



## **OBTAINING A HANDICAP**

*Please read below our current guidance for submitting handicap cards during COVID-19 at East Sussex National.*

- a) Player must submit a minimum of 3 cards to the golf shop for assessment. Please do not submit individual cards.*
- b) The cards will be placed in a shop bag for a quarantine period and then processed.*
- c) You must submit card in accordance with the Rules of Golf, including any local rules, indicating which tees were used and the name of the member verifying score.*
- d) You will be notified of your handicap by e-mail with a copy of your handicap certificate. This can then be viewed on ClubV1.*
- e) The maximum handicap currently allocated at East Sussex National is 28 men - 36 ladies*

## **CONGU GUIDANCE**

### **HOW TO OBTAIN A HANDICAP**

A CONGU handicap may only be allotted to someone who is a member of a club that is affiliated to one of the National Unions, so your first step towards gaining a CONGU handicap is to join such a Golf Club. The Union's website of the Country in which you reside will be able to help you with this.

A Handicap is designed to reflect a player's potential ability, so it would probably be helpful to have a few lessons to learn the basics of the game. Once you are comfortable with your game you will need to submit 3 scorecards, which should be signed by another person that is acceptable to your club. Arrange this with your club professional or Handicap Committee.

You will need to submit sufficient cards to provide scores for 54 holes of golf, which must be 9 hole or 18 hole scores. Once you have submitted these scores, your Handicap Committee will allot you a handicap.

## **16. ALLOTMENT OF HANDICAPS**

16.1 A handicap can be allotted only to a Member of an Affiliated Club after full consideration of his previous playing history, including any handicap held previously at any other club or under another handicap system.

16.2 To obtain a handicap a player must submit a required number of nine and/or 18-hole cards played over a Measured Course (rated course) at his Home Club. Any permutation of nine and 18-hole cards may be submitted but must total a minimum of 54 holes. Cards submitted over nine holes must be returned from a Designated Nine-Hole Course. Each card must be marked and signed by a responsible person acceptable to the Handicap Committee. The requisite cards should normally be submitted within a period of six months.

16.3 The Handicap Committee has the following responsibilities and discretions in regard to the allotment of handicaps. (Note that these scores are to be recorded on the players Handicap Record via the Computer and the calculations below will be carried out automatically).

(a) If a handicap has been previously held, refer to Clause 26 (Regaining a Handicap).

Otherwise the initial handicap shall be allotted as in (b) below.

(b) The Handicap Committee shall

1. Adjust any score of more than double par at any hole to a score of double par

(i.e. 6 on a Par 3, 8 on a Par 4 and 10 on a Par 5).

2. Add the nine-hole scores (if applicable) to make up 18-hole equivalents in chronological order. If a club has more than one Designated Nine-Hole Courses each pair of nine-hole scores must be returned over courses having the same Designated Nine-Hole SSSs for the gender of player concerned.

3. Calculate the Adjusted Gross Differential ('AGD') scores from the three 18 hole

(or 18-hole equivalent) scores; these scores being calculated by comparing the returns relative to the SSS's of the courses/tees used:

AGD = Adjusted Gross Score – SSS for the course/tees used

Determine the Lowest Adjusted Gross Differential ('LAGD') from the three

Adjusted Gross Differentials

4. Reduce the resulting LAGD according to the formula; Initial Handicap =  $(LAGD + (LAGD * 0.13)) / 1.237$  truncated to provide a whole number.

For example, a player with a Lowest Adjusted Gross Differential of 31 is allotted an initial handicap of 28 (which is recorded as an Exact Handicap of 28.0) as shown below:

$$\text{Initial Handicap} = (31 + (31 * 0.13)) / 1.237$$

$$= (31 + 4.03) / 1.237$$

$$= (35.03 / 1.237)$$

= 28.31 truncated to 28 and recorded as an Exact Handicap of 28.0.

After these adjustments have been made the whole number Exact Handicap shall, subject to the provisions of Clauses 16.3(c) and 16.3(e), be allotted.

(c) The Handicap Committee must consider all the information available to it in relation to the player's ability and any previously held handicap before allotment of a handicap.

After due consideration, the Handicap Committee may allot a player an initial whole number Exact Handicap less than that calculated as per 16.3(b) above if it has reason to consider that a lower handicap is more appropriate to the player's ability. In exceptional circumstances a higher handicap may be allotted than that indicated above.

(d) The Handicap Committee should review the initial Qualifying Scores returned by all Member's to whom a handicap has recently been allotted. If the Handicap Committee determines that an adjustment is required to a Member's recently allotted handicap, this must be administered in accordance with the provisions of Clause 23 B.

National Unions and their Affiliated Clubs are seeking 'to grow the game' and make it more attractive to new and inexperienced players. In support of these initiatives CONGU has increased Handicap limits to a maximum of 54.

When handicaps are allotted over the previous CONGU® limits for Men and Women (28.0 and 36.0) the club committee has two options:

- To allow and encourage players with higher handicaps to participate in club competitions
- To run separate competitions or separate classes / divisions within club competitions for those players with higher handicaps. Clubs are encouraged to recognise and embrace the responsibility they have to attract, encourage and enthuse those new to the game as well as satisfying the needs of those already in club membership.

(e) A player must not be allotted a Category 1 handicap without the authority of the Union or Area Authority if so delegated. The Union should record all Category 1 Handicap allocations authorised.

England and Ireland delegates the authority for the allotment of Category 1 handicaps to the Area Authorities. Scotland and Wales make no delegation under this clause.

16.4 The maximum CONGU® Handicap eligible for Competition status (Clause 25) that can be allotted is 54 for both men and women. (Maximum Exact Handicap 54.0).

In the context of the UHS the 'Affiliated Club' is the club affiliated to a Union / Area Authority which pays to that Union / Area Authority a specified per capita fee in respect of each eligible Member i.e. a golf club may have more than one 'Affiliated Club', one affiliated to a Ladies' Union and another affiliated to the Men's Union in that country.

If a golf club has more than one Affiliated Club and more than one Handicap Committee (Clause 6.3) they, the Affiliated Clubs / Handicap Committees, should seek to agree common criteria for the allotment and review of handicaps.

#### 16.3/1 Allotment of Handicap Lower Than That Calculated

Q In what circumstances can a club allocate a handicap lower than that calculated by clause 16.3?

A. The Handicap Committee may allot an initial whole number Exact Handicap less than the best adjusted score if it has reason to consider that a lower handicap is more appropriate to the player's ability. Factors to be considered include:

- previous playing history and any lower handicap previously held at the Home Club or at any other club.

This is of paramount importance;

- time of year and prevailing weather conditions when cards submitted;
- information from peers;
- a handicap held under another handicapping system.