 2.0 increase in EGA Handicap (Cat 2-5) applied (+1 in Cat1)					
Player[list]	Old EH	New EH	Player[list]	Old EH	New EH
The following players have returned 8 or more <i>eligible scores</i> , EGA Hcp \leq _{lower} INDEX - 3 3.0 increase in EGA Handicap (Cat 3-5) applied (+2 in Cat2 / +1 in Cat1)					
Player[list]	Old EH	New EH	Player[list]	Old EH	New EH

REVIEW RESULT

The review process will yield the following information in the players Hcp History under Ann Rev:

- Expected Handicap Range: the range where the player's handicap is expected to be according to the scores (SGD). It is represented by the range (_{lower}INDEX, ^{upper}INDEX)
- When the player's handicap falls out of the Expected Handicap Range an adjustment is needed. The proposed correction will be according the difference between the Reviewed Handicap and the Actual Handicap. The correction will be rounded and limited to the maximum adjustment (category dependent).
 - if player's handicap < _{lower}INDEX the Reviewed Handicap will be the _{lower}INDEX
 - if player's handicap > ^{upper}INDEX , the Reviewed Handicap will be the ^{upper}INDEX

The Reviewed Handicap should be the handicap the player should have according to the scores (SGD).

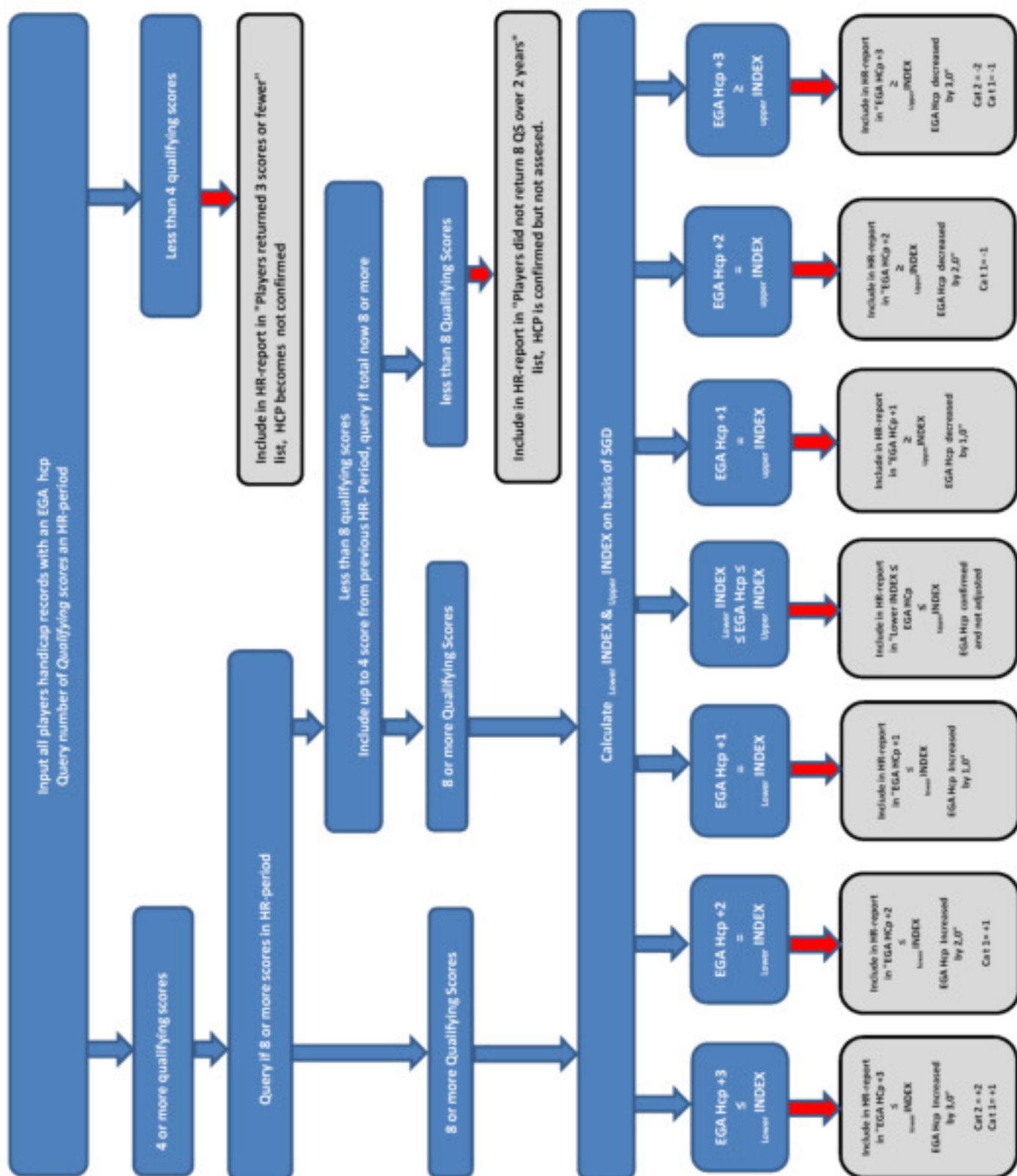


HOW TO READ THE RESULTS

Most times the review process will not change the player's handicap because the handicap will be inside the Expected Handicap Range. Some players will have handicaps falling outside the range; these players need a different handicap, the Reviewed Handicap.

In exceptional cases the player's handicap will be very far from the Expected Handicap Range and the Proposed Handicap (the final result of the handicap review) will not be the same handicap as the Reviewed Handicap, because of the maximum adjustment constraint of HR. In such cases, the handicap committee should consider the player for further investigation, taking into account the player development, namely in non-qualifying competitions such as Match Play events, ProAms, team competitions, etc. When studying this kind of players, the Expected Handicap Range can provide the handicap committee with valuable information about the golfing level, in handicapping terms, of the player. Such information may be considered to support a general play adjustment to amend the player's handicap.

HR results may also be used for the purpose of studying players with a newly allotted handicap (see Guidance Note in section 3.11). When the player has submitted at least 8 eligible scores, a HR is strongly recommended. Handicap committees can use the Expected Handicap Range and the Reviewed Handicap to support a decision to adjust a player's handicap on the basis of General Play in such circumstances.





