

SECTION 4 – HANDICAP SYSTEM AND COURSE RATING

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PART I – EXPLANATION OF COURSE RATING SYSTEM

The New Zealand Golf (NZG) Course Rating system was introduced on 1 September 2000, following numerous trials, and the inadequacies of the previous system. We are indebted to the course raters, of which there are nearly 200, for their voluntary work and dedication to this important aspect of the game.

NZG has a license agreement with the USGA to use both the Course Rating and Handicap System, and believes this to be the most advanced and fairest system available today.

It is the objective of NZG to provide a uniform handicapping system, and the consistency and accuracy of Course Ratings, bogey ratings and the associated Slope Numbers is vital to achieving this.

It should be noted that although rating teams work from January to December, they are assessing the playability of the course when most rounds are played. Here in New Zealand that is autumn, March-May, and spring, September-November.

A simple explanation of the system

The system follows a series of assessments and course raters complete a thorough process which takes approximately 3-4 hours per set of tees. There are established standards relative to how far a player hits the ball, and it is from these positions that obstacles are assessed.

A close scrutiny of the system confirms that the biggest contributor to the difficulty of the course is the overall length, and this is evident in the formula used to calculate the final rating.

The main formula component is the effective playing length of the course, which is derived from the course's measured length. There are then five factors that are considered, giving a more accurate number that reflects the true playing length of the course. These are:

- Roll
- Changes in elevation
- Wind
- Forced lay up areas
- Altitude

The measured length and the effective playing length adjustments are used to determine a Yardage Rating for two categories of player, the scratch golfer and the 'bogey' golfer. The Scratch Yardage Rating and the Bogey Yardage Rating are the base numbers used in the calculation of the Scratch Course Rating and Slope Number.

It is very important that each hole has a block indicating where the hole has been measured from. The blocks should be in realistic places so that tee placement can be both in front of and behind the block. If there are three sets of tees (blue, white and yellow) then there should be three separate blocks indicating where these measurements commence from.

A further analysis of the course looks at each hole and the obstacles that affect playing difficulty. There are 10 obstacles being:

1. Topography the impact of terrain on play
2. Fairway width the difficulty of keeping the ball on the fairway
3. Green target size and the difficulty of hitting that green
4. Rough & Recoverability covers the difficulty of a shot when the fairway or green has been missed
5. Bunkers how they come in to play and the difficulty of recovery
6. OB & Extreme Rough the proximity of these areas and how they come in to play
7. Water hazards the proximity of these areas and how they come in to play
8. Trees based on density, proximity, and the difficulty of recovery
9. Greens Surface assesses the difficulty of a green from a putting perspective, and includes the speed and contouring or tilt of each green
10. Psychological based on the accumulative effect ratings of the other nine obstacles, there may be a value added in this category

The values allocated to the above obstacles are multiplied by various factors giving a final number, which may be a small incremental addition or reduction to the scratch yardage rating. *The result is the Course Rating.*

The final summary will provide three results.

1. **The Scratch or Course Rating** is the mark that indicates the playing difficulty of the course for a scratch golfer.
2. **The Bogey Rating** is the mark that indicates the difficulty for the 20 handicap male player and 24 handicap female player, and is expressed in a number that reflects these players expected score.
3. **The Slope Number** is the mark that indicates the relative difficulty of the course for the bogey player, relative to the scratch player. 113 is the average Slope Number. Anything above this and the bogey player will require a little more help relative to the scratch player, and a number less than 113 will mean that the bogey golfer requires less assistance.

Understanding the Slope Number

The Slope Number is a figure derived from the ratings that indicate the difficulty of the course for the two types of player, the scratch and bogey golfer. The difference of the two ratings is multiplied by 5.381 (men) and 4.24 (women) to give the Slope Number.

Note: It is only relative to the set of tees rated, and cannot be compared with the slope number of other courses.

Example 1: Hamilton Golf Club – Blue tees, 6,684 yards

Course Rating 72.1
Bogey rating 96.0
Slope Number $96.0 - 72.1 = 23.9 \times 5.381 = 129$

Example 2: Hamilton Golf Club – White tees, 6,345 yards

Course rating 70.2
Bogey rating 94.3
Slope Number $94.3 - 70.2 = 24.1 \times 5.381 = 130$

The white tees are over 500 yards shorter than the blue, which is reflected in the Course Rating. However for the Slope Number to be higher on the shorter course, the obstacles must be more severe from those tees for the bogey golfer, in comparison to how they rate from the blue tees.

What is the slope number used for?

The Slope Number provides a player with a course handicap after multiplying a Handicap Index by the Slope Number, then dividing by 113.

The Slope Number is also used when putting a player's round in perspective in comparison to all other courses. Once a player has returned a score, the Course Rating is deducted from the adjusted gross, the difference is multiplied by 113 and then divided by the Slope Number.

When playing a course that has a high Slope Number, most golfers are going to require some assistance. Take Kauri Cliffs for example, where the Slope Number from the white tees is 138. The scratch player, or low handicap golfer, can carry the ball the distances required at this course, but it is a far greater challenge for the higher handicapper. At Pauanui Lakes where the Slope Number is 91, the bogey golfer is at a great advantage in comparison with the scratch golfer, as it is a short course with little trouble, and the Slope Number allows for the adjustment required.

Examples: Player A has a Handicap Index of 2.0, Player B 21.0.

- i. On a course with a Slope Number of 113, their course handicap will remain the same as their Handicap Index.
- ii. At Kauri Cliffs (white tees, 138)
Player A (after rounding) will remain on a course handicap of 2, $(2.0 \times 138/113 = 2.44)$ Player B's course handicap (after rounding) will be 26, $(21.0 \times 138/113 = 25.64)$
- iii. At Pauanui Lakes (blue tees 91)
Player A will remain on a course handicap of 2, $(2.0 \times 91/113 = 1.61)$
Player B's course handicap will be 17, $(21.0 \times 91/113 = 16.91)$

How clubs can help in preparing their course for rating?

There will be some information that rating teams require before they commence their rating. This includes:

1. The measurement blocks on the tees easily identifiable and, where possible, a surveying certificate to confirm the measurement is accurate.
2. The normal green speed during spring and autumn.
3. The height of the rough.
4. The prevailing wind.

It would also be helpful to have the fairway widths as they are normally, and the green sizes as they are during the main playing season.

It is important that a club member with local knowledge on wind, and how each hole can play, joins the rating team (the narrator) as from time to time there will be a query that will require an answer.

Frequently asked questions regarding Course Rating

Q How often are courses to be re-rated?

A It is important that *Course Ratings* are as reflective of the playing difficulty as possible, and there is a guideline for re-rating in the NZG policy. A course where more than 10,000 handicap cards are submitted annually should be re-rated every three years, and for those returning less every four to five years.

Q Our course has a slope number of 115, yet a near course has a number of 125, but is shorter and not as difficult. How can this be possible?

A You can only compare two different courses by referring to the Course Rating. From what you describe your Course Rating will certainly be higher, therefore confirming that your course is the more difficult. The Slope Number refers to the difference in difficulty for the bogey golfer in comparison to the scratch golfer on the set of tees being played.

Q Why do we not have a summer and winter Course Rating?

A Courses are rated for peak season conditions, which here in New Zealand are spring and autumn. Our statistics show that 67% of handicap cards are entered at this time. The system we have adopted provides one rating, and it is accepted that at times playing conditions may differ in relation to the rating. If the conditions are such that the rating is severely affecting the accuracy of players' handicap indices, then a closed season can be introduced.

- Q *It is our Club's belief that our ratings are not correct. What are our options?*
- A You should firstly have the results explained to you by the team leader of the rating team. If you are still not convinced, your final option is to request from New Zealand Golf a new assessment, which is completed by a new rating team as selected by New Zealand Golf. All costs involved are the responsibility of the golf club.
- Q *What does it mean by a closed season?*
- A A good example would be if a long dry spell causes the ball to roll excessive distances resulting in scoring being much lower than in normal conditions. A club can then apply to their local District Association for a closed season, whereby score cards returned from that course are not entered for handicap purposes. The period of the season, and final approval, will be granted by New Zealand Golf.
- Q *Our greens are always very fast, making putting a real challenge. Is this considered when courses are rated?*
- A Yes. There is a value added to each green based on the speed and the undulation.
- Q *We want to build a new green, and therefore introduce a temporary green. Do we need to have the temporary hole rated, so handicap cards can still be returned?*
- A No. Cards can still be entered against the course as rated, and on the hole in question players are assessed at par plus any handicap shots due on that hole.

PART II – HANDICAP MANUAL

Preamble

The United States Golf Association (hereinafter called USGA) and New Zealand Golf (hereinafter called NZG) have concluded a licence agreement permitting NZG to use the USGA Course Rating System™, the USGA Handicap System™ and the USGA Slope System™. NZG has undertaken that member clubs within New Zealand and its territories will not use any of the Registered Trade Marks of the USGA without the specific approval of New Zealand Golf.

Definitions

Within each section, all defined terms are in *italics* and are listed alphabetically in Section 2 – Definitions.

SECTION 1 – PURPOSE AND REQUIREMENTS

1-1 Purpose

The purpose of the NZG *Handicap System* is to make the game of golf more enjoyable by enabling golfers of differing abilities to compete on an equitable basis. The System provides fair *Course Handicaps* for players regardless of ability, and adjusts a player's *Handicap Index* up or down as the player's game changes. At the same time, it disregards high scores that bear little relation to the player's potential scoring ability and promotes continuity by making handicaps continuous from one playing season or year to the next. A NZG *Handicap Index* is useful for all forms of play and is issued only to individuals who are members of *golf clubs*.

A basic premise underlies the NZG *Handicap System*, namely that every player will try to make the best score they can at each hole in every round they play, regardless of where the round is played, and that they will post every acceptable round, in stroke and match play, for peer review. The player and the player's *handicap committee* have joint responsibility for adhering to these premises.

A NZG *Handicap Index*, issued by New Zealand Golf, indicates a golfer's skill and comes in the form of a number taken to one decimal place, e.g. 9.2. A NZG *Handicap Index* is issued only to individuals who are members of a *golf club*.

A NZG *Handicap Index* compares a player's scoring ability to the scoring ability of a *scratch golfer* on a course of standard difficulty. A player posts scores along with the appropriate NZG Ratings to make up the *scoring record*. A *Handicap Index* is computed from no more than 20 scores in the *scoring record*. It reflects the player's potential because it is based upon the best scores posted for a given number of rounds, ideally the best 10 of the last 20 rounds.

A NZG *Handicap Index* is portable from course to course, as well as from one set of tees to other sets of tees on the same course. A player converts a *Handicap Index* to a *Course Handicap* based on the *Slope Number* of the tees being played.

A NZG *Course Rating* is NZG's mark that indicates the evaluation of the playing difficulty of a course for *scratch golfers* under normal conditions based on yardage and other obstacles that affect scoring ability.

A NZG *Slope Number* is an evaluation of how much more difficult the course plays for individuals who are not *scratch golfers*. Each course is rated from each set of tees for both the *scratch golfer* and the *adjusted gross scores*. The *Course Rating* reflects the difficulty of the course for the *scratch golfer*. The *Course Rating* and *Slope Number* together reflect the difficulty of the course for players who are not *scratch golfers*. The greater the difference between the scores of the *scratch* and *bogey golfer* on a certain course, the higher the NZG *Slope Number* will be and the more strokes golfers will receive. Conversely, the less the difference, the lower the NZG *Slope Number* will be and the fewer strokes golfers will receive.

A player locates the NZG *Handicap Index* on the appropriate *Course Handicap Table* and finds the corresponding *Course Handicap*. *Course Handicap Tables* are posted in the clubhouse or near the first tee. There will be a *Course Handicap Table*

for each set of tees used by men and by women. *Course Handicap* is the number of strokes a player receives based upon the relative difficulty (*Slope Number*) of the course.

Use of this manual, which provides a detailed description of all aspects of the NZG *Handicap System*, will make all competitions more enjoyable.

1-2 **Certification Requirements**

Only New Zealand Golf via The New Zealand Golf Network (DotGolf) issues and maintains NZG Handicap Indices. It does so in full accordance with the NZG *Handicap System* as described in 'The NZG Handicap System' manual and may use the terms 'NZG Handicap Index', 'Handicap Index', 'SLOPE', and 'NZG Handicap Pre-Slope' and identify them as such on handicap cards or elsewhere.

Policies of New Zealand Golf, issuing NZG Handicap Indices, are consistent with the principles of the Rules of Golf and the NZG *Handicap System*. An essential element of the NZG *Handicap System* is the requirement that each *golf club* must have a *handicap committee* to ensure the integrity of NZG Handicap Indices.

A *golf club* must use NZG *Course Ratings* and *Slope Numbers* issued by New Zealand Golf. Where something, such as construction or a natural disaster has temporarily altered the golf course, a *Temporary Course Rating* and *Slope Number* may not be used for issuing NZG Handicap Indices unless the temporary ratings are issued by New Zealand Golf.

New Zealand Golf has obtained written authorisation from the USGA in order to use the USGA Handicap System, to use the USGA marks, and to issue NZG Handicap Indices, NZG *Course Ratings* and NZG *Slope Numbers*.

