

Handicap Adviser's Report for Delegates Meeting – Friday 12th February 2021

Good morning Ladies

Not much golf has been played since the start of the new WHS was introduced, let's hope we can get back to it soon! There have been a few teething problems and England Golf has received 20k queries, of which the majority have now been answered.

It is the responsibility of Golf Clubs to educate their members on the WHS system and the England Golf website is a great resource available Clubs and members.

I have forwarded comprehensive notes to your Handicap Secretary but a few points to remember.

- As previously, Handicap Allowances are Mandatory.
- Clubs must have a measured course available for members and visitors. General Play scores must be marked by a responsible person (another player with an ID CDH No). Electronic score card available within the App or through the ISV.
- If a course is set up as a measured course with no more than two temporary greens (regulation holes) then the competition will be qualifying.
- If the Committee designate a competition format that only say, 14 holes are played, the competition will be qualifying for handicap. The competition is set up on the computer system as an 18-hole competition. Each hole not played will equal Nett Par.
- Bunkers 'out of play' under COVID - CONGU Rules & Guidance: Scores are acceptable for Handicap purposes if all bunkers are out of play.
- EG Medals – It is thought that the conditions set for 2021 may be permanent for future competitions, moving away from designated scores/competitions. All stroke play scores will be inputted and the best four used to determine the Regional Qualifier from each Club.
- Queries to EG: At the moment these are going directly to EG, but the process will change to the usual format. Player – Club Handicap Committee – County – Regional Adviser and in the last resort referred to EG.

95% Playing Handicap – FAQ on why it's 95% - the answer can be found on the CONGU website. It has always been in the CONGU system but until now it wasn't visible.

Historically all handicaps systems (including our previous one) have used different handicap allowances for different formats of play as a way of ensuring equitable outcomes in competitions. In developing the WHS, a significant amount of score analysis and statistical modelling identified that different allowances for singles Stroke Play and Match Play were required, something that is borne out by experience in jurisdictions where averaging systems (and 'best of 8' specifically) have been in place (e.g. Australia).

The 95% stroke allowance has no impact on handicap calculations as it is used purely to achieve equity in a competition for the allocation of prizes. The Playing Handicap only impacts the net score result: it is the Course Handicap and Adjusted Gross Score that impact the final handicap calculation.

I am happy to answer any questions.

Ann Talbot