Golf Club Course:

18 holes EGA Playing Handicap Table

MEN'S BLACK TEES										MEN'S WHITE TEES										MEN'S YELLOW TEES										MEN'S BLUE TEES										MEN'S RED TEES										MEN'S ORANGE TEES										MEN'S GREEN TEES										MEN'S PINK TEES										MEN'S BROWN TEES																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
PAR 72		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes		18 Holes	

1. Players Competing from Different Tees; or Men and Women Competing from the Same Tees

The *Course Rating* reflects the playing difficulty of the golf course for a *scratch golfer*. The *Course Rating* and the *Slope*, together one of the foundations of the *EGA Handicap System*, reflect the playing difficulty of the golf course for players with a handicap other than scratch. The course with the higher *Course Rating* is more difficult. When players compete in the same competition, but play from different tees (men vs. women, but also men vs. men or women vs. women) or when men and women play from the same tees, the player playing from the set of tees with the higher *Course Rating* should receive additional *handicap strokes* equal to the difference between the *Course Ratings*. However, the formula of the *EGA Playing Handicap* (see Clause 3.9.3) compensates for that difference and automatically adjusts the *playing handicaps* accordingly.

Different tees may also have a different Par, but Par is not a standard of the difficulty of a golf course. Par is only included in the formula of the *playing handicap* because the *EGA Handicap System* is also based on Stableford scores for reasons of stroke control (see EN: Relevance of Par). This means that, in stroke play and match play handicap competitions, when players compete in the same competition but play from different tees, each with a different Par, the players playing from the set of tees with the higher Par receive additional strokes equal to the Par difference. First, the *playing handicap* should be determined and then the additional strokes are added to the *playing handicap* of the player(s) playing from the tees with the higher Par.

Example 1:

If, in a stroke play or match play competition, men playing from the men's tees where the Par is 71 compete against women playing from the women's tees where the Par is 72, the women must add one stroke to their *playing handicap*.

Note: For handicapping calculations the additional stroke(s) must be disregarded.