If a *golf club* does not follow all of the procedures of the NZG *Handicap System*, it is not permitted to use any part of the System or to refer to any handicap that it issues or certifies as a 'NZG Handicap Index'.

Organisations that are not *golf clubs* and individual golfers who are not members of *golf clubs* may not use the NZG *Handicap System*, including NZG's mathematical handicap formula. NZG will make certain that those who are authorised to use NZG trademarks and service marks do so in a manner that preserves the integrity and reliability of the NZG *Handicap System*.

SECTION 2 – DEFINITIONS

Active Season

An *active season* is the period as determined by NZG during which scores made will be accepted for handicap purposes.

Adjusted Gross Score

Adjusted gross score is a player's *gross score* adjusted under the NZG *Handicap System* procedures for unfinished holes, conceded strokes and holes not played, or not played under the principles of the Rules of Golf, or adjusted under *ESC*. [See Section 4.]

Bogey Golfer

A male *bogey golfer* has a NZG *Handicap Index* of approximately 20 on a course of standard difficulty. He can hit tee shots an average of 183 metres (200 yards) and can reach a 338 metre (370 yard) hole in two shots at sea level.

A female *bogey golfer* has a NZG *Handicap Index* of approximately 24 on a course of standard difficulty. She can hit tee shots an average of 137 metres (150 yards) and can reach a 256 metres (280 yard) hole in two shots.

Bogey Rating

A *Bogey Rating* is the NZG mark of the evaluation of the playing difficulty of a course for the *bogey golfer* under normal course and weather conditions. It is based on yardage, effective playing length, and other obstacles to the extent that they affect the scoring ability of the *bogey golfer*. *Bogey Rating* is equivalent to the average of the better half of a *bogey golfer's* scores under normal playing conditions.

Clean and Place (Preferred Lies)

Clean and place is a local rule that may be adopted by the Committee when adverse conditions are so general throughout the course that improving the lie of the ball in a specified way would promote fair play or help protect the course, [See Rules of Golf, Appendix 1]

Closed Season

A *closed season* is the period as determined by NZG following information received from a District Association during which scores made in an area are not accepted for handicap purposes.

Course Handicap

A *Course Handicap* is NZG's mark that indicates the number of handicap strokes a player receives from a specific set of tees at the course being played to adjust the player's scoring ability to the common level of scratch or 0-handicap golf. For a player with a plus *Course Handicap*, it is the number of artificial strokes the player gives to adjust the player's scoring ability to the common level of scratch or 0-handicap golf. A *Course Handicap* is determined by applying the player's NZG *Handicap Index* to a *Course Handicap Table* or *Course Handicap Formula*. [See Section 10-4.] A player's *Course Handicap* is expressed as a whole number. The result of any conditions of the competition, *handicap allowance*, or competition from a different NZG *Course Rating* that changes a *Course Handicap* is considered to be the *Course Handicap*.

Course Handicap Table

A *Course Handicap Table* is a chart that converts a *NZG Handicap Index* to a *Course Handicap* based on the *NZG Slope Number* for the set of tees played. [See Sections 3-3, 8-2d]

Course Rating

NZG Course Rating is NZG's mark 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 yardage and other obstacles to the extent that they affect the scoring ability of a *scratch golfer*.

District Golf Association

A *district golf association* is an organisation of *golf clubs* governed by amateur golfers, operated under bylaws and formed for the purpose of conducting competitions for amateur golfers, and otherwise promoting the best interests and conserving the true spirit of the game of golf in a district or province.

Equitable Stroke Control

Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) is the downward adjustment of individual hole scores for handicap purposes in order to make handicaps more representative of a player's potential scoring ability. *ESC* sets a maximum number that a player can post on any hole depending on the player's *Course Handicap*. *ESC* is used only when a player's actual or *most likely score* exceeds the player's maximum number based on the table in Section 4-3.

Golf Club

A *golf club* is an organisation of at least ten individual members, that operates under bylaws with committees (including a *handicap committee*) to supervise golf activities, provide *peer review*, and maintain the integrity of the *NZG Handicap System*. Members of a *golf club* must have a reasonable and regular opportunity to play golf with each other. They must be able to return scores, and these scores must be available for review by fellow club members and the *handicap committee*.

Gross Score

A *gross score* is the number of actual strokes plus any penalty strokes taken by a player.

Handicap Allowance

A *handicap allowance* is the percentage of the *Course Handicap* recommended for a handicap competition. Allowances vary for different forms of competition and are designed to produce equitable competitions. [See Section 9-4.]

Handicap Committee

A *handicap committee* is the committee of a *golf club* that ensures compliance with the *NZG Handicap System*, including *peer review*. A majority of the *handicap committee* must be members of the *golf club*. Club employees may serve on the *handicap committee*, but an employee may not serve as chairman. Any *golf club* using the *NZG Handicap System* is required to have a *handicap committee*.

Handicap Differential

A *Handicap Differential* is the difference between a player's *adjusted gross score* and the *NZG Course Rating* of the course on which the score was made, multiplied by 113, then divided by the *NZG Slope Number* from the tees played and rounded to the nearest tenth. *Handicap Differentials* are expressed as a number rounded to one decimal place, e.g. 12.8.

Handicap Index

A *NZG Handicap Index* is NZG's mark, which is used to indicate a measurement of a player's potential scoring ability on a course of standard playing difficulty. It is expressed as a number taken to one decimal place, and is used for conversion to a *Course Handicap*. [See Section 10.]

Handicap Stroke Hole

A *handicap stroke hole* is a hole on which a player is entitled to apply a handicap stroke or strokes to a *gross score*. [See Section 9-3a]

Handicap Type

Throughout this manual, different types of handicaps are identified by letter designations. Each '*handicap type*' is identified as follows:

- NL = Local nine-hole handicap
- L = Local handicap
- M = Handicap modified by the *handicap committee*
- N = Nine-hole *Handicap Index*
- WD = Handicap withdrawn by the *handicap committee*

Local Handicap

A *local handicap* is either a handicap that is above the maximum *Handicap Index* limit [Section 3-4], a handicap that is revised more frequently than allowed [Section 8-3] or a handicap based on a player's temporary disability. A *local handicap* is not a *Handicap Index* and it must be identified by the letter 'L' to indicate that it is for local use only. A *local handicap* is expressed as a number taken to one decimal place and is used to convert to a *Course Handicap* (e.g. 41.5L). [See *handicap type* and Section 3-3.]

Most Likely Score

A *most likely score* is the score a player must post for handicap purposes if a hole is started but not completed or if the player is conceded a stroke. The *most likely score* consists of the number of strokes already taken plus, in a player's best judgement, the number of strokes the player would need to take to complete the hole from that position more than half the time. This number may not exceed the player's ESC limit. [See Section 4-3.]

Net Score

A *net score* is a player's score after handicap strokes have been subtracted from the *gross score*. A plus handicap player adds handicap strokes to the *gross score* to yield a *net score*.

NZG Course Rating [See Course Rating]

NZG Handicap Index [See Handicap Index]

NZG Handicap System

The *NZG Handicap System* is NZG's mark which denotes NZG's method of evaluating golf skills so that golfers of differing abilities can compete on an equitable basis.

Par

Par is the score that an expert golfer would be expected to make for a given hole. *Par* means errorless play without flukes under ordinary weather conditions, allowing two strokes on the putting green. *Par* is not a significant factor in either the *NZG Handicap System* or *NZG Course Rating System*.

Peer Review

Peer review is the process of providing a reasonable and regular opportunity for members of a *golf club* to play golf with each other, and providing access to *scoring records* and NZG Handicap Indices for inspection by fellow members and the club's *handicap committee*. These can be viewed at www.golf.co.nz

Penalty Score

A *penalty score* is a score posted by the *handicap committee* for a player who does not return a score or otherwise does not observe the spirit of the *NZG Handicap System*. [See Section 8-4b and c(iv).]

Scoring Record

A *scoring record* is a file composed of the most recent 20 scores posted by a player, along with appropriate *NZG Course Ratings*, *Slope Numbers* and dates.

Scratch Golfer

A *scratch golfer* is an amateur player who can play to a *Course Handicap* of zero on any and all rated golf courses. A male *scratch golfer* for rating purposes, can hit tee shots an average of 230 metres (250 yards) and can reach a 430 metre (470 yard) hole in two shots at sea level.

A female *scratch golfer*, for rating purposes, can hit tee shots an average of 192 metres (210 yards) and can reach a 365 metre (400 yard) hole in two shots at sea level.

Slope Number

NZG Slope Number is NZG's mark that indicates the measurement of the relative difficulty of a course for players who are not *scratch golfers* compared to the *Course Rating* [i.e. compared to the difficulty of the course for *scratch golfers*]. The lowest *Slope Number* is 55, and the highest is 155. A golf course of standard playing difficulty has a *NZG Slope Number* of 113.

Stipulated Round

The *stipulated round* consists of playing the holes of the course in their correct sequence unless otherwise authorised by the committee. The number of holes in a *stipulated round* is 18 unless a smaller number is authorised by the committee. The committee may, for the purpose of settling a tie, extend the *stipulated round* to as many holes as are required for a match to be won. [See Rules of Golf, Definitions and Rule 2-3.]

SECTION 3 – THE PLAYER

A *NZG Handicap Index* is NZG's mark, which is used to indicate a measurement of a player's potential scoring ability on a course of standard playing difficulty. It is the result of a mathematical calculation based on scores returned. A *Handicap Index* is converted to a *Course Handicap* for competition on a particular course.

3-1 Obtaining a NZG Handicap Index

In order to obtain a *NZG Handicap Index*, golfers must join a *golf club* and post *adjusted gross scores*. These scores are subject to *peer review*. After at least five scores have been posted, the club will issue a *Handicap Index* to the golfer in accordance with the *NZG Handicap System*.

If 5 scores have been returned before the rollover date and the new *Handicap Index* is known a *handicap committee* can allow the player to compete in a handicap competition.

3-2 Using a NZG Handicap Index

A NZG *Handicap Index* is a number issued by a *golf club* that represents the potential scoring ability of a player on a course of standard difficulty (*Slope Number 113*). The NZG *Handicap Index* is expressed as a number taken to one decimal place that is updated and re-issued every two weeks. A player is responsible for knowing the NZG *Handicap Index* issued at the most recent revision. A player must convert a NZG *Handicap Index* to a *Course Handicap*. For example, a NZG *Handicap Index* of 16.2 would be converted to a *Course Handicap* of 20 at a course with a *Slope Number* of 140, using the *Course Handicap Table* in Section 3-3.

3-3 Course Handicap

A *Course Handicap* is the number of handicap strokes a player receives from a specific set of tees at the course being played.

To convert a NZG *Handicap Index* to a *Course Handicap*, a player locates the NZG *Handicap Index* on a *Course Handicap Table* to find the corresponding *Course Handicap*. Each set of rated tees will have a different *Course Handicap Table* for men and women based on their respective NZG *Slope Numbers* for those tees. It is the player's responsibility to determine the correct *Course Handicap*, and to know the holes at which handicap strokes are to be given or received [Rules of Golf, 6-2]. [See *Course Handicap Table*.]

COURSE HANDICAP TABLE

Issued by New Zealand Golf

Club Name: EAST CAPE GOLF CLUB
Course: East Cape Men
Tees: Black

For X Men	For Women	NZG Slope Number 140	
NZG Handicap Index	Course Handicap	NZG Handicap Index	Course Handicap
+3.5 to +2.9	+4	16.6 to 17.3	21
+2.8 to +2.1	+3	17.4 to 18.1	22
+2.0 to +1.3	+2	18.2 to 18.9	23
+1.2 to +.5	+1	19.0 to 19.7	24
+.4 to .4	0	19.8 to 20.5	25
.5 to 1.2	1	20.6 to 21.3	26
1.3 to 2.0	2	21.4 to 22.1	27
2.1 to 2.8	3	22.2 to 23.0	28
2.9 to 3.6	4	23.1 to 23.8	29
3.7 to 4.4	5	23.9 to 24.6	30
4.5 to 5.2	6	24.7 to 25.4	31
5.3 to 6.0	7	25.5 to 26.2	32
6.1 to 6.8	8	26.3 to 27.0	33
6.9 to 7.6	9	27.1 to 27.8	34
7.7 to 8.4	10	27.9 to 28.6	35
8.5 to 9.2	11	28.7 to 29.4	36
9.3 to 10.0	12	29.5 to 30.2	37
10.1 to 10.8	13	30.3 to 31.0	38
10.9 to 11.7	14	31.1 to 31.8	39
11.8 to 12.5	15	31.9 to 32.6	40
12.6 to 13.3	16	32.7 to 33.4	41
13.4 to 14.1	17	33.5 to 34.3	42
14.2 to 14.9	18	34.4 to 35.1	43
15.0 to 15.7	19	35.2 to 35.9	44
15.8 to 16.5	20	36.0 to 36.4	45

A player's *Course Handicap* is determined by multiplying a *Handicap Index* by the *Slope Number* of the course played and then dividing by 113. [See Section 10-3.] The resulting figure is rounded off to the nearest whole number (.5 or more is rounded upward).

Note: On a golf course that does not have a NZG Course Rating and/or Slope Number, a player determines the *Course Handicap* based on a *Slope Number* of 113.

