



EGA Handicap System

2007 - 2010

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**EUROPEAN GOLF ASSOCIATION  
ASSOCIATION EUROPEENNE DE GOLF**

**EGA**

Handicap System

**Amended Edition, 1 January 2007**







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# FOREWORD

At the Annual General Meeting of the European Golf Association (EGA) in October 1994 in Luxembourg the members of the EGA decided unanimously that the EGA should have its own Handicapping Committee. At that time the British handicap system of the Council of National Golf Unions was used in nearly every European country. However, most National Associations modified the system to suit their own needs. Furthermore the CONGU Handicap System at that time did not regulate women's handicaps and the development of Course and Slope Rating by the USGA was offering new possibilities to improve the consistency of handicaps by making them portable from one course to another.

In 1995 the Executive Committee established the EGA Handicapping and Course Rating Committee (H&CRC). The main task of this committee was to establish, maintain and regulate an EGA Handicap System to which all EGA members could unite. The first edition was introduced in 2000.

The EGA Handicap System is based on three established cornerstones:

1. The S.S.S. & Handicapping Scheme 1983, amended edition 1997 published by the CONGU.
2. The Course and Slope Rating System of the USGA.
3. Stableford Scores to achieve Stroke Control.

The purpose of the system is to produce fair playing handicaps that are adjusted to the relative difficulty of the course being played and to achieve equity and uniformity of handicapping throughout Europe.

At the Annual Meeting of the EGA in 2003 in Porto, Portugal, the National Associations approved a change of the Constitution in order to recognise that the EGA will have overall jurisdiction for the administration of the EGA Handicap System in Europe.

Today the system has officially been adopted by 20 National Associations and many more associations of emerging golf countries are expected to introduce the system in the years to come.

Naturally the system has evolved since its conception. Many valuable comments were received over the years and extensive evaluations with the National Associations were conducted. Specifically in the last three years the H&CRC considered many different options to round off the system by filling in missing links and modifying clauses that did not prove to be practicable or sustainable.

While the fundamentals of the EGA Handicap System have been retained, important additions were made.

1. Based on trials in Europe, the option to adopt the Competition Stableford Adjustment in the member countries now carries a strong recommendation for adoption.
2. National Associations have the option to allow rounds of 9 holes as Qualifying Rounds for all players in categories 3-5, thus providing extra opportunities for players to return scores even when they are restricted in time.
3. The Annual Review process has been completely redesigned and completed with recommendations for a SW tool to assist Handicap Committees.
4. If the player does not supply sufficient data to the committee his handicap cannot be maintained and should not be acceptable for entry into a competition that requires an EGA Handicap.

The H&CRC believes that this edition presents a comprehensive set of regulations that all National Associations will abide by while offering enough flexibility to cater to specific national needs. We express our thanks to all those who have contributed in many varied ways to this new edition and hope that we may count on continued support to evaluate and improve the systems in the years to come.

The EGA Handicapping and Course Rating Committee

Lout Mangelaar Meertens, Chairman  
Alain Rathery  
Bill Mitchell

Birgitta Ljung  
Jan Kees van Soest  
Julio Mendes

Malcolm Gourd  
Peter Austerberry  
Terje Morstøl



# Principal changes introduced in the 2007 edition of the EGA Handicap System

## PART II: DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 Affiliated Club - Amended to make the EGA Handicap System available for more players controlled by a National Association
- 2.3 Buffer Zone - Amended to include Buffer Zones for 9-holes scores
- 2.4 CSA - Note added to emphasize the importance of introduction of the Competition Stabford Adjustment
- 2.9 EGA Handicap - Amended for clarity, in relation to the registered trademark
- 2.12 EGA Playing Handicap Formula - New definition
- 2.31 "Plus Handicap" - New definition for clarity

## PART III: THE COURSE AND COURSE RATING

- 6. Tees - recommendation to rate different tees for men and women, recommended colours
- 10. Permitted adjustment to a - new, clause 10.1 – 10.5 to maintain the playing length of the measured course and its characteristics

## PART IV: HANDICAPPING

- 15.7 Non Qualifying Round - Amended for clarity
- 16.9 Rights and obligations of the player - The Player **shall** return at least 4 Qualifying Scores
- 17.2 9-holes scores - Regulations for Qualifying Scores over 9 holes
- 18.8 Extra Day Scores - Handicaps can not be reduced to Handicap Category I by returning an Extra Day Score







- 
- 21.3 Attaining an EGA Handicap - 9-holes scores accepted
  - 22. Alteration of handicaps - New clauses 22.4 – 22.7 with regard to maintaining of handicaps
  - 23. Suspension and loss of handicaps - Amended for clarity, handicaps can not lapse
  - 26. Annual Handicap Review - New text, to conform to clause 22.4 – 22.7

**PART V: APPENDICES**

- Appendix L - New Appendix with regard to Annual Handicap Review





# PART 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1. FOUNDATION; PURPOSE OF THE EGA HANDICAP SYSTEM; LIABILITIES OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

### 1.1 Foundation

The basis of the *EGA Handicap System* is the assumption that every player will try to make the best score he can at each hole in every round he plays and that he will return as many *Qualifying Scores* per calendar year as possible.