Example 2:

Mrs. A and Mr. B are partners in a mixed foursome competition (stroke play or match play only). The men play from the men's tees where the Par is 71 and the women play from the women's tees where the Par is 72. Mrs. A has a *playing handicap* of 21 and Mr. B of 7. Mrs. A must add one stroke to her *playing handicap*, so she will play off 22. The *playing handicap* of the team is:

$$50\% \times (22 + 7) = 29 / 2 = 14.5 \rightarrow \text{rounded to } 15$$

If less than full *playing handicaps* are recommended in such competitions (e.g. Four-ball stroke play), the percentage reduction in *playing handicaps* must also affect the adjustment for the difference between the Pars. The following procedure is recommended:

1. Determine the *playing handicaps*.
2. Apply the adjustment for the difference in Pars.
3. Apply the *handicap allowance* for the appropriate form of play (e.g. 90%).

Example 3:

In a Four-ball stroke play competition, the men play from the men's tees where the Par is 71 and the women play from the women's tees where the Par is 72. Mrs. A has a *playing handicap* of 16. The *handicap allowance* for this competition is 90% of her adjusted *playing handicap*: $90\% \times \{16 + (72 - 71)\} = 90\% \times 17 = 15.3 \rightarrow \text{rounded to } 15$.

Example 4:

Mrs. A and Mr. B are partners in a mixed greensomes competition (stroke play or match play). The men play from the men's tees where the Par is 71 and the women play from the women's tees where the Par is 72. Mr. B has a *playing handicap* of 8 and Mrs. A of 21.

The recommended *handicap allowance* is 60% of the lower handicap + 40% of the higher handicap:

Mr. B receives 60% of 8 = 4.8 strokes.

Mrs. A receives 40% of her adjusted *playing handicap*: $40\% \times (21 + 1) = 8.8$ strokes.

The team receives $4.8 + 8.8 = 13.6 \rightarrow \text{rounded to } 14$.

2. Handicap Allowances

The *EGA* recommends that the following *handicap allowances* apply in the following forms of play. A *national association* may at its discretion make the recommendations mandatory. The reference to handicaps in all cases refers to *playing handicaps*.

2.1. Match Play

Handicap strokes are to be taken according to the *handicap stroke index* (see Clause 3.9.7).

Singles:

The player with the higher handicap receives the full difference between the playing handicaps of the two players.

Foursomes:

The side with the higher sum of the *playing handicaps* of the partners receives 50% of the full difference between the aggregate handicap of each side (0.5 is rounded upwards).

Example:

Players A (*playing handicap* 11) and B (*playing handicap* 18) play a foursomes match against Players C (*playing handicap* 6) and D (*playing handicap* 12)

A and B receive: $50\% \times [(11 + 18) - (6 + 12)] = 50\% \times (29 - 18) =$
 $50\% \times 11 = 5.5 \rightarrow$ rounded upwards = 6 strokes

Note: In mixed foursomes match play, *handicap strokes* are taken as assigned on the *handicap stroke index* for men.

Four-ball (Better-ball):

The player with the lowest *playing handicap*, who must play off scratch, must concede *handicap strokes* to the three other players based on 90% of the difference between the *playing handicaps*.

Note: In mixed four-ball match play, *handicap strokes* are taken as assigned on each player's respective *handicap stroke indices*.

Greensomes:

The partner with the lower *playing handicap* receives 60% of his *playing handicap* and the partner with the higher *playing handicap* receives 40% of his *playing handicap*. Both figures are added before rounding. The final figure (= the *playing handicap* of the side) is rounded (0.5 upwards). The side with the higher *playing handicap* receives the full difference between the handicaps of the two sides. If, in the above formats, players play from different tees with a different Par, see Section 1 in this Appendix.

2.2. Bogey, Par and Stableford Competitions

Handicap strokes are to be taken according to the *handicap stroke index* (see Clause 3.9.7).

Singles:

The player receives 100% of his *playing handicap*.

Foursomes:

The side receives 50% of the sum of the *playing handicaps* of the partners (0.5 rounded upwards).

Four-ball (Better-ball):

Each partner receives 90% of his *playing handicap*.

Greensomes:

The partner with the lower *playing handicap* receives 60% of his *playing handicap* and the partner with the higher *playing handicap* receives 40% of his *playing handicap*. Both figures are added before rounding. This final figure (= the *playing handicap* of the side) is rounded (0.5 upwards). *Handicap strokes* are to be taken according to the *handicap stroke index*.