The *Course Handicap Table* is designed to determine *Course Handicaps*. It is for use only with the NZG Handicap System by golf clubs that have NZG Course Ratings and Slope Numbers. It is not to be used by international guests with a handicap calculated using a different system.

3-4 Maximum NZG Handicap Index

The maximum NZG *Handicap Index* is 36.4 for men and 40.4 for women.

Note: A maximum NZG *Handicap Index* will convert to a *Course Handicap* that exceeds these numbers on golf courses with *Slope Numbers* greater than 113.

Example: A woman player with a NZG *Handicap Index* of 38.1 will have a *Course Handicap* of 45 on a course with a *Slope Number* of 133.

A woman player may have a *local handicap* above these limits, but it shall be identified as a *local handicap* by the letter 'L' following the number on a handicap card or report (e.g. 41.5L). When such *local handicaps* are used for inter-club play, NZG recommends that they be reduced to the maximum NZG *Handicap Index* specified above.

3-5 Players Competing from Different Tees or Men and Women from Same Tees

a. Different Tees: Men vs Men; Women vs Women; Women vs Men

Different tees usually have different NZG *Course Ratings*. Since *Course Ratings* reflect the probable scores of *scratch golfers*, the higher rated course is more difficult, and the player playing from the set of tees with the higher NZG *Course Rating* receives additional strokes equal to the difference between the *Course Ratings*, with .5 or greater rounded upward. First, the *Course Handicaps* should be determined and then the additional strokes are added to the *Course Handicap* of the player playing from the higher rated set of tees.

Example 1: If men playing from the middle tees where the men's NZG *Course Rating* is 70.3 compete against men playing from the back tees where the men's NZG *Course Rating* is 72.6, the men playing from the back tees will add two strokes ($72.6 - 70.3 = 2.3$ rounded to 2 strokes) to *Course Handicaps*.

Example 2: If women playing from the forward tees where the women's *Course Rating* is 73.4 compete against men playing from the middle tees where the men's *Course Rating* is 70.9, the women will add three strokes ($73.4 - 70.9 = 2.5$ rounded to 3 strokes) to *Course Handicaps*.

b. Same Tees: Men vs. Women

Men and women playing from the same set of tees will have different NZG *Course Ratings*. Since the women's *Course Rating* will be higher, women receive additional strokes equal to the rounded difference between the NZG *Course Ratings*, with .5 or greater rounded upward.

Example: If women playing from the middle tees where the women's *Course Rating* is 77.3 compete against men playing from the middle tees where the men's *Course Rating* is 70.9, the women will add six strokes ($77.3 - 70.9 = 6.4$ rounded to 6 strokes) to *Course Handicaps*.

The adjustment must be added to the players' *Course Handicaps* even if it causes a *Course Handicap* to exceed the maximum possible for the *Slope Number* of the set of tees being played.

Note: Additional strokes received under this procedure are to be disregarded when applying ESC for handicap purposes. [See Section 4-3.]

Example: After a Section 3-5 adjustment, a player has added three strokes to a *Course Handicap* of 25. The *Course Handicap* when applying ESC is 25. The correct handicap for competition is 28. [See Section 3-6.]

Example: Promoting Equitable Competition

Garry Gold Tees	vs	Bob Blue Tees
10.4	Handicap Index	10.4
130	Slope Rating	140
12	Course Handicap	13
+71.1	NZ Course Rating	+73.2
83	Target Score	86
83	Target Score	86
-12	Minus Course Handicap (adjusted for Section 3.5)	-15
= 71	= Net Score	= 71

3-6 Applying Handicaps Correctly in Competitions

Players shall follow Rule 6-2 of the Rules of Golf using both the *Handicap Index* and *Course Handicap*, in order to apply handicaps correctly in competitions.

The Note to Rule 6-2 is stated below reflecting the interpretation of Rule 6-2 of the Rules of Golf, as required by the NZG *Handicap System*.

a. **Match Play**

Before starting a match in a handicap competition, the players should determine from one another the player's respective *Course Handicaps*. If a player begins the match having declared a higher *Course Handicap* which would affect the number of strokes given or received, *the player is disqualified*; otherwise, the player shall play off the declared *Course Handicap*.

b. **Stroke Play**

In any round of a handicap competition, the player shall ensure that the player's *Handicap Index* and *Course Handicap* are recorded on the score card before it is returned to the Committee. If no *Handicap Index* or *Course Handicap* is recorded on the score card before it is returned, or if the recorded *Course Handicap* is higher than that to which is entitled and this affects the number of strokes received, *the player is disqualified* from that round of the handicap competition; otherwise, the score shall stand.

Note to Rule 6-2: It is the player's responsibility to know the holes at which handicap strokes are to be given or received.

SECTION 4 – ADJUSTING HOLE SCORES

The game of golf is based on the premise that a golfer will play as well as the player can play. Under the NZG *Handicap System* players are required to record a score for a hole not finished, not played, or not played under the Rules of Golf, and to adjust any hole score when it is higher than the maximum number allowed under *ESC*.

4-1 Unfinished Holes and Conceded Strokes

A player who starts but does not complete a hole or is conceded a stroke, must record for handicap purposes the *most likely* score. The *most likely* score consists of the number of strokes already taken plus, in the player's best judgement, the number of strokes that the player would need to complete the hole from that position more than half the time. This number may not exceed the player's *ESC* limit, defined in Section 4-3. The *most likely* score should be circled, or, where individually printed scorecards are used, defined in the appropriate way for that scoring system.

There is no limit to the number of unfinished holes a player may have in a round provided that failure to finish is not for the purpose of handicap manipulation.

Example 1 A and B are partners in a four-ball stroke play competition. On a hole on which neither receives a handicap stroke, Player A lies two, 18 feet from the hole, Player B lies two, 25 feet from the hole. B holes the putt for a three, therefore A picks up because B's score cannot be beaten. Player A records, a [circled or other determined way] 4 on the score card because that was the *most likely* score.

Example 2 A and B are playing a match. On a hole which neither player receives a handicap stroke, A has holed out in four, B has a 30 foot putt for five. B has lost the hole, and picks up. B records a [circled, or other determined way] 6 on the score card because that was the *most likely* score.

Example 3 A and B are playing a match. A drives straight down the fairway, but B hits into the trees and fails to find the ball. Rather than return to the tee B concedes the hole. In this case Player A records *par* plus any handicap shots received on the hole, and B records the maximum score on the hole allowable under *ESC*.

4-2 Holes Not Played or Not Played Under the Rules of Golf

If a player does not play a hole or plays it other than under the principles of the Rules of Golf (except for *Clean and Place*) the score for that hole for handicap purposes shall be *par* plus any handicap strokes the player is entitled to receive on the hole. This hole score, when recorded, should be circled, or, where individually printed scorecards are used, defined in the appropriate way for that scoring system.

Example A player with a *course handicap* of 10 receives a handicap stroke on the first 10 allocated *handicap stroke* holes. If the player does not play the sixth allocated stroke hole because of construction on the green, the player must record a score *par* plus one for handicap purposes.

Note: A score must not be posted if the majority of the holes are not played under the principles of The Rules of Golf.

4-3 Equitable Stroke Control

ESC is the downward adjustment of individual hole scores for handicap purposes in order to make handicaps more representative of a player's potential scoring ability. *ESC* sets a maximum number that a player can post on any hole depending on the player's *Course Handicap*. *ESC* is used only when a player's actual score exceeds a maximum number

based on the table below.

- a. A score for any hole is reduced to a specified number of strokes over *par* for handicap purposes only, as follows:

Course Handicap Stroke	Limitation on Hole Score
+1 handicap stroke on a hole	Limit of 1 stroke over <i>par</i>
No handicap stroke on hole	Limit of 2 strokes over <i>par</i>
1 handicap stroke on hole	Limit of 3 strokes over <i>par</i>
2 handicap strokes on hole	Limit of 4 strokes over <i>par</i>
3 handicap strokes on hole (women only)	Limit of 5 strokes over <i>par</i>
4 handicap strokes on hole (women's Local Handicap)	Limit of 6 strokes over <i>par</i>

- b. In accordance with the above formula, an 18 hole score is automatically adjusted downward when, due to one or more unusually high scores on individual holes, the score is abnormal to the player's general ability. Each player is responsible for adjusting the player's score in accordance with the formula before it is returned for handicap purposes.
- c. Under no circumstances shall this provision be used to control handicaps artificially. If it should be used for this purpose, the player's handicap may be adjusted arbitrarily.

SECTION 5 – SCORES

5-1 Acceptability of Scores

Fair handicapping depends upon full, accurate information regarding a player's potential scoring ability as reflected by a complete *scoring record*. Every player shall be responsible for returning all acceptable scores, as defined in this section. All Section 4 adjustments, including *ESC*, must be applied to all scores for handicap purposes.

a. **Scores to Post**

If 13 or more holes are played, the player must post an 18-hole score. If 7 to 12 holes are played, the player must post a nine-hole score.

b. **Scores on All Courses**

Adjusted gross scores from all courses with NZG *Course Ratings* and *Slope Numbers*, made at home and away, shall be posted by the player, along with the appropriate NZG *Course Ratings* and NZG *Slope Numbers*. At this time it is not possible to enter scores from overseas whether they use the USGA system or not.

c. **Scores in All Forms of Competition**

Scores in both match play and stroke play must be posted for handicap purposes. This includes scores made in match play, in multi-ball, or in team competitions in which players have not completed one or more holes or in which players are requested to pick up when out of contention on a hole. [See Decision 5-1c/1 and Section 4.]

Note: Clubs and District Associations are encouraged to include the keeping of cards in their match play events with a clause in the tournament conditions requiring compulsory return of fully completed cards.

d. **Scores Made under the Rules of Golf**

Scores must be made in accordance with the principles of the Rules of Golf.

e. **Disqualification**

A player who is disqualified from a competition, but has an acceptable score, shall record an *adjusted gross score* for handicap purposes. For example, a player who is disqualified from a competition for failure to sign a score card has an acceptable score for handicap purposes.

f. **Unacceptable Scores**

Scores made under the following conditions are not acceptable for handicap purposes and shall not be entered in the player's *scoring record*:

- i. When fewer than 7 holes are played.
- ii. When made on a golf course where NZG has declared a *closed season* due to unusual conditions;
- iii. When a majority of the holes are not played in accordance with the principles of the Rules of Golf, for example 'Powerplay' golf;
- iv. When the length of the course is less than 2,742 metres (3,000 yards) for 18 holes (or less than 1,371 metres (1,500 yards) for 9 holes);
- v. When, as a condition of the competition, the maximum number of clubs allowed is less than 14 or types of clubs are limited as, for example, in a competition that allows only iron clubs;
- vi. When scores are made on a course with no NZG *Course Rating* or *Slope Number*;
- vii. When a player carries or uses non-conforming clubs or uses non-conforming balls or tees;
- viii. When artificial devices (as defined under Rule 14-3) are used during the execution of a stroke.

5-2 Posting Scores

a. **General**

Posting scores in person immediately following the round at the course where the round is played is the preferred way to expose scores to *peer review*. Clubs should make it easy for all players, members and visitors to return cards for handicapping. The place for returning scores from all courses, home and away, should be convenient in order to make it as easy as possible for players to record every round played. The form of reporting is the responsibility of the *golf club*, and will depend upon the procedure followed by the *handicap committee*. The posted scores for the day should be accessible to all members for *peer review* in a reasonable time frame following the round played.

The *adjusted gross score*, the date and the corresponding NZG *Course Rating* and *Slope Number* normally shall be returned in person for handicap purposes. The *handicap committee* may adopt a policy to occasionally accept scores returned by mail, facsimile or e-mail. If such a policy is accepted, the *handicap committee* must designate an official(s) at the club who is authorised to receive these scores. Scores returned to the club by mail, facsimile or e-mail shall be exposed to the same *peer review* as scores posted in person at the club. Scores may not be returned verbally over the telephone. Total scores may be returned and need not be recorded hole-by-hole.

The *handicap committee* shall not require the returning of scorecards before allowing scores to be posted when members have played at another course.

A score should be returned as soon as is practicable after completion of a round so that a *scoring record* is up-to-date at the next revision. The following information shall be given about each round:

- i. Player's name or seven digit ID number;
- ii. Date;
- iii. Course Name;
- iv. NZG Course Rating and NZG Slope Number of the course played;
- v. Adjusted gross score.

A club using the *NZG Handicap System* shall enter these scores into The New Zealand Golf Network's centralised database. This must be done on a regular basis so that a player's *scoring record* is up-to-date at the next revision. The handicap revisions will be every two weeks.

b. **Posting an 18-Hole Score When a Complete Round is not Played**

If 13 or more holes are played the player must post an 18-hole score. If 7 to 12 holes are played, the player must post a nine-hole score. In either case, scores for the remaining unplayed holes, for handicap purposes, shall be recorded as *par* plus any handicap strokes that the player is entitled to receive on the unplayed holes.