In order to maintain supervision of golf handicaps in Europe, the system may only be used for members of an *Affiliated Club* (see Definition 2.1), individual members of a *National Association* or individual players registered and controlled by a *National Association*.

### 1.2 Purpose of the EGA Handicap System

The purpose of the *EGA Handicap System* is:

- To enable as many golfers as possible, men and women, to obtain a handicap.
- To achieve equity and uniformity of handicapping throughout Europe.
- To produce fair handicaps that reflect the scoring potential of the players and enable players of differing abilities to compete on an equitable basis.
- To enable golfers with a handicap in *Handicap Categories 2 to 5* to return scores for handicapping not only in *Qualifying Competitions*.
- To disregard high scores on one or more holes that do not truly reflect the player's scoring ability.
- To provide portability of *EGA Exact Handicaps* from course to course, as well as from one set of tees to another set of tees on the same course.
- To provide *EGA Playing Handicaps* that are adjusted in relation to the relative playing difficulty (*Course and Slope Rating*) of the course being played.
- To provide a system that is as simple as possible to administer.

### 1.3 Liabilities and powers of the National Associations

The European Golf Association (*EGA*) has the overall jurisdiction for the administration of the *EGA Handicap System* in Europe. A *National Association* must obtain written authorization from the *EGA* in order to use the *EGA Handicap System* and must ensure the integrity of the *EGA Handicaps* issued under its jurisdiction.

Policies of *National Associations* and *Affiliated Clubs* issuing *EGA Handicaps* must be consistent with the fundamental principles and regulations of the *EGA Handicap System* and the Rules of Golf as approved by the R&A Rules Limited.

**In order to achieve uniformity in the application of the *EGA Handicap System* a *National Association* shall NOT amend the regulations of the system.**

*Exact Handicaps* issued by a *National Association* or an *Affiliated Club* not in full accordance with the *EGA Handicap System*, may not be called *EGA Handicaps* and may not be identified as such on handicap cards.

The *EGA* may withdraw a licence to use the *EGA Handicap System* if, in its opinion, a *National Association* fails to comply with the obligations and regulations of the system.





Only *National Associations* are permitted to translate the *EGA Handicap System* from English into their own language. The translation does not need to be literal and the *National Association* may use the terminology that is commonly used in its own country.

However, the system shall be called “EGA Handicap System” and the handicaps shall be called “EGA Handicaps”.

*National Associations* must send a copy of its translation to the *EGA*.

*National Associations* must also obtain written authorization from the United States Golf Association in order to use the USGA Course Rating System (see clause 3.2).

The term “EGA Handicap System” is a registered Trademark of the *EGA*.

Organizations that are not authorized *National Associations* or *Area Authorities*, clubs that are not *Affiliated Clubs* and individual golfers who are not members of an *Affiliated Club*, or, for handicapping purposes, not registered by a *National Association*, may not use this trademark or any part of the *EGA Handicap System*, except that they may provide products or services to authorized *National Associations*, *Area Authorities* or *Affiliated Clubs* for the limited purpose of applying the *EGA Handicap System*.





# PART 2. DEFINITIONS

## 2. DEFINITIONS

Throughout the *EGA Handicap System* whenever a word or expression is used which is defined within the following definitions, the word or expression is printed in *italics*.

The Definitions are arranged in alphabetical order. For Definitions in relation to the USGA Course and Slope Rating System, see also Appendix A.

### 2.1 AFFILIATED CLUB

An “Affiliated Club” is a golf club affiliated to a *National Association* or *Area Authority* or any other organization affiliated to or recognized by the *National Association* or *Area Authority* as *Handicapping Authority*.

Note: Any organization in a country other than an *Affiliated Club* must first obtain written authorization from the *National Association* or *Area Authority* in order to use the *EGA Handicap System* and to be recognized as *Handicapping Authority*.

### 2.2 AREA AUTHORITY

An “Area Authority” is an authority appointed by a *National Association* to act on behalf of that *National Association* for the purposes of the *EGA Handicap System* within a specified area.

### 2.3 BUFFER ZONE

The “Buffer Zone” is the range of Stableford scores within which the player’s *EGA Exact Handicap* remains unchanged.

A Stableford score is in a player’s *Buffer Zone* when it is within the following bands for his *Handicap Category* :

Handicap Category	Buffer Zones (Stableford Points)	
	18-holes scores	9-holes scores
1	35 – 36	not applicable
2	34 – 36	not applicable
3	33 – 36	35 – 36
4	32 – 36	34 – 36
5	31 – 36	33 – 36

Note: *Buffer Zones* for 9-holes scores are different from *Buffer Zones* for 18-holes scores in order to make them comparable for handicapping purposes.





## 2.4 COMPETITION STABLEFORD ADJUSTMENT (CSA)

The “Competition Stableford Adjustment” is an adjustment factor to be made to a player’s Stableford score following each round of a *Qualifying Competition* pursuant to clause 20.6

Note 1: The CSA is calculated for handicapping purposes by following the procedure set out in Appendix D.