Players with a "plus" handicap give one or more strokes to the course, commencing at stroke index 18.

Note 1: In a mixed foursome or greensome *handicap strokes* are taken as assigned on the *handicap stroke index* for men.

Note 2: In a mixed four-ball *handicap strokes* are taken as assigned on the player's respective *handicap stroke indices*.

In the above formats, when players compete in the same competition but play from different tees with a different Par, no extra adjustment for the difference in Pars will be applied to their *playing handicaps* since the formula of the *playing handicap* (see Clause 3.9.3) compensates for that difference.

2.3. Stroke Play

Singles:

The player receives 100% of his *playing handicap*.

Foursomes:

The side receives 50% of the sum of the *playing handicaps* of the partners (0.5 rounded upwards).

Four-ball (Better-ball):

Each partner receives 90% of his *playing handicap*.

Handicap strokes are to be taken according to the *handicap stroke index*.

In mixed four-ball stroke play, *handicap strokes* are taken as assigned on each player's respective *handicap stroke indices*.

Greensomes:

The partner with the lower *playing handicap* receives 60% of his *playing handicap* and the partner with the higher *playing handicap* receives 40% of his *playing handicap*. Both figures are added before rounding. The final figure (= the *playing handicap* of the side) is rounded (0.5 upwards).

In the above formats, when players compete in the same competition, but play from different tees with a different Par, see Section 1 of this Appendix.

Notes:

Note 1: *Handicap allowances* in a handicap competition must be laid down by the Committee in the conditions under which the competition is to be played (Rules of Golf, Rule 33-1).

Note 2: The committee in charge of a competition to be played over an extended period may provide, in the conditions of the tournament, that a player's *EGA Handicap* may be changed during a competition.

Note 3: In handicap competitions over 36 holes, *handicap strokes* should be given or taken on a basis of two 18-hole rounds.

Note 4: Hole-by-hole play-off. When extra holes are played in handicap competitions, *handicap strokes* should be taken in accordance with the *handicap stroke index*.

Note 5: Players with a "plus" handicap give one or more strokes to the course, commencing at stroke index 18.

APPENDIX E HANDICAP STROKE INDEX ALLOCATION

Rule of Golf 33-4 requires Committees to “Publish a table indicating the order of holes at which *handicap strokes* are to be given or received”.

To provide consistency at *affiliated clubs*, it is recommended that the allocation is made with the following considerations:

- It is an established fact that the stroke index allocation has virtually no influence on the Stableford result and therefore on handicap adjustments.
- It is of paramount importance for match play that the strokes to be received at all handicap differences are evenly spread over the 18 holes.
- This is best achieved by allocating the odd numbered strokes to the more difficult of the two nine holes, usually the longest nine, and the even numbers to the other nine.
- The degree of difficulty of a hole related to Par is a factor for the sequence of allocation.
- The degree of difficulty can be derived from the bogey rating or by comparing the average score of a group of club members to Par.
- Try to achieve one stroke index table for all tees, men and women.
- The player who is to receive strokes will generally need his equalizer starting on the most difficult Par 5 and subsequently on the most difficult Par 4 followed by the other Par 5s. Next in order are the Par 4s and finally the Par 3s.

A very difficult Par 3 may take priority over a Par 4. Difficult holes are generally a Par 5 not reachable in 3 or a Par 4 not reachable in 2 for the average player.

Allocating the stroke index numbers to the holes could be done in the following way:

- Split the 18 holes in 6 groups of 3; 1,2,3 then 4,5,6 etc
- Stroke index 1 to 4 not on holes 1,2,3 or 16,17,18.
- The aggregate of the 6 groups of holes should be between 27 and 30.
- If index 1 is allocated to the first of the two nine holes, index 2 should be placed in the second.
- All odd indices on the first nine and all even on the second nine, or the other way round, is preferred, also in view of nine-hole rounds.
- Avoid index 1 to 6 on adjacent holes.

Example:

Assign index 1 to the most difficult of 7,8,9. For 9 holes 4,5,6.

Assign index 2 to the most difficult of 13,14,15.

Assign index 3 to the most difficult of 4,5,6. For 9 holes 7,8,9.

Assign index 4 to the most difficult of 10,11,12.

Assign index 5 to the most difficult of 1,2,3.