Example: A player with a *Course Handicap* of 30 stops playing after 15 holes because of darkness. Hole 16 is a *par* 5 and is the number two stroke hole. The player would receive two handicap strokes on this hole. The player will record 5 (*par*) plus 2 (handicap strokes to which the player is entitled) for a 7 on hole 16. Hole 17 is a *par* 3 and is the number 18 stroke hole. The player will record 3 (*par*) plus 1 (handicap stroke to which the player is entitled) for a 4 on hole 17. Hole 18 is a *par* 4 and is the number 12 stroke hole. The player will record 4 (*par*) plus 2 (handicap strokes to which the player is entitled) for a 6 on hole 18.

c. **Posting Scores for Players Holding a Nine-Hole NZG Handicap Index**

To be acceptable for handicap purposes, 9-hole scores must meet the following conditions:

- i. The course must have a nine-hole NZG *Course Rating* and *Slope Number*;
- ii. At least seven holes must be played.

d. **Posting Nine-Hole Scores by 18-Hole Players**

To be acceptable for handicap purposes, nine-hole scores must meet the following conditions:

- i. The course must have a nine-hole NZG *Course Rating* and *Slope Rating*;
- ii. At least seven holes must be played.

There is no restriction on the number of nine-hole scores posted to a player's *scoring record*. Even if a player plays a majority of nine-hole rounds, that player can still utilise a *Handicap Index* (See Section 10-2) rather than a *Handicap Index (N)*. (See Section 12-3 for computation of a *Handicap Index (N)*.)

e. **Treatment of Nine-Hole Scores**

Once posted, a nine-hole score will be treated as follows:

- i. When two nine-hole scores are combined, the NZG *Course Rating* is the sum of each nine-hole NZG *Course Rating* and the *Slope Rating* is the average of the *Slope Rating* of the two nines (if the average is .5, it is rounded upward to the next whole number);
- ii. Two nine-hole scores combined to create an 18-hole score should be designated with the letter C (eg 85C).
- iii. Nine-hole scores are combined in the order that they are received into the player's *scoring record* from any club or from any combination of nines. Regardless of score type. For example, a front nine middle tee score could combine with a front nine back tee score made from any course.

An 18-hole score created by the combination of two nine-hole scores will display the date and course name (if applicable) of the latest nine hole score (eg 29.10.2009 and 15.11.2009 = 15.11.2009).

A nine-hole score will be retained for combination with another nine-hole score until it is older than the twentieth oldest eighteen-hole score in the scoring record, and nine-hole scores will be combined in order they are received in the player's record, and not necessarily by date.

If an error is discovered in a nine-hole score which has been combined with a second nine-hole score and submitted into the system, where the incorrect nine-hole score needs to be deleted, the correct nine-hole score will remain in the system. The correct score will be paired up with the next nine-hole score submitted, irrespective of how many nine-hole combined scores have been submitted between the time the incorrect score was submitted and the error discovered.

Example: Nine-hole scores 1 and 2 submitted and combined
Nine-hole scores 3 and 4 submitted and combined
Nine-hole score 5 submitted
Error discovered in nine-hole score 2 and score is deleted
Nine-hole score 1 remains in the system and is combined with nine-hole score 5

f. **Committee Posting a Score For a Player**

If a player fails to post a score, the score may be posted by the *handicap committee* without the player's authorisation. In a competition, the committee in charge of the competition may post the scores of all competitors. The Committee should notify the players that it will post the scores in order to prevent scores being posted by both the players and the Committee.

SECTION 6 – SCORING RECORDS

6-1 Continuous Records

Scores made in a new playing season (or calendar year) must be added to those of the preceding playing seasons (or calendar years) to make up a *scoring record*. *Scoring records* must be maintained continuously from year to year by entering all scores into The New Zealand Golf Network centralised database.

6-2 Closed Season

A *golf club* that can provide statistical information illustrating that their *Course Rating* due to unusual weather is not reflective of the scores being returned may apply to their District Association for a *closed season*. On application from the District Association the NZG *handicap committee* will make a decision in this regard.

Scores made at any golf course observing a *closed season* are not acceptable for handicap purposes. Scores made at a golf course in an area observing an *active season* must be posted for handicap purposes, even if the *golf club* from which the player receives a *Handicap Index* is observing a *closed season*. The club's *handicap committee* must make it possible for a player to post these away scores at the beginning of the *active season*.

Example If a player belonging to a *golf club* in Canterbury, which is observing a *closed season* during July, plays golf in Hastings during July at a club not observing a *closed season* any scores made in Hastings are acceptable and must be returned to the player's Canterbury *golf club*. If the player is also a member of a *golf club* in Hastings scores must be posted to the player's Hastings club.

6-3 Handicap Lists and Scoring Records

An official list of NZG Handicap Indices shall be posted in a prominent location after each revision. This list can be obtained by each New Zealand *golf club* looking up its members' latest handicapping report from the DotGolf Live web site. Current NZG Handicap Indices of all players in the club, at the most recent revision, shall be prominently displayed or made available for inspection by fellow members.

Scoring record information for each player shall be maintained, together with a record of the NZG *Handicap Index* issued at the most recent revision date. By utilising DotGolf Live, all this information will be readily available to *golf clubs* and their members. The regular computer printed handicap reports from the most recent revision will serve as an adequate working record for each player. Further, a report of each player's scoring history (last 20 plus scores, dates, *Course Ratings* and *Slope Numbers*) will be publicly available on the Internet via the DotGolf Live web site. This scoring history of each *golf club* member, as of the last revision date, is essential for purposes of *peer review*. Accessibility of *scoring records* is key to *peer review*.

6-4 Player Belonging to More Than One Golf Club

The following pertains to the use of, and information obtained from, The New Zealand Golf Network:

- i. The multiple club member's name must appear at all their clubs
- ii. All the multiple club member's scores will appear at all their clubs, and must be the same.
- iii. The multiple club member's Member ID should be the same number at all their clubs. The 3-digit prefix of this number will indicate their 'Home Club'

- iv. Only the member's *golf clubs* can enter, edit or read the member's personal or contact details
- v. There should only be one set of contact details for each member – the ones entered by the member's Home Club
- vi. The 'secondary club' administrator will still be able to enter scores against their multiple-club member as normal.
- vii. If the member resigns their membership with their 'Home Club' to join a new club, a new seven digit number can be allocated having the 3-digit prefix of their newly nominated 'Home Club'. In this case the 4-digit suffix can be different from the old suffix.

6-5 **Player Changing Golf Clubs or a New Golf Club Member**

The following pertains to the use of, and information obtained from, The New Zealand Golf Network:

When changing *golf clubs*, the player shall give the new club the following information:

- Personal information:
 - o Surname
 - o Forename
 - o Date of Birth (day and month is sufficient)
- Golfing History:
 - o Do you wish XYZ *golf club* to be your 'Home Club'? Yes/No
 - o Apart from the XYZ *golf club*, do you currently belong to any other NZG affiliated *golf clubs*? Yes/No
 - o If so, please list each club. If known, please give your current Member ID, and if XYZ *golf club* is not your 'Home Club' indicate which one is.

When changing clubs a player must advise the new club of their previous club to enable continuation of their *scoring record*. The new club should check the DotGolf Live Site / Lapsed Member Section to determine whether or not the player has been resigned from their previous club. If the player's *scoring record* is not listed in the Lapsed Member Section the new club must, via the DotGolf Live Site, send a resignation request for the player's *scoring record*. *Checking the Lapsed Member Section and/or requesting a resignation must be carried out prior to the player being registered as a member at the new club*. Once the new club receives confirmation the player has been resigned the new club will, via the DotGolf Live Site / Lapsed Member Section, reinstate the player as a member of the new club. The *scoring record* will then continue at the player's new club. It is important to follow the above process, as if the player is first entered as a 'new member' instead of being 'reinstated' their *scoring record* will be listed as having a pending handicap at their new club and, unless resigned, will also be showing as a member with a *scoring record* at their previous club, both of which would be incorrect listings. If a player is a new golfer and has never had details entered into The New Zealand Golf Network the player will be entered as a new club member and will have a pending handicap until five scores have been returned and a NZG *Handicap Index* issued.

If an overseas player joins a club and has never had details entered into The New Zealand Golf Network, the player will be entered as a new club member, will be issued a commencing provisional *Handicap Index* based on their overseas *Handicap Index* which is retained until five scores have been submitted. The provisional *Handicap Index* is then replaced by the player's commencing *Handicap Index*.

6-6 **Records of Resigned Members**

The *scoring record* of a member who resigns will be stored in the Lapsed Member Section of the DotGolf Live Site for two years in the event a new *golf club* may need it. When the two year period expires the *scoring record* will move into an archive file that can only be accessed through the DotGolf Live Site.

If the player joins a new *golf club* within the two year period their new club should pick up the player's *scoring record* from the Lapsed Member Section and reinstate it as the player's *scoring record* at that club.

If the player joins a new *golf club* after a lapse of two years the player is entered as a new member, will be issued a commencing provisional *Handicap Index* based on their previous *Handicap Index* which is retained until five scores have been submitted. The provisional *Handicap Index* is then replaced by the player's commencing *Handicap Index*.

SECTION 7 – CLEAN AND PLACE (PREFERRED LIES OR WINTER RULES) (RULES OF GOLF, APPENDIX I)

7-1 **Acceptability of Scores When Playing Clean and Place**

Clean and place (Preferred Lies or Winter Rules) is a Local Rule that may be adopted by the Committee when adverse conditions are so general throughout a course that improving the lie of the ball in a specified way would promote fair play or help protect the course. Heavy snows, spring thaws, prolonged rains or extreme heat can make fairways unsatisfactory and sometimes prevent use of heavy mowing equipment. NZG does not endorse *clean and place*.

When a Committee adopts a Local Rule for *clean and place*, it should be in detail and should be interpreted by the Committee, as there is no established code for *clean and place*. Without a detailed Local Rule, it is meaningless for a Committee to post a notice merely saying 'Preferred Lies' or '*Clean and Place Today*'.

The following Local Rule would seem appropriate for the conditions in question, but NZG will not interpret it:

'If a player's ball lies on a closely-mown area through the green [or specify a more restricted area, e.g. at the 6th hole], the player may mark, lift, and clean the ball without penalty. Before lifting, the player must mark the position of the ball. The player must then place the ball on a spot within [specify area, e.g. six inches, one club-length, etc.] of and not nearer the hole than where it originally lay, that is not in a hazard or on a putting green.

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

For example, in stroke play, a player who incurs a two-stroke penalty for incorrectly invoking the local rule when it was not declared in effect will not also receive a one-stroke penalty for failing to mark the position of the ball before lifting it. Scores made when the Local Rule *clean and place* (preferred lies or winter rules) is used must be posted for handicap purposes.

7-2 Pitfalls in Adopting Clean and Place (Preferred Lies)

Before a Committee adopts a Local Rule permitting *clean and place*, the following facts should be considered:

- a. Such a Local Rule conflicts with the Rules of Golf and the fundamental principle of playing the ball as it lies;
- b. *Clean and place* is sometimes adopted under the guise of protecting the course when, in fact, the practical effect is just the opposite - it permits moving the ball to the best turf, from which divots are then taken to injure the course further;
- c. *Clean and place* tends generally to lower scores and Handicap Indices, thus penalising players in competition with players whose scores are made without preferred lies;
- d. Extended use or indiscriminate use of *clean and place* will place players at a disadvantage when competing at a course where the ball must be played as it lies.

7-3 Maintaining Normal Scoring Difficulty

When a Local Rule for *clean and place* is adopted, the Committee should ensure that the course's normal scoring difficulty is maintained as nearly as possible through adjustment of tee-markers and related methods. (See Section 3 'Club Administration Guidelines' Part II of the manual.)

SECTION 8 – THE HANDICAP COMMITTEE

Handicap Committee Responsibilities

An essential element of the NZG *Handicap System* is the requirement that each *golf club* or *golf association* that issues NZG *Handicap Indices* shall appoint a *handicap committee* to ensure the integrity of the handicaps issued. This Committee shall make certain that the members comply with the NZG *Handicap System*.

8-1 Handicap Committee Chairman

The position of Handicap Chairman requires a substantial amount of time and a basic knowledge of the NZG *Handicap System*. The more information the Handicap Chairman gives the members, the more co-operation they are likely to receive.

8-2 Duties and Responsibilities

The *handicap committee* shall verify that all acceptable scores are reported for handicap purposes, and that recorded scores are available for *peer review*.

a. Notice to Members

It is advisable to send a notice to members before the season starts in order to outline the NZG *Handicap System*, to stress the importance of reporting all acceptable scores and to report the *handicap committee* policies. The members should be advised of such matters as:

- i. How and where scores are to be returned;
- ii. How handicap cards or labels are to be issued;
- iii. How Handicap Indices are to be verified at each revision;
- iv. The handicap revision schedule as determined by New Zealand Golf
- v. The duration of any *closed season* established

- vi. How away scores are to be posted.
- vii. *Handicap Index* adjustment responsibilities of the *handicap committee* [See Section 8-4];
- viii. Penalties for players failing to return scores [See Section 8-4b and c(iv).]