Note 2: The EGA strongly recommends the *National Associations* to adopt the CSA system, effective from 1 January 2007.

## 2.5 COURSE RATING

The “Course Rating” is the 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* (see Part 3, clause 3).

Note: A Course Rating is equal to the average of the better half of a *Scratch Golfer’s* scores under normal conditions.

## 2.6 DISTANCE POINT

A “Distance Point” is the position of a visible permanent marker indicating the point from which the length of a hole is measured.

Note 1: The accurate placement of the permanent marker is imperative in the process of rating golf courses.

Note 2: In order to maximize the use of the entire teeing area, Distance Markers, such as concrete slabs, paving stones or posts, should be installed at the side and opposite the middle of each set of *Tees*. The markers should be inscribed with metres and/or yards to indicate the length of the hole.

## 2.7 EGA

The “EGA” means the European Golf Association.

## 2.8 EGA EXACT HANDICAP (= EXACT HANDICAP)

An “EGA Exact Handicap” is the EGA’s mark that represents the golfing ability of a player on a course of standard relative playing difficulty (*Slope Rating* of 113).

The *EGA Exact Handicap* is calculated in accordance with the regulations of the *EGA Handicap System* and is expressed as a number of strokes taken to one decimal place.

Note 1: The *EGA Exact Handicap* is used for conversion to an *EGA Playing Handicap*.





Note 2: If a player's *Exact Handicap* is 0.0 he is called a *Scratch Golfer*. *Exact Handicaps* below 0.0 are referred to as "Plus" handicaps (see Definition 2.31).

Note 3: An *EGA Exact Handicap* should only be acceptable for entry into *Qualifying Competitions* if it is based on four (4) or more *Qualifying Scores* in a calendar year (see clause 22 and 26).

**2.9 EGA HANDICAP**

An "EGA Handicap" is an *Exact Handicap* issued under the jurisdiction of a *National Association* and attained and adjusted in accordance with the provisions of the *EGA Handicap System*.

**2.10 EGA HANDICAP SYSTEM**

The "EGA Handicap System" is the *EGA's* method of evaluating golf abilities so that players of different standards can compete in handicap events on equal terms.

Any reference to the *EGA Handicap System* includes all of the requirements and procedures as described in this system.

The term "EGA Handicap System" is a registered trademark of the EGA.

**2.11 EGA PLAYING HANDICAP (= PLAYING HANDICAP)**

An "EGA Playing Handicap" is the number of *Handicap Strokes* a player receives for a specific set of *Tees* at the course being played (see clause 19). The *Playing Handicap* is expressed as a whole number (0.5 is rounded upwards, -0.5 ("plus" 0.5) rounds upwards to 0 (scratch) and -1.5 ("plus" 1.5) to -1 ("plus" 1).

Note 1: If a player's *Playing Handicap* is negative (a so-called "Plus" *Playing Handicap*) he gives *Handicap Strokes* to the course, commencing at stroke index 18.

Note 2: The *Playing Handicap* is considered to be the "Handicap" referred to in Rule 6-2 of the Rules of Golf.

**2.12 EGA PLAYING HANDICAP FORMULA**

The "EGA Playing Handicap Formula" converts *EGA Exact Handicaps* into *EGA Playing Handicaps*:

$$\text{Playing Handicap} = \text{Exact Handicap} \times (\text{Slope Rating} / 113) + (\text{Course Rating} - \text{Par})$$

**2.13 EGA PLAYING HANDICAP TABLE (= Playing Handicap Table)**

An "EGA Playing Handicap Table" is a table that converts *Exact Handicaps* to *Playing Handicaps* based on the *Slope Rating*, *Course Rating* and *Par* for a specific set of *Tees*.

**2.14 EXACT HANDICAP (see EGA EXACT HANDICAP)**





**2.15 EXTRA DAY SCORE (EDS)**

An "Extra Day Score" is a Stableford score returned under *Handicap Conditions*, other than in a *Qualifying Competition*, and complying with the requirements of clause 18.

**2.16 HANDICAP ALLOWANCE**

A "Handicap Allowance" is the number of *Handicap Strokes* a player receives in a handicap competition. It is the percentage of the *Playing Handicap* determined by the Committee in charge of the competition.

Note 1: A player with a "Plus" *Playing Handicap* gives *Handicap Strokes* to the course, commencing at stroke index 18.

Note 2: *Handicap Allowances* vary for different forms of competition. (see Appendix F, F-2).

Note 3: The *Handicap Allowance* in a *Qualifying Round* is:  
100 % x *Playing Handicap*

Note 4: The *Handicap Allowance* is considered to be the "number of strokes received" referred to in Rule 6-2 of the Rules of Golf.

**2.17 HANDICAP CATEGORIES**

*EGA Exact Handicaps* are divided into the following five "*Handicap Categories*":

Handicap Category	EGA Exact Handicap
1	- 4.4
2	4.5 - 11.4
3	11.5 - 18.4
4	18.5 - 26.4
5	26.5 - 36.0

**2.18 HANDICAP COMMITTEE**

The "Handicap Committee" is the body appointed by an *Affiliated Club* to administer the *EGA Handicap System* within the club.