Assign index 6 to the most difficult of 16,17,18.

Allocate indices 7 to 12 to the six groups evenly, 7 does not have to fit in group 7,8,9.

Allocate indices 13 to 18 in the same way.

Result:

Holes 1,2,3	Index 5,7,15	Sum 27
Holes 4,5,6	Index 3,11,13	Sum 27
Holes 7,8,9	Index 1,9,17	Sum 27
Holes 10,11,12	Index 4,12,14	Sum 30
Holes 13,14,15	Index 2,10,18	Sum 30
Holes 16,17,18	Index 6,8,16	Sum 30



APPENDIX F LIST OF EXPLANATORY NOTES AND GUIDANCE NOTES

In order to provide enhanced explanation and understanding and to facilitate a correct application of the *EGA Handicap System*, certain parts of the code in the manual have been supplemented with explanatory text (Explanatory Notes) and advisory text (Guidance Notes)

The EGA Handicap System 2012-2015 contains the following Explanatory Notes and Guidance Notes.

Explanatory Note	Manual
Principles of Course- and Slope Rating	2.1
Relevance of Par	2.5
Extra Day Scores (EDS)	3.8
Plus handicaps	3.9
9-hole scores	3.9
Stableford	3.10
Handicap Review (HR)	3.15
 Guidance Note	 Manual
Preferred lies	2.6
Course set-up and maintenance	2.7
Purpose of audit of low handicap players	3.1
The purpose and composition of the handicap committee	3.4
Score used in case of disqualification	3.6
Encoding results in Qualifying Competitions	3.6
General play adjustments	3.16

Index

Affiliated club [def] See also Home club	11, 14
Appoint handicap committee [clause 3.3.4]	21
Discretion to direct confirmed handicap required for competition [clause 3.3.3]	21
Member more than one club [clause 3.5.2]	22
National association requirement to settle disputes [clause 3.1.10]	20
Resolution of complaints regarding application of system [clauses 3.1.16, 3.3.5]	20, 21
Rights and obligations of [section 3.3]	21
Allotment of handicap See Handicap allotment	
Alteration of handicap See Handicap alteration or Handicaps, annual review of	
Appeal procedure	
Affiliated club to EGA [clause 3.1.10]	20
National Association [clause 3.1.16]	20
Player to national association [clauses 3.1.16, 3.3.5, 3.16.6]	20, 21, 33
Away scores	
Conversion of scores from outside jurisdiction national association [clause 3.6.1d, Dec 4.3.1, 4.3.2]	23, 35
Responsibility to report away scores [clause 3.5.5]	22
Responsibility to reduce own handicap [clause 3.5.7]	22
Buffer zone [def]	11
Adjustment buffer zone for 9-hole score [clause 3.12.11]	29
Buffer zone ranges [def]	11
Influence on handicap alterations [clause 3.12.11]	29
Competition See Qualifying competition, Handicapping conditions	
Computers in handicap maintenance and control	
Obligation to use HR [clause 3.15.6]	31
Requirement to return score card [clause 3.5.5]	22
Confirmed handicap	
Prerequisite for entry into competition [clauses 3.1.17, 3.3.3, 3.15.5]	20, 21, 31
Requirement for confirmed handicap [clauses 3.5.9, 3.12.4]	22, 28
Confirming a not-confirmed handicap [clauses 3.8.4 note 2, 3.12.7]	25, 28
Counting competitions [def] See also qualifying competitions	11
Deliberately avoiding handicap conditions [clause 3.4.7]	21
Encoding results in Counting Competition [GN section 3.6]	24
Qualifying competition [def]	15
Round becomes reduction only [clause 3.6.2]	23
Course See also Handicapping conditions, USGA Course & Slope Rating	11
Alteration to the course [sections 2.3, 2.7]	16, 19
Colours and sets of tees [section 2.4]	16
Course set up and maintenance [GN section 2.7]	19
Distance points [def, clause 2.4.3]	17
Measuring [section 2.2]	16
Permitted adjustments [section 2.7]	19
Preferred lies [GN section 2.6]	18
Tee marker placement [clauses 2.7.4, 2.7.5]	19
Temporary greens [clause 2.7.6]	19
Disqualified score	
Disqualified with/without valid score [GN Score used in case of Disqualification]	24