Note: It is recommended that when a golf club signs up a new member it obtains from the new member a signed a declaration giving approval for their scoring record to be on public display through DotGolf.

b. **Displaying NZG Ratings of the Club**

The NZG *Course Rating* and *Slope Number* from every set of tee-markers should be printed on the club score card and posted in a prominent place at the club, preferably by means of a poster certified by New Zealand Golf. The Ratings should also be easily retrievable on the screen of a computer used for score posting.

c. **Displaying NZG Ratings of Area Courses**

NZG *Course Ratings* and *Slope Numbers* of all courses can be found at www.golf.co.nz and clicking Search/ Club Search.

d. **Posting Course Handicap Tables**

Course Handicap Tables based on appropriate NZG *Slope Numbers* for conversion of NZG Handicap Indices to *Course Handicaps* are issued to *golf clubs* by NZG. The *handicap committee* is responsible for posting these tables in an easily accessible place at the clubhouse. Copies of these tables may be placed on or near the first tee of every course at the club. Laminated tables may be obtained from NZG.

e. **Comparing NZG Ratings**

The *handicap committee* should compare its NZG *Course Ratings* and *Slope Numbers* with those of other courses. A separate NZG *Course Rating* and *Slope Number* must be made from each set of tee markers as practicable for each gender.

A club shall accept and use the NZG Ratings that New Zealand Golf has assigned. However, if its ratings seem out of line, the club should request a review by the district golf association.

f. **Examining Results of Competitions**

Results of competitions should be examined. If *net scores* of any players appear exceptional the *handicap committee* should take appropriate action under procedures in Section 8-4.

g. **Maintaining Players' Records**

The *handicap committee* is responsible for maintaining players' records. An official list of NZG Handicap Indices shall be prominently displayed. Current *scoring records* of all players in the club from the most recent revision shall be available to all members. It is preferable for only one committee member or member of the club staff to be responsible for players' records and keeping Handicap Indices up to date.

Even though the NZG system is computerised the *handicap committee* still has the responsibility of reviewing the data entered into and received from the computer or NZ Golf Network and applying all other procedures of the NZG *Handicap System*.

h. **New-Member Records**

The *handicap committee* should communicate promptly with new members to obtain their *scoring record*. [Follow the procedure under 6-5 *Player Changing Golf Clubs or a New Golf Club Member*.]

i. **Resigned Member Records**

Upon a member's resignation the club should immediately 'resign' the member from the New Zealand Golf Network database. The 'resigned member's' *scoring record* will continue to be stored in the Lapsed Member section of the DotGolf Live Site for a period of two years. [See Section 6-6 *Records of Resigned Members*.]

The NZG *Handicap Index* of a resigned member remains 'live' only until the next revision date at the club which issued the Index.

j. **Corrections in Records and Calculations**

The *handicap committee* shall review the accuracy of *scoring records* and information entered by any *golf club* relative to their members. If any errors exist, the Committee shall investigate and inform New Zealand Golf or DotGolf, that a correction is necessary, preferably before the next revision date. A corrected NZG *Handicap Index* shall be issued as soon as possible after a scoring error is noted. A *golf club* may wish to consult NZG or DotGolf for assistance. All reports shall be amended to reflect the corrected information.

k. **Cooperation with Other Committees**

The *handicap committee* should periodically check and consult with other club committees, including, but not limited to:

- The allocation of handicap-stroke holes on the course according to NZG guidelines (see Section 3, 'Club Administration Guidelines' Part V of the manual.)
- The determination of course set up and *par* (see Section 3, 'Club Administration Guidelines' Part II of the manual.)

- The maintenance of playing difficulty of the course (see Section 3, 'Club Administration Guidelines' Part II of the manual.)
- Invocation of any local rule on preferred lies (see Section 7-1).

The *handicap committee* should provide handicap information to appropriate committees in a timely manner.

I. **Requirements for Compliance**

To determine if your club complies with the NZG *Handicap System*, use the following check-list.

Compliance Checklist

Does Your Club:

- Meet the NZG definition of a *golf club*?
- Have a *handicap committee* composed mostly of members and chaired by a member? (Section 8-1)
- Have an official NZG *Course Rating* and *Slope Number* issued by NZG within the last five years?
- Make it possible for players to record the correct NZG *Course Rating* and NZG *Slope Number* with each posted score from every set of tees? (Sections 5-2 and 8-2b and c)
- Require the posting of all scores made at home and away, in both stroke and match play format? (Section 5-1)
- Require use of NZG procedures to adjust hole scores before posting? (Section 4)
- Require that nine-hole scores from players holding 18-Hole NZ Golf Handicap Indices be combined and posted for handicap purposes? (Section 5-2d)
- Insist that the principles of the Rules of Golf be followed? (Section 5-1)
- Follow the revision schedule of NZG? (Section 8-3)
- Ensure that all acceptable scores are entered correctly? (Section 5-2)
- Perform adjustments in accordance with the NZG Handicap Formula? (Sections 8-4)
- In a prominent place, post a list of members' NZG Handicap Indices and make current *scoring records* of all players from each revision readily available for inspection by fellow members? (Section 6-3)
- Reduce or increase Handicap Indices of any player whose handicap does not reflect their potential scoring ability? (Section 8-4)
- Obtain a new NZG *Course Rating* and NZG *Slope Number* through the *district golf association* when permanent changes have been made to the golf course?
- Include the letter 'L' after *local handicaps* which exceed the NZG maximum limit of 40.4 for women? (Section 3-4)
- Set up the golf course to make a consistent level of scoring possible? (See Section 3 'Club Administration Guidelines' Part II of the manual)
- If the answer to all questions is 'yes,' the *golf club* is following the NZG *Handicap System*, and may issue NZG Handicap Indices to its members.
- If any answers are 'no,' contact NZG to determine necessary action to achieve compliance.

8-3 **Handicap Revisions**

The *handicap committee* at the *golf club* is responsible for following the revision schedule and procedures of NZG.

a. **Revision Schedule**

NZG Handicap Indices for all *golf clubs* throughout the country shall be revised on the same date.

b. **Frequency of Revisions**

NZG Handicap Indices shall be revised once every two weeks. NZG requires the players entering into any competition organised by the club committee to use their current NZG Handicap Indices.

c. **Scores Made in a Closed Season**

See Section 6-2.

8-4 **Handicap Index Adjustment and Withdrawal**

a. **General**

A NZG *Handicap Index* must be earned. No player has an inherent right to a NZG *Handicap Index* without providing full evidence of ability to the *handicap committee* at the *golf club*. A NZG *Handicap Index* shall normally be changed only as warranted by the NZG *Handicap System*. There shall be no automatic increases at the beginning of a playing season or year. NZG Handicap Indices are continuous from one playing season or year to the next.

b. **Penalty Scores**

If a player fails to post an acceptable score as soon as practicable after completion of the round, the *handicap committee* should post the score and/or a *penalty score* and Ratings equal to the lowest *Handicap Differential* in the player's *scoring record*. However, if the score not returned is unusually high, the *handicap committee* should enter the score and/or a *penalty score* and Ratings equal to the highest *Handicap Differential* in the player's *scoring record*.

c. **Handicap Index Adjustment by Handicap Committee**

The *handicap committee* has the responsibility of making certain that a player's NZG *Handicap Index* reflects potential scoring ability. Under the following circumstances it will be necessary for the *handicap committee* to make adjustments to the player's NZG *Handicap Index*. Before an adjustment becomes effective, the Committee must give the player an opportunity to explain the circumstances surrounding the proposed adjustment, either in writing or by appearing before the Committee.

i. **Improving Faster Than the System Can React**

A player just taking up the game may improve too rapidly for a NZG *Handicap Index* calculated by the standard procedure to reflect potential scoring ability.

ii. **Numerous Away Scores Change Handicap Index**

If a player's Handicap Index increases by three or more strokes due to the posting of numerous away scores and subsequent scores at the player's club clearly indicate that the increased Handicap Index is too high, the handicap committee shall recommend to the NZG Handicap Committee to adjust the player's Handicap Index downward.

iii. **Temporary Disability**

An increase in a NZG *Handicap Index* must not be granted because a player's game is temporarily off or has discontinued play. However, an increased handicap may be given for a temporary disability. For example, a player having had recent surgery may be given a higher handicap while recovering.

Note: Only NZG can approve this adjustment.

iv. **Failure to Post**

A *Handicap Index* must be adjusted up or down if the player does not turn in all acceptable scores or otherwise does not observe the spirit of the NZG *Handicap System*. The *handicap committee* shall determine the amount of adjustment and make a recommendation to the NZG Handicap Committee.

v. **Player Manipulates Round**

If a player manipulates scores to influence a NZG *Handicap Index*, the handicap committee shall recommend to the NZG *Handicap Committee* that the player's NZ *Handicap Index* be adjusted or withdrawn, depending on the severity of the offence. [See Section 8-4e.] Examples of manipulating scores include:

- a. Posting erroneous scores;
- b. Stopping play after 6 holes to avoid posting scores;
- c. Repeatedly playing more than one ball to avoid posting scores;
- d. Not adjusting hole scores under Section 4;
- e. Deliberately reporting more or fewer strokes than actually scored;
- f. Deliberately taking extra strokes to inflate a score.
- g. Having more than one NZG Handicap Index.

Note: Only NZG can approve this adjustment.

vi. **Continued Violations of Section 5-1f**

The *handicap committee* is responsible for identifying and notifying a player who regularly violates any provision within Section 5-1f that such rounds are unacceptable for handicap purposes. If the player persists to violate clause(s) within Section 5-1f after being notified by the *handicap committee*, the *handicap committee* shall recommend to the NZG Handicap Committee to consider withdrawal of the player's *Handicap Index*.

d. **Duration of Adjustment by Handicap Committee**

The handicap committee recommends to the NZG Handicap Committee how long a player's NZG Handicap Index is to remain modified.

e. **Handicap Index Withdrawal**

If a player repeatedly fails to meet the responsibilities under the NZG *Handicap System*, the *handicap committee* shall recommend to the NZG Handicap Committee to withdraw the player's NZG *Handicap Index*. Before any action is taken, the player shall be advised of the information available to the Committee, and shall be invited to respond to the Committee either in writing or by appearing in person before the Committee. A player whose NZG *Handicap Index* has been withdrawn may be reinstated under conditions set forth by the NZG Handicap Committee.

SECTION 9 – HANDICAP COMPETITIONS

9-1 Handicap Required for Competition

NZG recommends that a player has a NZG Handicap Index in order to enter competitions conducted by all *golf clubs*, *district golf associations* and other organisations.

a. Effective Date of Handicap Required

When a NZG Handicap Index is a requirement for entering a competition, a player shall submit the NZG *Handicap Index* in effect on the date of entry.

b. NZG Handicap Index Changed by Committee

A NZG *Handicap Index* reduced by the NZG Handicap Committee shall be the player's NZG *Handicap Index*. A *Handicap Index* increased by the NZG Handicap Committee because a player has manipulated scores is a NZG *Handicap Index*. A *Handicap Index* increased by the NZG Handicap Committee for any other reason is a *local handicap*, and may be used only with approval of the committee in charge of the competition.

9-2 Handicap Index To Be Used

a. At the Start of the Competition

The NZG *Handicap Index* to be used at the start of a competition shall be determined by the committee in charge of the competition. NZG recommends that the committee require use of NZG Handicap Indices in effect on the date the competition commences.

b. Changes During the Competition

Whether a player's *Handicap Index* may be changed during a competition is a matter for the committee in charge to determine and publish prior to the competition. Rule 33-1 of the Rules of Golf provides in part: 'The Committee shall lay down the conditions under which a competition is to be played.'

NZG recommends that, when practical, each player use the NZG *Handicap Index* in effect at the time each round is played. Thus, if a competition spans a handicap revision date, new Handicap Indices should be used in rounds following that date.

c. Player Has More Than One Handicap Index

A player is not entitled to have more than one NZG Handicap Index. Non-compliance shall result in withdrawal of the player's handicap for a period to be determined.

9-3 Assignment of Strokes

a. Where to Take Strokes

If handicap strokes are applied to a *gross score*, subtract the player's handicap strokes (usually the *Course Handicap*) recorded on the scorecard. The result is the player's *net score*.

The committee in charge of the competition is responsible, after play, for the addition of scores and for subtracting handicap strokes recorded on the score card from *gross score* to arrive at *net score*. (The Rules of Golf, Rule 33-5).

Except as noted otherwise in this section, a player receiving handicap strokes shall take them in the order assigned on the score card. For example, a player receiving three strokes takes them on the first, second and third stroke holes.

In mixed competitions where each player plays their own ball and where allocations are different for men and women, the players receive strokes based on their respective stroke allocations.

In mixed foursome and selected drive match-play competitions, strokes are received based on the men's allocation.

A player with a plus *Course Handicap* shall add strokes according to the allocation table beginning with the eighteenth stroke hole. For example, when a player with a plus *Course Handicap* competes in a partnership stroke play competition, a side with a *Course Handicap* of plus 1 shall add a stroke to its score on the hole designated as the 18th stroke hole. In a match play competition, if the lower handicapped side has a *Course Handicap* of plus 1, that side plays at scratch, and adds 1 stroke to the other side's *Course Handicap*.