**2.19 HANDICAP CONDITIONS**

"Handicap Conditions" are the prerequisite conditions under which *Qualifying Scores* may be returned for handicapping purposes.

*Handicap Conditions* only apply when:

- The round is played over a *Measured Course* with a measured length of not less than 2750 metres over 18 holes, or 1375 metres over 9 holes.
- The course being played has been rated by the *National Association* or *Area Authority* in accordance with the USGA Course Rating System.





- The length of the course played does NOT vary from the length of the *Measured Course* by more than 100 metres over 18 holes, or 50 metres over 9 holes (see clause 10).
- The tee-markers used to designate the Teeing Ground (the Rules of Golf, Definitions) are placed on the *Tees* in accordance with clause 10.4
- The round is played in accordance with the Rules of Golf approved by R&A Rules Limited.
- The form of play is either Stroke play, Par or Stableford, provided that Par and Stableford are played with full *Handicap Allowance* (= 100% x *Playing Handicap*).
- The score is marked by a *Marker* (see Definition 2.25)

**2.20 HANDICAPPING AUTHORITY**

The "Handicapping Authority" for a player who is a member of an *Affiliated Club* is his *Home Club* or his *National Association* if appropriate. For players who are not a member of an *Affiliated Club*, the *National Association* or *Area Authority* may assume the responsibility as *Handicapping Authority* as directed by the *National Association*.

**2.21 HANDICAPPING & COURSE RATING COMMITTEE OF THE EGA**

The "Handicapping and Course Rating Committee of the EGA" is the body appointed by the Executive Committee of the *EGA* to establish, maintain and regulate the *EGA Handicap System* for adoption by the *National Associations*.

**2.22 HANDICAP STROKE**

A "Handicap Stroke" is a stroke which a player is entitled to deduct from his gross score.

Note: A player with a "Plus" *Playing Handicap* adds to his gross score.

**2.23 HANDICAP STROKE INDEX**

A "Handicap Stroke Index" on the score card indicates the order of holes at which *Handicap Strokes* are to be given or received. A *Handicap Stroke Index* shall be published for each course (Rule 33-4 of the Rules of Golf).

Note: A player with a "Plus" *Playing Handicap* gives *Handicap Strokes* to the course commencing at stroke index 18.

**2.24 HOME CLUB**

A player's "Home Club" is an *Affiliated Club* of which the player is a member.

Note 1: If the player is a member of more than one *Affiliated Club* in a country he shall nominate one as his *Home Club*.







Note 2: In exceptional circumstances, if a player resides in two different countries for periods of three or more consecutive months, he may have a *Home Club* in each country (see also Appendix G, Decision 4.3).

### **2.25 MARKER**

A “Marker” is a player (a) who holds or has held an *EGA Handicap* or (b) a player who holds a handicap from a handicapping authority recognized by the *National Association* or (c) any other player approved by the *Handicap Committee*.

### **2.26 MEASURED COURSE**

A “Measured Course” is any rated course with a measured length that has been reviewed by the *National Association* or *Area Authority*, in accordance with the requirements of clause 4. and Appendix A, section 12.

### **2.27 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

A “National Association” is any national golf organization affiliated to the *EGA* and authorized to act on behalf of the *EGA* for the administration of the *EGA Handicap System* within its own country.

### **2.28 PERIOD FOR PREFERRED LIES**

The “Period for Preferred Lies” is the period of time, determined by the *National Association* or *Area Authority*, during which *Handicap Conditions* will apply notwithstanding the application of a Local Rule for “Preferred Lies” as a result of adverse conditions throughout a course.

*National Associations* may determine the *Period for Preferred Lies* in their own country as they deem to be necessary on account of climatic or other conditions.

### **2.29 PLAYING HANDICAP (see EGA PLAYING HANDICAP)**

### **2.30 PLAYING HANDICAP TABLE (see EGA PLAYING HANDICAP TABLE)**

### **2.31 “PLUS HANDICAP”**

A “Plus Handicap” is any *Exact Handicap* or *Playing Handicap* lower than 0.0

Note 1: Mathematically a “Plus Handicap” has a negative value although the word “Plus” suggests the opposite.

Note 2: A player with a “Plus” *Playing Handicap* must add (+) *Handicap Stroke(s)* to his gross score.

### **2.32 QUALIFYING COMPETITION**

A “Qualifying Competition” is any competition in which *Handicap Conditions* prevail.





Note: Where the *National Association* has adopted the system of *Competition Stableford Adjustment*, the *CSA* shall be calculated at the conclusion of each round of *Qualifying Competition* as directed in Appendix D.

**2.33 QUALIFYING ROUND**

A “Qualifying Round” is any round in a *Qualifying Competition* or a round played with the intention to return an *Extra Day Score*.

At the discretion of the *National Association*, rounds over 9 holes may be regarded as *Qualifying Rounds* (see clause 17.2).

**2.34 QUALIFYING SCORE**

A “Qualifying Score” is any score, including a “No Return”, returned in a *Qualifying Competition*, or any *Extra Day Score* complying with the requirements of clause 18.