Encoding results in Qualifying Competitions [GN Encoding results in QC]	24
Electronic measuring devices	
Status of EDS when Local Rule permitting use [Dec 4.1.2]	34
Eligible Scores [def]	13
Confirmed handicap [def]	11
Handicap review [clause 3.15.2, EN Handicap Review, App. B]	29, 30, 39
Not-confirmed handicap [def]	14
Requirement for player to return as much scores as possible [clause 3.5.9]	22
Extra Day Scores [def]	13
Categories applicable [clause 3.8.4]	25
Extra Day Score [section 3.8]	25
Limitations in number directed by national association [clause 3.8.2]	25
Obligation of player to record on card [clause 3.8.6]	25
Purpose of EDS [EN section 3.8]	25
Requirements for registration directed by national association [clause 3.8.5]	25
Restriction to (home) course directed by national association [clause 3.8.3]	25
Restriction to specific handicap categories directed by national association [clause 3.8.4]	25
Status of score when player allowed to play by committee [Dec 4.3.7]	36
General Play adjustments	
Advising player of adjustment [clause 3.16.5]	33
Category 1 to be referred to national association [clause 3.16.3]	32
Evidence to support adjustment [clause 3.16.4]	32
General Play adjustment [GN section 3.16]	32
Handicapping	
Policy and purpose	8
System overview	9
Handicap adjustments see also Handicap alteration	
Adjustment related to scores outside EGA jurisdiction [Dec 4.3.2]	35
Adjustment after No Return [GN Encoding results in QC]	24
Advising players following HR adjustment [clause 3.15.6]	31
Annual Handicap Review (HR) [section 3.15, App. C]	31, 46
Considerations for General Play adjustment [clause 3.16.4]	32
Conversion of Par competition score [clause 3.10.5]	27
General Play adjustment [GN section 3.16]	33
Men and women play from same tees, different Par [App D]	48
Handicap administration	
Requirement to apply HR [clause 3.15.1]	31
Requirement to record scores in chronological order [clause 3.4.4]	21
Requirement to specify registration EDS procedure [clause 3.8.5]	25
Responsibility of handicap committee [section 3.4]	21
Responsibility of national association [section 3.1]	20
Handicap allotment	
Attaining a handicap [section 3.11]	28
Allotment of lower handicap than calculated [clause 3.11.5 GN section 3.11]	28
Calculating new handicap [clause 3.11.3]	28
Category 1 handicap allocation [clause 3.14.3]	30
Maximum handicap [clause 3.11.2]	28
Notification of previous handicap [clause 3.4.5]	21

Handicap allowance [def]	13
EGA recommendations for forms of play [App D]	48
Greensome [App D]	48
Handicap strokes in hole-by-hole play-off [App D note 4]	50
Nine-hole round [clause 3.9.4]	26
Rounding of fractional strokes [clause 3.9.3]	25
Rounding plus handicaps [clause 3.9.3]	25
Stroke index [App. E]	51
Handicap alterations see also Handicap adjustment	
Buffer zone no alteration [clauses 3.12.8, 3.12.11]	28, 29
Decrease of exact handicap [clauses 3.12.10, 3.12.11]	28, 29
During a competition over more than one round [App D note 3]	50
During a competition over extended periods [App D note 2]	50
Increase of EGA handicap [clause 3.12.9]	28
Reduction into to lower category [clauses 3.12.12, 3.12.14, 3.12.15]	29
Requirement to return four cards [clause 3.12.4]	28
Responsibility of player to reduce own handicap [clause 3.5.7]	22
Handicap category [def]	13
Categories allowed to return EDS [3.8.2]	25
Categories allowed to return 9-hole scores [3.6.1.c]	23
Handicap category, buffer zone, and handicap adjustment [clause 3.12.11]	29
Reduction into lower category by EDS [clauses 3.8.8, 3.12.14]	25, 29
Reduction into lower category [clause 3.12.12]	29
Reduction into lower category based on 9-hole score [clause 3.12.15]	29
Handicap committee [def]	13, 21
Decide before competition non-qualifying [clause 3.4.7]	21
Discretion to reduce handicap of away player for single round [clause 3.16.7]	35
Procedure for suspension and restoring handicaps [clause 3.4.6, sections 3.13, 3.14]	21, 29, 30
Requirement to conduct HR [clause 3.4.8, section 3.15]	21, 31
Requirement to provide handicap record [clause 3.4.5]	21
Responsibilities of committee [section 3.4]	21
Handicap conditions see also Qualifying competitions [def]	13
Handicap conditions [def]	13
Period of preferred lies, handicapping conditions [clause 2.6.1]	18
Maintain Course Rating values [GN section 2.7]	19
Tee placement [clause 2.7.4, GN section 2.7]	19
record	Handicap
Content of player handicap record [clause 3.12.3, App. A]	28, 40
Discretion of national association to include data [clause 3.12.3]	28
Responsibility of handicap committee to maintain record [clause 3.4.3, 3.4.4]	21, 21
Handicapping authority [def] See Affiliated/Home club	14
Handicaps, regaining restoring	
Following loss or suspension [clause 3.14.2]	30
Confirming a not-confirmed handicap [clause 3.12.7]	28
Handicap Review of see also General Play [section 3.16]	32
Confirmed handicap prerequisite for entry into competition [clause 3.15.5]	31
Handicap Review procedure [App. C]	43
Handicap Review [EN section 3.15]	31
Audit of low handicap players [clause 3.1.18, GN section 3.1]	20
Discretion to direct confirmed handicap prerequisite for competition [clause 3.1.17, 3.3.3, 3.15.5]	20, 21, 31
Marking confirmed handicaps [clause 3.15.2, App A]	31, 40