When a plus handicap player is part of a side, the percentage allowances for different types of play, described in Section 9-4, bring that player's handicap closer to zero. For example, a 50 percent allowance applied to a plus 2 *Course Handicap* makes it plus 1.

b. NZG Handicap Indices Relate to 18 Holes

NZG Handicap Indices relate to 18 holes. The following allowances apply to each 18 hole round, even though the competition may consist of more than one round.

c. **Players Competing From Different Tees or Men and Women From Same Tees**

i. **Different Tees: Men vs. Men; Women vs. Women; Women vs. Men**

Different tees usually have different NZG *Course Ratings*. Since *Course Ratings* reflect the probable scores of *scratch golfers*, the higher-rated course is more difficult, and the player playing from the set of tees with the higher NZG *Course Rating* receives additional strokes equal to the difference between the *Course Ratings*, with .5 or more rounded upward. First, the *Course Handicap* should be determined and then the additional strokes are added to the *Course Handicap* of the player playing from the higher-rated tees.

Example 1: If men playing from the middle tees where the men's NZG *Course Rating* is 70.3 compete against men playing from the back tees where the men's NZG *Course Rating* is 72.6, the men playing from the back tees will add two strokes [$72.6 - 70.3 = 2.3$ rounded to 2 strokes] to *Course Handicap*.

Example 2: If women playing from the forward tees from which the women's *Course Rating* is 73.4 compete against men playing from the middle tees from which the men's *Course Rating* is 70.9, the women will add three strokes [$73.4 - 70.9 = 2.5$ or 3 strokes] to *Course Handicap*.

ii. **Same Tees: Men vs. Women**

Men and women playing from the same set of tees will have different NZG *Course Ratings*. Since the women's *Course Rating* usually will be higher, women receive additional strokes equal to the difference between the NZG *Course Ratings*, with .5 or greater rounded upward.

Example: If women playing from the middle tees where the women's *Course Rating* is 77.3 compete against men playing from the same tees from which the Men's *Course Rating* is 70.9, the women will add six strokes [$77.3 - 70.9 = 6.4$ or 6 strokes] to *Course Handicap*.

iii. **Foursome Competitions Using Different Tees or Men and Women Using Same Tees**

In foursome competitions using different tees or men and women from the same tees, use half of the difference in *Course Ratings*.

Example: A, a man, and B, a woman, are partners in a foursome competition against C, a man, and D, a woman. The men play the white tees, rated 71.2, and the women play the red tees, rated 73.6. The difference in the *Course Ratings* is 2.4. After the *Course Handicap* of each team is determined, one-half of the difference between the *Course Ratings* or one stroke is added to the *Course Handicap* of each team. If A and B are both men, the procedure applies only to side C and D [a man and a woman].

In a foursome competition in which sides are using different tees, the side playing from the set of tees with the higher NZG *Course Rating* receives additional strokes equal to the difference between the *Course Ratings*.

Example: A, a man, and C, a man, are partners in a foursome competition against B, a woman, and D, a woman. The men play the white tees, rated 71.2, and the women play the red tees, rated 73.6. The difference in the *Course Ratings* is 2.4. After the *Course Handicap* of each team is determined, the full difference between the *Course Ratings* [two strokes] is added to the *Course Handicap* of the women's team.

Note: Additional strokes received under this procedure are to be disregarded when applying ESC for handicap purposes. [See Section 4-3.]

9-4 **Handicap Allowances**

Handicap allowances have no effect in determining NZG Handicap Indices; however, their use is recommended to produce fair and equitable competition.

The allowances are designed to make all forms of play fair. In some forms of play, it is equitable for players to use full *Course Handicaps*. However, in some team competitions where full *Course Handicaps* are used, higher-handicapped sides would have an advantage over lower-handicapped sides. Less than full *Course Handicaps* are recommended in such competitions.

To make proper use of *Handicap allowances*:

1. *Course Handicaps* should be determined.
2. Apply *handicap allowances* for the appropriate format.
3. Finally, the adjustment for the difference in *Course Ratings* is applied if players are competing from different tees or men and women are competing from the same tees. [See Section 9-3c.]

It is essential to follow the order of steps 2 and 3 above so that players from higher rated tees receive the full number of strokes representing the difference in higher and lower rated tees. For example, when correctly adjusted, first for a *handicap allowance* of 80% then for playing from tees four strokes more difficult than a competitor's, Player A's *Course Handicap* of 30 is first reduced by six strokes to 24 [$30 \times 80\% = 24$], then increased by four strokes to 28 [$24 + 4 = 28$]. Had the order of adjustment been incorrectly reversed, A's *Course Handicap* of 30 would first have been increased by four strokes to 34 [$30 + 4 = 34$], then reduced by seven strokes to 27 [$34 \times 80\% = 27.2$, rounded downward to 27] - a loss of one stroke.

The adjustment for the difference in *Course Ratings* is applied after the appropriate *handicap allowance* has been determined so that the percentage reduction in *Course Handicaps* does not affect the adjustment for difference in *Course Ratings*. The amount of the adjustment is added to the players' *Course Handicaps*, even if it causes a *Course Handicap* to exceed the maximum possible for the *Slope Number* of the set of tees being played.

Note: If the percentage of a player's Course Handicap results in a decimal in steps 2 and/or 3 above, the resulting figure is rounded to the nearest whole number (.5 or more is rounded upward).

a. **Match Play**

In match play the game is played by holes. Except as otherwise provided in the Rules of Golf, a hole is won by the side that holes its ball in fewer strokes. In a handicap match the lower *net score* wins the hole. A match (which consists of a *stipulated round*, unless otherwise decreed by the Committee) is won by the side which is leading by a number of holes greater than the number of holes remaining to be played. The Committee may, for the purpose of settling a tie, extend the *stipulated round* to as many holes as are required for a match to be won (Rules of Golf, 2-1 and 2-3). The Committee should also determine the proper allowances before adjusting for competitions from different tees, or in competitions between men and women from the same tees. (See Section 9-3c.)

i. **Singles Match Play**

In singles match play, the match is won by the player who is leading by a number of holes greater than the number of holes remaining to be played. After *handicap allowances* are determined, apply Section 9-3c in competitions from different tees, or in competitions between men and women from the same tees.

Allowance: The higher-handicapped player receives the full difference between the *Course Handicaps* of the two players; the lower-handicapped player shall play from scratch.

Example: A player with a *Course Handicap* of 17 shall receive four strokes from a player with a *Course Handicap* of 13. The player receives them on the holes allocated as the first four handicap stroke holes

ii. **Singles Match Play vs. Par or Bogey**

Bogey or *par* competitions are forms of competition in which play is against a fixed score at each hole. The reckoning is made as in match play. Any hole for which a competitor returns no score shall be regarded as a loss. The winner is the competitor who is most successful in the aggregate of holes (Rules of Golf 32-1). After *handicap allowances* are determined, apply Section 9-3c in competitions from different tees, or in competitions between men and women from the same tees.

Allowance: The player receives full *Course Handicap*.

iii. **Four-Ball Match Play**

In four-ball match play, two play their better ball against the better ball of two other players (Rules of Golf, Rule 30 and Definitions). After *handicap allowances* are determined, apply Section 9-3c in competitions from different tees, or in competitions between men and women from the same tees.

Allowance: Reduce the *Course Handicaps* of all four players by the *Course Handicap* of the player with the lowest handicap, who shall then play from scratch. Allow each of the three other players 100 percent of the difference.

Example: Players A, B, C, and D have a *Course Handicap* of 5, 10, 15 and 20, respectively. Player A plays at scratch, B receives 5 strokes, C receives 10 strokes, and D receives 15 strokes.

In mixed four-ball match play, strokes are taken as assigned on the players' respective stroke allocation tables. The committee in charge of the competition designates the tees to be played.

iv. **Four-Ball Match Play vs Par or Bogey**

In four-ball match play vs *par* or bogey, two play their better ball against *par* or bogey at each hole. The winner is the team which is most successful in the aggregate of holes. After *handicap allowances* are determined, apply Section 9-3c in competitions from different tees, or in competitions between men and women from the same tees.

Allowance: Players receive their full *Course Handicap*.

v. **Total Score of Partners Match Play**

Two players form a side with each playing their own ball. The combined total of their scores for each hole is the score for the side. After *handicap allowances* are determined, apply Section 9-3c in competitions from different tees, or in competitions between men and women from the same tees.

Allowance: Combine the *Course Handicaps* of the partners, and allow the higher-handicapped side the full difference between the sides. The lower-handicapped side shall play from scratch.

Example: Side A-B is comprised of Player A with a *Course Handicap* of 5 and Player B with a *Course Handicap* of 10. Side C-D is comprised of Player C with a *Course Handicap* of 15 and Player D with a *Course Handicap* of 20. Player A plays at scratch, B receives 5 strokes, C receives 10 strokes, and D receives 15 strokes.

vi. **Best-Ball-of-Four Match Play vs. Par or Bogey**

In best-ball-of-four match play vs. *par* or bogey, four play their best ball against *par* or bogey at each hole. The winner is the team that is most successful in the aggregate of holes. After *handicap allowances* are determined, apply Section 9-3c in competitions from different tees, or in competitions between men and women from the same tees.

Allowance: Players receive their full *Course Handicap*.

vii. **Foursome Match Play**

In foursome match play, two play against two and each side plays one ball. During any *stipulated round*, the partners play alternately from the teeing grounds and alternately during the play of each hole (Rules of Golf, Rules 29, 29-1 and Definitions). After *handicap allowances* are determined, apply Section 9-3c (iii) in competitions from different tees, or in competitions between men and women from the same tees.

Allowance: The allowance for the higher-handicapped side is 50 percent of the difference between the combined *Course Handicap* of the members of each side. **(When selected drives are permitted, the allowance is 40 percent.)** The lower handicapped side competes at scratch.

Example: Side A-B with a combined *Course Handicap* of 15 competes against side C-D with a combined *Course Handicap* of 36. The higher handicapped side, C-D, receives 11 strokes ($36 - 15 = 21 \times 50\% = 10.5$ rounded to 11). Strokes are taken as assigned on the players' respective stroke allocation table.

viii. **Foursome Match Play vs. Par or Bogey**

In foursome match play vs *par* or bogey, a match is played against *par* or bogey. The winner is the side that is most successful in the aggregate of holes. After *handicap allowances* are determined, apply Section 9-3c (iii) in competitions from different tees, or in competitions between men and women from the same tees.

Allowance: Allow 50 percent of the partners' combined *Course Handicaps*. **Note: (When selected drives are permitted, the allowance is 40 percent.)**

Example: On side A-B, Player A has a *Course Handicap* of 5 and Player B has a *Course Handicap* of 10. Side A-B receives 8 strokes ($15 \times 50\% = 7.5$, rounded to 8.) Strokes are taken as assigned on the players' respective stroke allocation table.

ix. **American, Chapman or Pinehurst Match Play**

In an American, Chapman or Pinehurst match, two play against two. Each partner plays from the teeing ground and each plays their partner's ball for the second shot. After the second shot, partners select the ball with which they wish to score, and play that ball alternately to complete the hole. After *handicap allowances* are determined, apply Section 9-3c(iii) in competitions from different tees, or in competitions between men and women from the same tees.

Allowance: The partner with the lower *Course Handicap* receives 60% of their *Course Handicap*. The partner with the higher *Course Handicap* receives 40% of their *Course Handicap*. Add the percentage allowances together before rounding, then round off the total with .5 or more rounded upward. The side with the higher *Course Handicap* receives the difference between the *Course Handicaps* of the sides. The lower-handicapped side plays from scratch.

Example: Side A-B is comprised of Player A with a *Course Handicap* of 5 and Player B with a *Course Handicap* of 10. Player A ($5 \times 60\% = 3$) + Player B ($10 \times 40\% = 4$) = 7 strokes for side A-B ($3 + 4 = 7$). Side C-D is comprised of Player C with a *Course Handicap* of 14 and Player D with a *Course Handicap* of 17. Player C ($14 \times 60\% = 8.4$ rounded to 8) + Player D ($17 \times 40\% = 6.8$ rounded to 7) = 15.

Side A-B plays at scratch and Side C-D receives one stroke per hole on the first 8 allocated handicap-stroke holes.

b. **Stroke Play**

The competitor who plays the *stipulated round* or rounds in the fewest net strokes is the winner (Rules of Golf, 3-1). After *handicap allowances* are determined, apply Section 9-3c in competitions from different tees, or in competitions between men and women from the same tees.

i. **Individual Stroke Play**

Allowance: Each competitor receives full *Course Handicap*. (A plus *Course Handicap* shall be added to the gross score to determine the *net score*.)

Example: Player A has a *Course Handicap* of 10 and scores 82. A's *net score* is 72. Player B has a *Course Handicap* of +2 and scores 70. Player B's *net score* is 72.

ii. **Four-Ball Stroke Play**

In four-ball stroke play, two competitors play as partners, each playing their own ball. The lower of the partners' scores is the score for the hole (Rules of Golf, Rule 31 and Definitions). After *handicap allowances* are determined, Section 9-3c must be applied in competitions from different tees, or in competitions between men and women from the same tees.

Allowance: Players receive their full *Course Handicaps*.

In mixed four-ball stroke play, strokes are taken as assigned on the players' respective stroke allocation tables, and players must play from the sets of tees designated by the committee in charge of the competition.

Example: If men are playing the middle tees and women are playing the forward tees, strokes must be taken by men as they are allocated from the middle tees and by women as they are allocated from the forward tees.