At the discretion of the *National Association*, scores over 9 holes may be regarded as *Qualifying Scores* (see clause 17.2).

**2.35 SCRATCH GOLFER**

A “Scratch Golfer” is a proficient player with an *EGA Exact Handicap* of 0.0.

**2.36 SLOPE RATING**

“Slope Rating” is defined as the mark that indicates the measurement of the relative playing 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*).

*Slope Rating* is computed from the difference between the Bogey Rating and the *Course Rating* (see Appendix A, section 13-3f).

A golf course of standard relative playing difficulty has a *Slope Rating* of 113.

**2.37 TEE**

A “Tee” is a teeing area at the beginning of a hole. (see clause 6).

Note: For placement of the movable tee-markers used to designate the Teeing Ground (Rules of Golf, Definitions) see clause 10.

**2.38 USGA**

“USGA” is the registered trademark of the United States Golf Association.

**2.39 WINTER PERIOD**

The “Winter Period” is the period of time, determined by the *National Association* or *Area Authority* during which scores made in the country or a specified area covered by the *National Association* or *Area Authority* will not be accepted for handicapping purposes.





# PART 3. THE GOLF COURSE AND COURSE RATING

## 3. COURSE RATING

**3.1** All courses in a country must be rated by the *National Association* or *Area Authority*, if so delegated, according to the USGA Course Rating System (Appendix A).

**3.2** The USGA Course Rating System is the property of the *USGA*. *National Associations* must obtain written authorization from the *USGA* in order to use the system. They shall follow all of the procedures exactly as prescribed the USGA Course Rating Manual. All interpretations are made by the *USGA*. No alterations are allowed.

The text in Appendix A of the *EGA Handicap System* is a modified copy of the text in section 12 through 15 of the "USGA HANDICAP SYSTEM" (Effective January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2007).

**3.3** For handicapping purposes an *Affiliated Club* shall only use *Course Ratings* and *Slope Ratings* issued by the authorized *National Association* or the *Area Authority*, if so delegated.

## 4. COURSE MEASUREMENT

Each hole must be measured along a horizontal plane from the *Distance Point* on each *Tee* to the centre of the green according to the directions in Appendix A, section 12.

## 5. ALTERATIONS TO COURSES

When permanent alterations have been carried out to a course increasing or decreasing the length or potentially affecting the playing difficulty, the *Affiliated Club* shall request a new *Course Rating* and *Slope Rating* from the *National Association* or *Area Authority*, if so delegated.

## 6. TEES

**6.1** All courses should have at least two sets of *Tees*. These *Tees* should generally be referred to as *Ladies' Tees* and *Men's Tees*. There may be additional *Tees* providing increased or reduced playing length.

**6.2** To facilitate the use of the correct *Tees* the *EGA* recommends that tee-markers in use to mark the Teeing Ground should be painted as follows:

Championship Tees	-	Black
Men's Back Tees	-	White
Men's Standard Tees	-	Yellow
Ladies' Back Tees	-	Blue
Ladies' Standard Tees	-	Red
Forward Tees	-	Orange





Note: The EGA recommends to rate the Yellow, Blue, Red and Orange Courses for both men and women.

Example:

Course Rating and Slope Rating				
Tees	Men's CR	Men's SR	Women's CR	Women's SR
Black	74.1	136	-	-
White	73.2	133	-	-
Yellow	71.3	129	77.5	143
Blue	69.5	126	75.4	138
Red	66.6	121	71.8	131
Orange	64.8	101	69.2	112

6.3 All Tees shall be of sufficient size to provide a Teeing Ground which satisfies the Rules of Golf. Each set of Tees shall have a Distance Point placed at the side and opposite the middle of the Tee.

7. PAR

Par is the score that a Scratch Golfer would be expected to make for a given hole. Par means errorless play under normal playing conditions, allowing two strokes on the green.

The Par figure for each hole shall be printed alongside each hole on the score card. Par for each hole shall be fixed by the Affiliated Club in relation to the measured length, the "effective playing length" and the playing difficulty of each hole and shall be within the following ranges given in METRES:

Par	LADIES		MEN	
3	-	200	-	225
4	180	- 390	200	- 450
5	360	- +	400	- +

Example: The length of a hole with a dogleg is 430 metres. Depending upon its "effective playing length", its pivot point and its average playing difficulty the hole may be allotted Par 4 or 5 for men.

The total of the Par figures for each hole will not necessarily coincide with the Course Rating. Par figures are used for Stableford, Par and similar competitions and consequently for handicapping purposes.

Par is not an indicator of the difficulty of a hole or a golf course (See also Appendix J).





## 8. PERIOD FOR PREFERRED LIES

8.1 During the *Period for Preferred Lies* as determined by the *National Association*, *Handicap Conditions* will apply dependent on the adoption and publication of a Local Rule for "Preferred Lies".