Requirement for confirmed handicap [clauses 3.12.4, 3.15.2]	28, 31
Confirming a not-confirmed handicap [clause 3.12.7]	28
Responsibility of committee to carry out HR [clauses 3.4.8, 3.15.1]	21, 31
Home club see also affiliated club [def]	14, 11
Changing home club [clause 3.5.3]	22
Member more than one clubs [clause 3.5.2]	22
Whether player may have two home clubs [Dec 4.2.3]	
35Incomplete cards see also No Return	
Responsibility to return all cards [clause 3.5.5]	22
License	
Course Rating USGA [clauses 2.1.2, 3.1.5]	16, 20
EGA Handicap System [EGA Handicap Policy]	8
Loss of handicap	
Loss of handicap [clause 3.13.10]	29
Regaining suspended or lost handicap [clauses 3.14.2, 3.14.3]	30, 30
Suspension of handicap [section 3.13]	29
Match play	
Handicap allowance for match play [App D]	48
Match play performance, consideration in general play [clause 3.16.4]	32
Recommendation for handicap stroke index [App E]	51
Member See Player	
Mixed events See App D.	48
Nine hole score	
Adjusted 9-score for handicapping [clause 3.10.3]	27
Only one 9-hole score per day [clause 3.6.1c]	23
No Return (NR) [def]	14
Adjustment of NR scores for handicapping [GN Encoding results in QC]	24
Consequence of failure to report EDS [clause 3.8.7]	25
Increase of handicap resulting from NR [clauses 3.10.2, 3.12.9]	27, 28
No Return [def]	14
Only adjusted NR scores may count in requirement of four [clause 3.15.2]	31
Requirement to report NR [clause 3.5.5]	22
Non-qualifying scores See also qualifying scores	
Encoding results in Qualifying Competitions [GN Encoding results in QC]	24
Scores in non-qualifying competitions [clause 3.16.4]	32
Scores are not qualifying scores [clause 3.6.3]	23
Not-confirmed handicap [def]	14
Marking an not-confirmed handicap [clause 3.12.3, App A]	28, 40
Confirming a not-confirmed handicap [clauses 3.8.4 note 2, 3.12.7]	25, 28
Par	
Establishing Par [section 2.5]	17
Conversion of Par/Bogey scores to Stableford [clause 3.10.5]	27
Par not a measure of difficulty [EN section 2.5]	17
Scoring against Par, Stableford system [section 3.10]	27