Note: It is recommended that Committees consider it a condition of four-ball stroke-play competitions that the *Course Handicaps* of the members of a side may not differ by more than eight strokes. A side with a large difference between *Course Handicaps* has an advantage over a side with a small *Course Handicap* difference. If a difference of more than eight strokes cannot be avoided, it is suggested that an additional 10 percent reduction be applied to the *Course Handicaps* of the members of each side with a *Course Handicap* difference exceeding eight strokes.

iii. **Total Score of Partners Stroke Play**

In total score of partners stroke play, two players form a side with each playing their own ball. The combined total of their scores for the round is the score for the side. After *handicap allowances* are determined, apply Section 9-3c in competitions from different tees, or in competitions between men and women from the same tees.

Allowance: Allow the partners full combined *Course Handicaps*.

Example: Player A has a *Course Handicap* of 12 and scores 87. Player B, their partner, has a *Course Handicap* of 26 and scores 101. The team score is: $(87 - 12) + (101 - 26) = 75 + 75 = 150$.

iv. **Best-Ball-of-Four Stroke Play**

In best-ball-of-four stroke play, four players score with their best ball at each hole. After *handicap allowances* are determined, apply Section 9-3c in competitions from different tees, or in competitions between men and women from the same tees.

Allowance: Players receive their full *Course Handicap*.

v. **Two-Best-Balls-of-Four**

In two-best-balls-of-four, four players score with their two best balls on each hole. After *handicap allowances* are determined, apply Section 9-3c in competitions from different tees, or in competitions between men and women from the same tees.

Allowance: Players receive their full *Course Handicap*.

vi. **Foursome Stroke Play**

In foursome stroke play, partners play one ball. The partners play alternately from the teeing grounds, and alternately during the play of each hole (Rules of Golf, 29-1). After *handicap allowances* are determined, apply Section 9-3c(iii) in competitions from different tees, or in competitions between men and women from the same tees.

Allowance: The allowance is 50% of the partners' combined *Course Handicap*. When selected drives are permitted, the allowance is 40%. A plus combined *Course Handicap* side must be added to the *gross score* to determine the *net score*.

Example: On side A-B, Player A has a *Course Handicap* of 5 and Player B has a *Course Handicap* of 12. Side AB's combined *Course Handicap* is 17. Side A-B will receive 9 strokes ($17 \times 50\% = 8.5$, rounded to 9).

vii. **American, Chapman or Pinehurst Stroke Play**

In American, Chapman or Pinehurst stroke play, two players play as partners, each playing from the teeing ground and each playing their partner's ball for the second shot. After the second shot, partners select the ball with which they wish to score, and play that ball alternately to complete the hole. After *handicap allowances* are determined, apply Section 9-3c (iii) in competitions from different tees, or in competitions between men and women from the same tees.

Allowance: The partner with the lower *Course Handicap* receives 60% of their *Course Handicap*. The partner with the higher *Course Handicap* receives 40% of their *Course Handicap*. Add the percentage allowances together before rounding, then round off the total with .5 or more rounded upward.

Example: On side A-B, Player A has a *Course Handicap* of 8 and Player B has a *Course Handicap* of 18. 60% of Player A's *Course Handicap* is 5 ($8 \times 60\% = 4.8$, rounded to 5); 40% of Player B's *Course Handicap* is 7 ($18 \times 40\% = 7.2$, rounded to 7). Side A-B will receive 12 strokes.

viii. **Stableford Competition**

The reckoning in Stableford competitions is made by points awarded in relation to a fixed score (usually *par* or *net par*) at each hole as follows:

Hole Played In:	Points
More than one over fixed score or no score returned	0
One over fixed score	1
Fixed score	2
One under fixed score	3
Two under fixed score	4
Three under fixed score	5
Four under fixed score	6

The winner is the competitor who scores the highest number of points (Rules of Golf, 32-1b). After *handicap allowances* are determined, apply Section 9-3c in competitions from different tees, or in competitions between men and women from the same tees.

Allowance: Players use full *Course Handicap*, and strokes are taken as they are allocated on the stroke allocation table.

Example: Player A has a *Course Handicap* of 16 in a Stableford competition based on *net scores* with *par* as the fixed score. Player A's *gross score* of 5 on a *par* 4 allocated as the 15th handicap-stroke hole results in a *net score* of 4 (*par*). Player A receives two points for the hole.

Note: **Where the *par* is different an additional calculation must be made to provide equity.**

Example 1: If women playing from the forward tees where the women's NZG Course Rating is 73.4 compete against men playing from the middle tees where the men's NZG Course Rating is 70.9, the women would normally add 3 strokes ($73.4 - 70.9 = 2.5$ rounded to 3 strokes) to Course Handicaps.

If, however the women have a *par* of 73 and the men a *par* of 71, only 1 stroke must be added to Course Handicaps ($[(73.4 - 70.9 = 2.5 \text{ rounded to } 3 \text{ strokes}) - [73 - 71 = 2 \text{ strokes}]] = 1 \text{ stroke}$ to be added to women's Course Handicaps.)

Example 2: If women playing from the forward tees where the women's NZG Course Rating is 65.6 compete against men playing from the middle tees where the men's NZG Course Rating is 63.2, the women would normally add 2 strokes ($65.6 - 63.2 = 2.4$ rounded to 2 strokes) to Course Handicaps.

If, however, the women have a *par* of 69 and the men a *par* of 66, the *par* difference of 3 exceeds the rating differential of 2 and therefore 1 stroke must be added to the men's Course Handicaps.

9-5 **How To Decide Ties In Handicap Competitions (Rules of Golf, Appendix I)**

Rule 33-6 states in part '*the Committee must announce the manner, day and time for the decision of a halved match or of a tie, whether played on level terms or under handicap.*' It is essential that such decisions are taken in advance of the competition and established in the conditions. The recommended methods of settling ties are detailed in Appendix I of the Rules of Golf.

a. **Play-off**

In stroke play competitions involving qualification for a subsequent stage of the event it is not uncommon for a number of competitors to be tied for the last qualifying place. This is the case in Regional and Final Qualifying of the New Zealand Open Championship and the New Zealand Amateur Championship and the conditions state that a hole by hole play-off is used to determine the qualifiers.

Whilst there is no Rule stating how many competitors should be in a group in a stroke play play-off, it is recommended that normally there should be no more than five. Consequently if there are seven competitors in the play-off, the Committee should divide them into a group of three and a group of four and have the first player to finish in the previous round teeing off first, the second to finish teeing off second, and so on.

A hole by hole play-off with seven competitors playing off, for example, for four places would operate as follows: Group 1, comprising A, B and C play the first hole and then wait for Group 2, comprising D, E, F and G to play the first hole. A, C and F score 4 at the first hole, B, D, G score 5 and E scores 6. Based on this result, A, C, and F have won places, E is eliminated and B, D and G must play on for one place.

Even if there are only two competitors in a play-off, under the Rules, the play-off is conducted under the Rules of stroke play. Rule 33-6 states in part: '*A halved match must not be decided by stroke play. A tie in stroke play must not be decided by a match.*' Competitors in a play-off must return cards if they are issued by the Committee (see Decision 33-5/1), but it is not essential for the Committee to issue score cards provided it appoints someone to administer the scoring.

In a stroke play play-off, the Committee should ensure that the competitors are clear as to the purpose of the play-off and know exactly what they are playing for. For example, in Final Qualifying for the New Zealand Open

Championship, a play-off involving five players may be for one place in the Championship and the other four determining reserve list order.

b. **Countback**

- In an 18 hole competition a countback matching cards is used to determine the winner using the last 9 holes. If there is still a tie, then the last 6, then the last 3, then the 18th hole are used.
- In competitions greater than 18 holes a countback matching cards is made using the last 18 hole score. If there is still a tie then the last 9, 6, 3 or 1 hole(s) of the 18 hole score are used.
- In all cases, if the tie is then still unresolved, then a hole by hole countback of the last nine holes starting at the 18th hole should be made. If there is still a tie after this procedure then the result shall be decided by lot.
- In handicap stroke play competition, one-half, one-third, one-sixth, etc of the course handicaps should be deducted proportionately, for example 9 holes – one half, 6 holes – one third, 3 holes – one sixth etc. *Fractions should not be disregarded.*
- If there is a multiple tee start, regardless of the starting hole, the last nine holes, last six holes etc is considered to be holes 10-18, 13-18 etc.

c. **Countback in 'Best of [Multiple Rounds]' in Stroke Play Competitions**

- In a 'Best of [Multiple Rounds]' competition, either where players must play all competition rounds or have the option to play a minimum number of competition rounds, a countback matching the last submitted 'best [counting] score' cards is used to determine the winner.
- If there is still a tie then the last 9, 6, 3 or 1 hole(s) of the last submitted 'best [counting] scores' are used.
- If the tie is still unresolved, then a hole by hole countback of the last nine holes of the last submitted 'best [counting] scores', starting at the 18th hole should be made. If there is still a tie after this procedure then the result shall be either decided by lot or any trophy held jointly, as set out in the competition conditions.
- In handicap stroke play competition, one-half, one-third, one-sixth, etc of the course handicaps should be deducted proportionately, for example 9 holes – one half, 6 holes – one third, 3 holes – one sixth etc. Fractions should not be disregarded.
- If there is a multiple tee start, regardless of the starting hole, the last nine holes, last six holes etc are considered to be holes 10–18, 13–18 etc.

At New Zealand Golf tournaments the above countback procedures will be used.

SECTION 10 – NZG HANDICAP FORMULA

A *Handicap Index* is NZG's mark, which is used to indicate a measurement of a player's potential scoring ability on a course of standard difficulty. Potential scoring ability is measured by a player's best scores, and is expressed as a number taken to one decimal place. These scores are identified by calculating the *Handicap Differential* for each score. The *NZG Handicap Index* is calculated by taking 96% of the average of the best *Handicap Differentials*.

10-1 How to Determine Handicap Differentials

A *Handicap Differential* is computed from four elements: *adjusted gross score*, *NZG Course Rating*, *NZG Slope Number* and 113 (the *Slope Number* of a course of standard difficulty). To determine the *Handicap Differential*, subtract the *NZG Course Rating* from the *adjusted gross score*; multiply the difference by 113; then divide the resulting number by the *NZG Slope Number*. Round the final number to the nearest tenth.

Handicap Differential = (Adjusted gross score - NZG Course Rating) x 113 / NZG Slope Number

a. **Plus Handicap Differential**

When the *adjusted gross score* is higher than the *NZG Course Rating*, the *Handicap Differential* is a positive number. Following is an example for determining a differential using an *adjusted gross score* of 95 made on a course with a *NZG Course Rating* of 71.5 and a *NZG Slope Number* of 125:

<i>Adjusted gross score</i> – <i>NZG Course Rating</i>	95 – 71.5 = 23.5
Difference x Standard Slope	23.5 x 113 = 2655.5
Result / <i>NZG Slope Number</i>	2655.5/125 = 21.244
<i>Handicap Differential</i> (rounded)	21.2

b. **Minus Handicap Differential**

When the *adjusted gross score* is lower than the *NZG Course Rating*, the *Handicap Differential* is a negative number. Following is an example for determining a differential using an *adjusted gross score* of 69 made on a course with a *NZG Course Rating* of 71.5 and a *NZG Slope Number* of 125:

<i>Adjusted gross score</i> – <i>NZG Course Rating</i>	69 – 71.5 = -2.5
Difference x Standard Slope	-2.5 x 113 = -282.5
Result / <i>NZG Slope Number</i>	-282.5 / 125 = -2.26
<i>Handicap Differential</i> (rounded)	-2.3

10-2 NZG Handicap Index Formula

The NZG *Handicap Index* Formula is based on the best *Handicap Differentials* in a player's *scoring record*. If a player's *scoring record* contains 20 or more scores, then the best 10 *Handicap Differentials* of the most recent 20 scores are used to calculate the NZG *Handicap Index*. The percentage of scores used in a *scoring record* decreases from the maximum of the best 50% as the number of scores in the *scoring record* decreases. If the *scoring record* contains 9 or 10 scores, then only the best three scores (30 to 33%) in the *scoring record* will be used. Thus, the accuracy of a player's *Handicap Index* is directly proportional to the number of acceptable scores they have posted. A NZG *Handicap Index* must not be issued to a player who has returned fewer than five acceptable scores.

The following procedure illustrates how a player's *Handicap Index* is calculated if the number of acceptable scores in the player's record is fewer than 20.

- i. Use the following table to determine the number of *Handicap Differentials* to use:

Number of Acceptable Scores	Differentials to be Used
5 or 6	Lowest 1
7 or 8	Lowest 2
9 or 10	Lowest 3
11 or 12	Lowest 4
13 or 14	Lowest 5
15 or 16	Lowest 6
17	Lowest 7
18	Lowest 8
19	Lowest 9
20	Lowest 10

- ii. Determine Handicap Differentials;
- iii. Average the Handicap Differentials being used;
- iv. Multiply the average by .96; *
- v. Delete all numbers after the tenths digit. Do not round off to the nearest tenth.

Example 1: 11 scores available.