8.2 "Preferred Lies" require a detailed Local Rule which allows the players relief as set out in Appendix I, Part B - 3b of the Rules of Golf as follows: "A ball lying on a "closely-mown area" through the green may be lifted without penalty and cleaned. Before lifting the ball, the player must mark its position. Having lifted the ball, he must place it on a spot within [specify area, e.g. **six inches (15 cm)**, one club-length, etc.] of and not nearer the hole than where it originally lay, that is not in a hazard and not on a putting green.

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

**Note: Handicap Conditions will only apply when the specified area in the Local Rule is restricted to "within 15 cm", or such length as the National Association may decide in exceptional circumstances.**

8.3 A Local Rule allowing Preferred Lies may be adopted by the Committee on one or more, or all 18 holes, when conditions on those holes are so adverse that improving the lie of the ball would promote fair play. Indiscriminate and/or standard use of Preferred Lies should be avoided.

Without having posted a detailed Local Rule, it is meaningless for a Committee to post a notice just saying "Preferred Lies Today".

It should be remembered that Preferred Lies do not necessarily protect the course.

## 9. WINTER PERIOD

9.1 A *National Association* or *Area Authority* may adopt a *Winter Period* to be applied within the whole country or only within a specified area or region.

9.2 The *National Association* or *Area Authority* must declare the duration of the *Winter Period*.





- 9.3 An *Affiliated Club* must apply the *Winter Period* established by its *National Association* and shall not independently declare a *Winter Period*.
- 9.4 Scores made at a golf course located within a country, area or region observing a *Winter Period* are not acceptable for handicap purposes.
- 9.5 *Qualifying Scores* made at a golf course located in a country, area or region not applying a *Winter Period* must be posted at the player's *Home Club* for handicap purposes, even if the player's *Home Club* is located in a country, area or region observing a *Winter Period* at that time.

**10. PERMITTED ADJUSTMENT TO A MEASURED COURSE**

- 10.1 Each *Affiliated Club* must endeavour to maintain the length of its *Measured Course* at all times.
- 10.2 *Handicap Conditions* will only prevail if a *Measured Course* has a measured length of not less than 2750 metres over 18 holes, or 1375 metres over 9 holes.
- 10.3 *Handicap Conditions* do **NOT** prevail when the length of the course played varies from the measured length of the *Measured Course* by more than 100 metres over 18 holes, or 50 metres over 9 holes.
- 10.4 In order to maintain the playing characteristics of the course and subject to the provisions of clause 10.3, the movable tee-markers used to designate the Teeing Ground (see the Rules of Golf, Definitions) shall not be placed more than 10 metres in front or 10 metres behind the relevant *Distance Point*.

Note: *Handicap Conditions* do **NOT** prevail when the tee-markers, under normal circumstances, are placed outside the above area on more than two holes.

- 10.5 Whenever possible, placement of the tee-markers should be balanced so that the length of the course played is approximately equal to the measured length from day to day (see Appendix A, 15-2).





## PART 4. HANDICAPPING

### 11. EUROPEAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

- 11.1** One of the prime objects of the European Golf Association (*EGA*) is: “To establish, develop and maintain the *EGA Handicap System*”. The Executive Committee of the *EGA* has delegated that task to the *Handicapping & Course Rating Committee* of the *EGA*.
- 11.2** The *EGA Handicap System* has been designed to achieve uniformity and equity in handicapping throughout Europe for men and women. The nature of the game of golf, with its many varying playing conditions, makes handicapping a relatively inexact operation. However, if the same principles are sensibly and universally applied by all *Handicap Committees*, a high degree of uniformity in handicapping can be achieved. It is therefore of paramount importance that all parties to the *EGA Handicap System* fulfil their obligations.
- 11.3** The *EGA* has the overall jurisdiction for the administration of the *EGA Handicap System* in Europe.
- 11.4** The *EGA* has delegated the jurisdiction for the administration of the *EGA Handicap System* in a country to the *National Association*.
- 11.5** Policies of *National Associations* and *Affiliated Clubs* issuing *EGA Handicaps* shall be consistent with the fundamental principles and regulations of the *EGA Handicap System* as outlined below and with the Rules of Golf as approved by R&A Rules Limited.
- 11.6** *Exact Handicaps* issued by a *National Association* or an *Affiliated Club* not in full accordance with the *EGA Handicap System*, may not be called *EGA Handicaps* and may not be identified as such on Handicap Certificates.
- 11.7** The *Handicapping & Course Rating Committee* of the *EGA* has the right to obtain any information related to handicapping from a *National Association* at any time.
- 11.8** Any dispute, doubtful point or complaint regarding the application of the *EGA Handicap System* in a country, which cannot be resolved by the *National Association*, shall be made to the *Handicapping & Course Rating Committee* of the *EGA*, which may, at its discretion, carry out such investigation as it considers appropriate.  
The *Handicapping & Course Rating Committee* of the *EGA* shall settle any case referred to it. Its decision is final.





## 12. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

### *A National Association:*

- 12.1 Has the jurisdiction for the administration of *the EGA Handicap System* within its own country, subject to the overall jurisdiction of the *EGA*.
- 12.2 Shall appoint a sub-committee, the National Handicap Committee, to administer the *EGA Handicap System* within its own country.