Player

Confirmed handicap prerequisite for entry competition [clauses 3.1.17, 3.3.3, 3.15.5]	20, 21, 31
Appeal in case of unresolved issue [clauses 3.1.15, 3.3.5, 3.16.6]	20, 21, 33
Changing home club [clause 3.5.3]	22
Comply with requirements for confirmed handicap [clause 3.5.9]	22
Enter EGA handicap on score card [clause 3.5.8, Dec 4.5.3]	22, 38
Have one handicap only [clause 3.5.1]	22
Player handicap record [App A]	40
Prior to competition ascertain handicap properly adjusted [clause 3.5.6]	22
Report all qualifying away scores to home club [clause 3.5.5]	22
Responsibilities of the player [section 3.5]	22
Responsibility to reduce or increase own handicap [clause 3.5.7]	22
Return all qualifying scores [clause 3.5.5]	22

Play-off

Handicap strokes in hole-by-hole play-off [note 4 App D]	48
--	----

Plus handicaps

Auditing plus handicaps [clause 3.1.18]	20
Rounding plus handicaps [clause 3.9.3]	25
Stroke index, strokes conceded to course [clause 3.9.2]	25

Preferred lies

Local rule required [clause 2.6.2]	18
Period of preferred lies, handicap condition [def, clause 2.6.1]	14, 18
Permission required for extension of period [clause 2.6.1]	18
Preferred lies [GN section 2.6]	18

Qualifying competitions [def] See also handicap conditions

Adjustment measured course [section 2.7]	17
Aggregate competitions [clause 3.6.2e]	23
Alteration to the course [section 2.3]	16
Competition, forms of play handicap add conditions [def]	13
Deliberately avoiding handicap conditions [clause 3.4.7]	21
Prerequisite for entry [clauses 3.1.17, 3.3.3, 3.15.5]	20, 21, 31
Qualifying competition [def]	15
Strokes allowed at play-off [App D note 4]	50
Tee placement [clause 2.7.4, GN section 2.7]	19

Qualifying scores [def]

Away scores to be reported by player [clause 3.5.5]	22
Disqualified with/without valid score [GN Score used in case of Disqualification]	24
Encoding results in Qualifying Competitions [GN Encoding results in QC]	24
Eclectic or aggregate competitions [clause 3.6.2e, Dec 4.1.6]	23, 33
Extra Day Scores [def]	13
Nine hole scores adjustment [clause 3.10.3]	27
No Returns [clauses 3.6.2f, 3.2.6g]	23
Qualifying scores [def]	15
Requirement to record in chronological order [clause 3.12.2]	28
Record qualifying score as soon as possible [clause 3.4.4]	21
Scores from outside EGA jurisdiction [clause 3.6.1.d.]	23
Scores to be recorded in player handicap record [clause 3.12.3, App A]	28, 40
Scores from non-qualifying competitions [clause 3.16.4]	32

Records

Club responsibility to maintain handicap record [clause 3.3.6]	21
Player handicap record [App A]	40

Reduction Only

Cancelled competition [clause 3.6.2.a, 3.7.8]	23
---	----



Reporting scores

Consequence of failure to report all away scores [clause 3.13.2]	29
Player responsibility to report:	
– away scores [clause 3.5.5]	22
– no returns [clause 3.5.5]	22
Confirming handicap scores required [clause 3.12.7]	28

Scores See qualifying scores

Stableford

Adjustment of nine-hole score [clause 3.10.3]	27
Compensation for CR-Par [EN section 3.10]	27
Conversion of Par/Bogey score [clause 3.10.5]	27
Purpose of for stroke control [EN section 3.10]	27
Stableford calculation [section 3.10]	27

Stroke index

Allowing strokes plus handicap [clause 3.9.2]	25
Influence of stroke index on handicap [App E]	51
Method recommended for allocation [App E]	51
Strokes taken in 9-hole round [clause 3.9.7]	26

Suspension of handicap

Appeal procedure [clause 3.16.6]	33
Circumstances leading to suspension or loss [clauses 3.13.1, 3.13.2]	29
Notification of [clause 3.13.3]	29
Restoration of handicap [section 3.14]	30
Suspension and loss of handicap [section 3.13]	29

Tees

Distance point [def]	12
Location of distance point [clause 2.4.3]	17
Location of tee markers [clause 2.7.5]	19
Maintaining rating conditions [GN section 2.7]	19
Recommended colours for tee markers [clause 2.4.2]	17
Temporary tees [clause 2.7.4]	19

USGA Course & Slope Rating

Principles of USGA Course and Slope rating [EN section 2.1]	16
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