Total of lowest 4 Handicap Differentials:	103.5
Average [103.5 divided by 4]:	25.875
Multiply average by .96:	24.84
Delete digits after tenths:	24.8
NZG Handicap Index:	24.8

**Note:* *Bonus for Excellence* is the incentive that is built into the NZG Handicap System, for players to improve their golf games. It is the term used to describe the small percentage below perfect equity that is used to calculate Handicap Indices (96%). As a Handicap Index improves (gets lower), the player has a slightly better chance of placing high or winning a handicap event.

10-3 Course Handicap

A player's *Course Handicap* is determined by multiplying the NZG *Handicap Index* by the NZG *Slope Number* of the course played and then dividing by 113. The resulting figure is rounded off to the nearest whole number (.5 or more is rounded upward).

Optionally, *Course Handicaps* may be printed on handicap records and cards.

SECTION 11 – HANDICAP CONTROLS

Handicap controls are a series of checks and balances to ensure that a NZG *Handicap Index* will accurately measure a player's potential scoring ability. These handicap controls prevent scores that are not representative of a player's potential ability from distorting their *Handicap Index*. The following handicap controls are incorporated into the NZG *Handicap System* to produce reliable and equitable Handicap Indices.

11-1 Golf Club Handicap Committee

An essential element of the NZG Handicap System is the requirement that each golf club issuing NZG Handicap Indices must appoint a handicap committee to ensure the integrity of the Handicap Indices issued. [See Section 8]

11-2 Peer Review

Peer review is the process of providing a reasonable and regular opportunity for members of a *golf club* to play golf with each other, and providing *scoring records* and NZG handicap Indices for inspection by fellow members and the *handicap committee*.

NZG has been doing this successfully since September 2000, by listing the *scoring records* of over 135,000 golfers on www.golf.co.nz

11-3 Worst 10 Handicap Differentials Disregarded

A player's worst 10 of the last 20 *Handicap Differentials* are not used in computing the NZG *Handicap Index* since these scores do not represent their potential ability (See Section 10)

11-4 Fewer than 20 Scores

When a player has posted fewer than 20 scores, the *Handicap Index* is based on a lower percentage of scores than the 50% ideally used (best 10 of the last 20). The accuracy and reliability of the Handicap System improves as the number of acceptable scores approaches 20. A player with 20 acceptable scores will have a handicap more representative of the player's potential ability than a player who has returned fewer scores. (See Section 10)

11-5 Equitable Stroke Control

See definition of *Equitable Stroke Control*.

11-6 Handicap Index Adjustment and Withdrawal

The *handicap committee* has the responsibility of making certain that a player's NZG *Handicap Index* reflects the player's potential scoring ability. Under certain circumstances it will be necessary for the *handicap committee* to recommend to the NZG Handicap Committee that an adjustment is necessary.

The adjustment may be due to a temporary disability, or the result of a disciplinary action against a player who is manipulating the player's handicap or not observing the spirit of the NZG *Handicap System*.

11-7 Penalty Score

A *penalty score* is a score posted by the NZG Handicap Committee on the recommendation of a *golf club handicap committee*, for a player who does not return a score or otherwise does not observe the spirit of the NZG *Handicap System*.

11-8 Ratings issued by NZG

All courses must be rated in accordance with NZG approved procedures, by a local *Course Rating* team representing the *district golf association*. NZG is working hard to provide *Course Ratings* that are uniform, so that all NZG Handicap Indices are relative throughout the country.

SECTION 12 – 9-HOLE GOLF

12-1 9-Hole Handicaps – Handicap Index (N)

A player may hold **either** an 18-hole Handicap Index **or** a 9-hole Handicap index at any one time. (*This is also relevant to a player belonging to more than one club. If a player holds an 18-hole handicap at their home club, they **are not** permitted to hold a 9-hole handicap at any other clubs they are members of and vice versa.*)

The Handicapping and Course Rating Systems for 9-hole golf are essentially the same as for 18-hole golf, but with some modifications appropriate for the shortened format. 9-hole Handicap Indices are differentiated from 18-hole Handicap Indices by the designation "N" e.g. 17.4N.

12-2 Gaining a 9-Hole Handicap

In order to obtain a NZG 9-Hole *Handicap Index*, golfers must join a *golf club* and post *adjusted gross scores*. These scores are subject to *peer review*. After at least five scores have been posted, the club will issue a *Handicap Index* to the golfer in accordance with the NZG *Handicap System*.

If 5 scores have been returned before the rollover date and the new *Handicap Index* is known a *handicap committee* can allow the player to compete in a handicap competition.

12-3 Maximum NZG Handicap Index

The maximum Handicap Index (N) is 18.2 for men and 20.2 for women.

Note: A maximum NZG handicap Index will convert to a Course Handicap that exceeds these numbers on golf courses with Slope Numbers greater than 113.

Example: A player with a NZG Handicap Index of 18.2 will have a Course Handicap of 19 on a course with a Slope Number of 121

A player may have a *local handicap* above these limits, maximum 27.2, but it shall be identified as a *local handicap* by the letters 'NL' following the number on a handicap card or report (e.g. 18.3NL.) When such *local handicaps* are used for inter-club play, NZG recommends that they be reduced to the maximum NZG *Handicap Index* specified above.

12-4 Method of Computation

A *Handicap Index* (N) is computed by applying nine-hole *adjusted gross scores* to the NZG *Course Rating* and *Slope Number* of the nine holes played to determine *Handicap Differentials*.

Example: For a nine-hole *adjusted gross score* of 45 with a nine-hole NZG *Course Rating* of 36.2 and a Slope Rating of 121, the nine-hole *Handicap Differential* is $(45 - 36.2) \times 113 / 121 = 8.2$.
If the average of the best ten nine-hole *Handicap Differentials* is 8.9, then the *Handicap Index* (N) is $8.9 \times .96 = 8.5$. It is posted as '8.5N.'

12-5 9-Hole Equitable Stroke Control

ESC is the downward adjustment of individual hole scores for handicap purposes in order to make handicaps more representative of a player's potential scoring ability. ESC sets a maximum number that a player can post on any hole depending on the player's *Course Handicap*. ESC is used only when a player's actual or *most likely score* exceeds the player's maximum number based on the table below. There is no limit to the number of holes on which a player may adjust a score for ESC purposes.

Equitable Stroke Control

Course Handicap Stroke	Limitation on Hole Score
No handicap stroke on hole	Limit of 2 strokes over <i>par</i>
1 handicap stroke on hole	Limit of 3 strokes over <i>par</i>
2 handicap strokes on hole	Limit of 4 strokes over <i>par</i>
3 handicap strokes on hole	Limit of 5 strokes over <i>par</i>
4 handicap strokes on hole	Limit of 6 strokes over <i>par</i>

12-6 Competition Eligibility

Players holding 9-hole handicaps may only compete in designated 9-hole competitions and events. The only exception to this rule is that for a special club occasion, for example a 'fun' club tournament such as an opening/closing day, club anniversary/jubilee celebrations or club charity day etc, 9-hole Handicap Indices may be doubled (or 18-hole Handicap Indices halved) so that all club members can play and compete together. However it is recommended, when there are sufficient players to make it viable, there should be separate 9-hole and 18-hole divisions with prizes allocated accordingly.

Where 9-holers are permitted to play in the above tournaments, the club may make an exception to the normal regulations if necessary, provided the exception is specified in the conditions of the competition and in the advertising for the event so that all players are aware of the exception before entering.

12-7 Scores to Post

A player shall post a score when a 9-hole round is played or 7 or more holes played. (*To be read in conjunction with Section 5 1-c of the NZ Golf System of Handicapping and Course Rating.*)

12.8 Converting from 9-Hole to 18-Hole Handicaps and Vice Versa

- 9-Hole to 18-Hole:** The player's Handicap Index is doubled, and that is the commencing provisional Handicap Index (N) which is retained until five 18-hole scores have been submitted. The provisional Handicap Index is then replaced by the player's commencing Handicap Index.
- 18-hole to 9-hole:** The player's Handicap Index is halved (rounded up to the nearest 1/10th decimal point) and that is the commencing provisional Handicap Index (N) which is retained until five 9-hole scores have been submitted. The provisional Handicap Index (N) is then replaced by the player's commencing Handicap Index (N).

APPENDIX I – METHOD FOR DETERMINING MOST IMPROVED PLAYER

The NZG recommended method for determining a club's most improved player at the end of a season or year is as follows:

Add 12* to the player's Handicap Index at the start of the season. This is value A. Add 12 to the player's Handicap Index at the end of the season. This is value B.

Divide value A by value B, calculating to three decimal places. This is the improvement factor. The player with the highest improvement factor should receive the most improved player award.

Example:

Starting Handicap Index:	22.6
Ending Handicap Index:	17.4
Value A:	$22.6 + 12 = 34.6$
Value B:	$17.4 + 12 = 29.4$
A / B:	$34.6 / 29.4 = 1.177$
Improvement Factor:	1.177

Continue this process for every player who improved during the year. The player with the highest improvement factor is the most improved player.

Note: Add 6* instead of 12 in the case of a nine-hole Handicap Index (N).

*The numbers 6 and 12 have been determined by the USGA as equitable in gauging the improvement of players encompassing the entire spectrum of handicaps. For example, it is relatively the same improvement factor to go from a 20.0 to a 10.0 Handicap Index (improvement factor of 1.454) as it is to go from a 5.0 to a scratch, or zero Handicap Index (improvement factor of 1.416), yet the change in Handicap Index is '10' (20 – 10) versus '5' (5 – 0) strokes. The numbers of 6 and 12 take into consideration the level of a player's improvement rather than the net change in Handicap Index.

APPENDIX II – TWILIGHT TOURNAMENTS

Twilight tournaments are generally between 4 – 12 holes. The majority are played on a Stableford system and the handicapping system set out below uses a Stableford base computation:

- a. Player's Twilight Handicap will be:
 - i. At the commencement of the Twilight season a player having a NZG Handicap Index will ascertain their applicable course handicap if they were to play their home club registered nine-hole course. The resulting whole number will be their commencing Twilight Handicap.
 - ii. Non affiliated players who do not hold a NZG Handicap Index will play three rounds and the average of the three gross scores less the NZG Course Rating will be their Twilight Handicap. This will be rounded off to the nearest whole number and will be portable for the period of the Twilight season.
 - iii. New Summer Members will play three rounds and the average of the three gross scores less the NZG Course Rating will be their Twilight Handicap. (Note: Once five scores have been submitted into the DotGolf handicap system Summer Members will obtain a Handicap Index.)
 - iv. Returning Summer Members will be reinstated, their scoring record will continue from the previous year and their Twilight Handicap will be ascertained as in (i) above.
- b. To establish a Course Twilight Stableford Assessment (CTSA) multiply the number of holes being played by 2.2 and round off the result to the nearest whole number.
- c.
 - i. The player's card returned for a Twilight tournament and for Twilight handicapping purposes should show completed holes with the Stableford score gained. Where no Stableford points have been gained, then the ESC score (equivalent to zero Stableford points) should be recorded and marked with a circle or, where individually printed scorecards are used, defined in the appropriate way for that scoring system. The ESC adjustment is for handicapping purposes.
 - ii. The player's total Stableford score (including any adjustments as (i) above) will then have the CTSA deducted from it.
 - iii. Where a player's adjusted Stableford score exceeds the CTSA the player's Twilight Handicap will be reduced by 50% of the differential.
 - iv. Where a player's adjusted Stableford score is less than the CTSA, the player's Twilight Handicap will be increased by 25% of the differential.

Examples where 9 and 11 holes are played:

Holes Played	9		11	
CTSA	9 X 2.2 = 19.8		11 X 2.2 = 24.2	
CTSA Rounded	20		24	
	Player A	Player B	Player C	Player D
Player's NZ Golf Handicap Index	14.0	14.0	10.0	10.0
Player's 9-Hole Course Handicap on Course with a Slope Rating of 122	8	8	5	5
Stableford Total	25	17	26	23
CTSA	20	20	24	24
Difference	+5	-3	+2	-1
Reduction	5 x .5 = 2.5	3 x .25 = .75	2 x .5 = 1	1 x .25 = .25
New Twilight Handicap	8 - 2.5	8 + .75	5 - 1	5 + .25
Exact Twilight Handicap	5.5	8.7	4	5.2
Round Off	6	9	4	5

- d. In the event of a Twilight tournament being conducted on Medal play, the player's score should also show the appropriate Stableford points in order that the Course Twilight Stableford Assessment can be deducted and the player handicapped accordingly.
- e. The player's Twilight Handicap appearing in the records being kept by the club will be to one decimal place. The Twilight Handicap sheet posted by the club will have the handicaps rounded to the nearest whole number – .5 rounds upwards.
- f. Twilight Handicaps can be used for Twilight tournaments at other clubs. Where a Twilight competition is played at a club which has an automatic scoring system, for example DotGolf or Autoscore, scorecards may be submitted for handicapping purposes at the Host Club, however the player must advise their Home Club of their Twilight score for purposes of keeping their Twilight Handicap record accurate. Where a Host Club does not have an automatic scoring system, the player's scorecard should be returned to their Home Club for handicapping purposes.

Handicappers will be aware that Twilight tournaments are generally a social occasion and the handicap system proposed is designed to be simple for players and handicappers administering the system. Flexibility should be maintained and handicappers should keep in mind the discretion they already have.