Note: The National Handicap Committee should consist of at least three members.

- 12.3 May delegate any part of its jurisdiction to an *Area Authority*.
- 12.4 Shall determine the *Course* and *Slope Ratings* for all the courses of *Affiliated Clubs* and all other courses approved by the *National Association* for handicapping purposes. The *Course* and *Slope Ratings* shall be determined according to the USGA Course Rating System (see clause 3).

- 12.5 Shall obtain written authorization from the *EGA* in order to use the *EGA Handicap System*.

- 12.6 Shall ensure the integrity of the *EGA Handicaps* issued under its jurisdiction. In order to achieve uniformity in the application of the *EGA Handicap System* a *National Association* shall NOT change or deviate from the regulations of the system.

- 12.7 May assume the responsibility as *Handicapping Authority* as it shall direct.

Note: If a *National Association* assumes the responsibility as *Handicapping Authority* it must also perform the obligations set out in clause 14 and 15, if applicable.

- 12.8 Has the right to obtain any information related to handicapping from *Area Authorities* and *Affiliated Clubs* at any time.

- 12.9 Must settle any dispute or doubtful point referred to it. Its decision is final. If the *National Association* cannot come to a decision, it must refer the dispute or doubtful point to the *Handicapping & Course Rating Committee* of the *EGA*, whose decision shall be final.

- 12.10 May determine that adjustments of a player's *Exact Handicap* shall be the responsibility of the player (see clauses 16.5, 16.7 and 22.13).

- 12.11 Should adopt *Extra Day Scores* as supplementary scores for handicapping purposes and shall establish the conditions to be imposed in respect of *Extra Day Scores* as provided by clause 18.







Note: The EGA strongly recommends the adoption of the *Extra Day Scores* by the *National Associations*.

- 12.12** Should adopt the *Competition Stableford Adjustment* procedure contained in Appendix D.

Note: The EGA strongly recommends the adoption of the CSA system by the *National Associations*.

- 12.13** Shall establish the procedure to record *Qualifying Scores*.
- 12.14** Shall determine the *Period for Preferred Lies*.
- 12.15** Shall determine the duration of the *Winter Period*, if applicable (see clause 9).
- 12.16** May require a successful examination on the Rules of Golf (including Etiquette) before allotting a player an *EGA Exact Handicap*.
- 12.17** Shall establish a procedure to adjudicate upon the suspension of *EGA Handicaps* pursuant to clause 23.
- 12.18** Shall direct the appeal procedure to be made available to a player, who is dissatisfied with a determination under clauses 23, 25 and 26.
- 12.19** Should at its discretion direct that *EGA Handicaps* maintained on the basis of only three (3) or less *Qualifying Scores* in a calendar year, shall not be acceptable for entry into *Qualifying Competitions* which require an *EGA Handicap*.
- 12.20** May at its discretion restrict increases of *EGA Exact Handicaps* under clause 22 to 2.0 strokes above the lowest *EGA Exact Handicap* held in a calendar year. This restriction shall not apply to an increase under clauses 25 and 26.
- 12.21** Should audit the *Exact Handicap* of all players with an *Exact Handicap* of Plus 1 and better in order to control a fair entry into National and International Championships which require a maximum *Exact Handicap*.

### **13. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE AREA AUTHORITY**

**An Area Authority:**

- 13.1** Shall administer the responsibilities delegated by its *National Association*.
- 13.2** Has the right to obtain information related to handicapping from *Affiliated Clubs* at any time.
- 13.3** Shall appoint a committee to perform the duties as prescribed and delegated.





13.4 May assume the responsibility as *Handicapping Authority* as the *National Association* shall direct.

**14. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE AFFILIATED CLUB**

**An *Affiliated Club*:**

14.1 Is the *Handicapping Authority* for all members for whom it is the *Home Club*, subject to the overall jurisdiction of the *Area Authority* (if applicable) and the *National Association*.

Exception: A *National Association* may assume the responsibility as *Handicapping Authority* for the members of all *Affiliated Clubs* in a country, as it shall direct.

14.2 Shall ensure that the *EGA Handicap System* is properly applied at the club. Failure to comply with this requirement would justify the *National Association* withdrawing the club's right to act as a *Handicapping Authority* or imposing such conditions as the *National Association* may consider appropriate.

14.3 Shall appoint a *Handicap Committee* to perform the obligations set out in clauses 15, 23, 25 and 26, and to ensure the integrity of the *EGA Handicaps* issued by the club.

14.4 Is responsible to ensure that *EGA Handicaps* are maintained in accordance with the rules laid down in the *EGA Handicap System*. Any complaint regarding the application of the system, which cannot be resolved at the club, shall be made to the *National Association*, or the *Area Authority* if so delegated, which, at its discretion, may carry out such investigation as it considers appropriate.

If, following such an investigation, it is found that the *Affiliated Club* is in breach of its responsibilities, the *Affiliated Club* shall be directed by the *National Association* or *Area Authority* to rectify matters. Failure to resolve the matter satisfactorily may justify the *National Association* declaring that handicaps at that *Affiliated Club* are not valid *EGA Handicaps*.

