

Posting Scores

Section 5 SCORES (From USGA Handicap System Manual Dated 2016-2017)

Web Site: www.USGA.org

5-1. Acceptability of Scores

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

■ a. Scores To Post

To post a 9-hole score, the player must play 7 to 12 holes, and at least 7 holes must be played under the Rules of Golf. To post an 18-hole score, the player must play at least 13 holes under the Rules of Golf. (See Decisions **5-1a/3 through 5-1a/5**.)

■ b. Scores on All Courses

Adjusted gross scores from all courses with a **USGA Course Rating** and **Slope Rating** made during an **active season**, both at home and away, must be posted by the player along with the appropriate **USGA Course Rating** and **Slope Rating**.

■ 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 Section 4 and Decision **5-1c/1, 5-2a/5, 5-2a/7**.)

■ d. Disqualification

A player who is disqualified from a competition, but has an acceptable score, must record an **adjusted gross score** for handicap purposes using Section 4-2.

Example 1: Player fails to hole out under Rule 3-2.

Example 2: Player fails to sign scorecard under Rule 6-6b.

Example 3: Player refuses to apply a Rule in stroke play which affects the rights of another player under Rule 3-4.

However, if the breach is determined to provide an advantage for the player (i.e., Rules 1-2, 1-3, subsequent offenses to Rule 14-3, etc.) the score is not acceptable for handicap purposes (See Section 5-1e (vii)).

■ e. Unacceptable Scores

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

- (i) When fewer than seven or thirteen holes are played;
- (ii) When made on a golf course in an area in which an **inactive season** established by the **Authorized Golf Association** is in effect;
- (iii) 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;
- (iv) When scores are made on a course with no **USGA Course Rating** or **Slope Rating**;
- (v) When a player uses non-conforming clubs, non-conforming balls, or non-conforming tees; or when a player incurs a second breach of Rule 14-3.
- (vi) When a player plays alone;

(vii) When a player ignores one or more Rules of Golf and fails to post an adjusted hole score as required under Section **4-1** and **4-2**, or fails to record the appropriate penalty for a breach of rule. For example, if a player anchored the club while making a stroke during a round and did not record a penalty for doing so (See Rule 14-1b), the score would not have been played under the Rules of Golf and therefore would not be acceptable for handicap purposes.

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**. This method of posting should be used whenever possible. The place for returning scores from all courses should be convenient to make it as easy as possible for players to record every round played. The posted scores for the day must be immediately available to all members for **peer review**. (See Decision **5-2a/1**.)

Please continue to next page for Equitable Stroke Control (ESC)...

Section 4 ADJUSTING HOLE SCORES

4-3. Equitable Stroke Control

All scores for handicap purposes, including tournament scores, are subject to the application of Equitable Stroke Control (ESC). This mandatory procedure reduces high hole scores for handicap purposes in order to make handicaps more representative of a player's potential ability.

A handicap determined from scores to which ESC has not been applied may not be termed a Handicap Index.

ESC is used when a player's actual or most likely score exceeds a maximum number, based on the table below, for the player's Course Handicap from the tees played. (For nine-hole Equitable Stroke Control table, See Section 10-5c.)

EQUITABLE STROKE CONTROL

COURSE HANDICAP	MAXIMUM NUMBER ON ANY HOLE
9 or less	Double Bogey
10 through 19	7
20 through 29	8
30 through 39	9
40 or more	10

Example: A player with a *Course Handicap* of 6 has a maximum number of *par* plus two strokes (double bogey) for any hole. A player with a *Course Handicap* of 13 has a maximum number of 7 for any hole regardless of *par*. A player with a *Course Handicap* of 42 has a maximum number of 10 for any hole.