



## **CONGU Unified Handicapping System (UHS) 2016 Updates**

**Effective 1 January 2016, with an implementation date for affiliated clubs of 1 March 2016:**

### **KEY SYSTEM CHANGES:**

#### **Adoption of the Calendar Year:**

The handicapping year will in future adopt the calendar year - 1 January to 31 December. This change is effective 1 January 2016, with an implementation date for affiliated clubs of 1 March 2016.

This allows members up to 29 February 2016 to submit three qualifying scores to retain their 'c' Competition Handicap Status. In addition, affiliated clubs have until this date to conduct their Annual Handicap Review.

From 1 January 2017, players 'c' Competition Handicap Status will change automatically on 1 January and affiliated clubs will have to conduct their Annual Handicap Review prior to 1 January each year.

#### **Four-Ball Better Ball Handicap Allowance:**

The Handicap Allowance for Four-Ball better ball is increased from 75% to 90% for both stroke play and match play formats of the game.

The back marker (lowest handicap player) shall now concede strokes to the other 3 players based on 90% of the difference between full handicaps.

For clubs that have commenced a Four-Ball better ball competition in 2016 with a Condition of Competition adopting the  $\frac{3}{4}$  handicap allowance, we recommend that the competition continues on this basis and the Conditions of Competition are not changed during the event.

#### **Competition Scratch Score (CSS) Calculation:**

The CSS calculation will now include Handicap Categories 1, 2, 3 and 4 for both men and women's qualifying competitions.

**Initial Handicap Allocation:**

A new methodology has been introduced for the initial allocation of a CONGU® Handicaps, aligned to the Annual Review procedures. This amendment reflects the expectations inherent within the CONGU® UHS of players playing within, or better than, their respective buffer zones.

The Handicap Committee should continue to consider all the information that it has available to them in relation to the player's ability and any previous handicap held before allocation of a CONGU® Handicap.

Where the Committee considers that a lower, or in exceptional circumstances a higher, CONGU® Handicap allocation is warranted, the Committee retains the discretion to allocate a CONGU® Handicap that they consider more appropriate to, and better reflects, the player's current ability.

A handicap may be allocated up to a limit of 54.

Handicaps allocated at or below the existing maxima of 28.0 for men and 36.0 for women will be allocated as CONGU® Handicaps and will be annotated with 'c' Competition Handicap Status.

Handicaps allocated higher than the existing maxima of 28.0 for men and 36.0 for women will be allocated as CONGU® Club Handicaps and will not be annotated with 'c' Competition Handicap Status.

**Re-activation of handicap:**

If a player leaves/resigns from a club with a 'c' handicap, the player's 'c' Competition Handicap Status will remain valid for the remainder of the year of resignation and for the full following calendar year, should a player join another affiliated club during this period.

**Re-instatement of 'c' Competition Handicap Status:**

The re-instatement of a 'c' status handicap now requires players to return 3 Qualifying Scores. Qualifying Scores include 9-hole Qualifying Scores and Supplementary Scores. Players returning social round scores for this purpose will have to adhere to affiliated clubs established procedures for the submission of Supplementary Scores.

### **Qualifying nine-hole score recording:**

9-Hole Qualifying Scores are recorded as 18-hole equivalent scores on the Player's Handicap Record.

This will continue with the following amendment:

- Player's returning 9-hole Qualifying Scores within their Buffer Zone or better will continue to have 18 points added to the actual points scored over 9-holes.
- Player's returning a 9-hole Qualifying Score outside of their Buffer Zone will have the points actual points scored over 9-holes doubled.

This amendment will assist with the Annual Handicap Review process where players have returned 9-hole Qualifying Scores.

### **Supplementary Scores:**

Additional Supplementary Score opportunities have been introduced:

- Acceptable to be returned from all GB&I clubs at which the player is a Member;
- Acceptable (in Scotland) for players with an Exact CONGU® Handicap of 2.5 and above;
- 9-hole Supplementary Scores now allowed for players with a CONGU® Handicap in Category 2 and above;
- No restriction on the number of Supplementary Scores that can be returned annually by players holding a CONGU® Club Handicap i.e. 28.1 [36.1] to 54.

### **Continuous Handicap Review:**

A new computer-generated report which flags players with 7 consecutive 0.1 handicap increases will be produced by club's handicapping software.

Handicap Committees are recommended to review the performance of reported players giving due consideration to applying handicap adjustments, where these may be appropriate.

## **GENERAL**

### **Definitions:**

New definitions have been introduced for:

Away Club, CONGU® Club Handicap, Competition Handicap, Continuous Handicap Review, Designated Nine-Hole Course, Local Rule, Overseas Affiliate, and Single CSS Adjustment.

### **Preferred Lies:**

Each Union/Association has discretion to define the preferred lie period within its jurisdiction.

### **Competition Handicaps:**

All Unions/Associations will now adopt the 'c' handicap status annotation.

### **Three letter identifiers:**

The three letter identifiers used on the Players Handicap Report have been restructured. A definitive list is included in the manual.

### **Annual Review:**

There is a new standard report layout that will be produced by clubs handicapping software.