14.5 Shall retain the handicap records of all members for at least the current and the previous calendar year.

**15. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE HANDICAP COMMITTEE**

**The *Handicap Committee*:**

15.1 Shall maintain lists in which the names of players must be entered prior to any *Qualifying Round* and the Committee shall ensure that all scores are returned to the Committee including incomplete scores (No Returns).





- 15.2 Shall, at the conclusion of each round of a *Qualifying Competition* calculate the *CSA*, if applicable (see Appendix D).
- 15.3 Shall ensure that the *Exact Handicap* of each member is recorded as required by the *National Association* and made available at all times.
- 15.4 Shall ensure that all *Qualifying Scores* are recorded as soon as possible and that all *Exact Handicaps* have been correctly calculated in relation to scores recorded in chronological order.
- 15.5 Shall, when a member changes his *Home Club*, inform the new *Home Club* of his current *Exact Handicap* and provide the *Handicap Committee* of that club with a copy of the player's handicap record for the current and previous year.
- 15.6 Shall exercise the power to suspend handicaps contained in clause 23 and the power to adjust handicaps contained in clause 25 and shall advise players accordingly.

Note: When exercising its powers the Committee shall ensure compliance with any relevant legal requirements.

- 15.7 Has the right, on the day of a *Qualifying Competition* and before the commencement of play, to declare a round of that competition as a non-qualifying round because of exceptionally bad weather and/or course conditions (see also clause 17.3 vii).

Note: The Committee should never deprive a competition of its status as *Qualifying Competition* solely to circumvent the regulations of the *EGA Handicap System* and prevent counting for handicapping purposes. Such action is contrary to the Spirit of the *EGA Handicap System*. The Committee should give the players the opportunity to return as many *Qualifying Scores* as possible.

- 15.8 Shall, after the end of the year (season), undertake an Annual Handicap Review of the *Exact Handicaps* of all members (see clause 26).

## 16. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE PLAYER

### The player:

- 16.1 Shall have one *Exact Handicap* which shall be allotted and recorded by his *Handicapping Authority*. That handicap applies everywhere including other *Affiliated Clubs* of which the player is a member.
- 16.2 If he is a member of more than one *Affiliated Club*, shall select one *Affiliated Club* as his *Home Club* and notify that club and the others of his choice.





- 16.3 Shall not change his *Home Club* except by giving advance notice of the change which can take effect only at the end of a calendar year unless he has ceased to be a member of his *Home Club* or both *Affiliated Clubs* agree to the change taking place at an earlier date.
- 16.4 Shall ensure that before playing a *Qualifying Round* his entry is registered as required.
- 16.5 Where the provisions of clause 12.10 apply, shall increase or reduce his *Exact Handicap* immediately after a *Qualifying Round*.
- 16.6 Shall ensure that all *Qualifying Scores*, whether or not complete, are returned to his *Handicapping Authority*. If played at an *Affiliated Club* other than his *Home Club*, the player is obliged to report all these scores to his *Home Club*.
- 16.7 Shall, prior to playing in any competition at any *Affiliated Club*, ensure that appropriate alterations of his *Exact Handicap* have been made.
- 16.8 Shall enter his current *Playing Handicap* on all cards returned after a *Qualifying Round* (Rules of Golf, Rule 6-2b). The player should also, for handicapping purposes, enter his current *Exact Handicap* on the cards, even though the round may be a scratch competition.
- 16.9 The player shall return at least four (4) *Qualifying Scores* each calendar year to provide his *Handicapping Authority* sufficient information about his playing ability to confirm or adjust his *EGA Exact Handicap* at the Annual Handicap Review.

Note 1: If a player fails to report at least four (4) *Qualifying Scores*, including No Returns, his *EGA Handicap* is statistically not reliable, may not reflect his scoring potential and should normally not be acceptable for entry into *Qualifying Competitions* which require an *EGA Handicap*, but may be used for social golf and the like. (see clause 22.4 – 22.7).

## 17. QUALIFYING SCORE

### 17.1 18-Holes Scores.

The scores to be recorded on a player's Handicap Record are:

- i. *Qualifying Scores* as defined, after conversion to Stableford points.
- ii. Converted *Qualifying Scores* within the relevant *Buffer Zone* or better from any round abandoned by the Committee or determined "Reduction Only" (see 17.3 viii).
- iii. Corrected Stableford scores from *Qualifying Rounds* which are disqualified for reasons as detailed in Appendix G, Decision 2.3.





- iv. *Qualifying Scores* played over 18 holes on a *Measured Course* altered in length by not more than 100 metres.
- v. *Qualifying Scores* played over a *Measured Course* when a Local Rule for Preferred Lies is in operation as permitted by clause 8.

**17.2 9-Holes Scores.**

At the discretion of the *National Association*, rounds over 9 holes may be regarded as *Qualifying Rounds* and, consequently, the scores may be recorded as *Qualifying Scores*.

To be acceptable for handicap purposes, *Qualifying Scores* over 9 holes shall meet the following conditions:

- i. With the exception of 17.1 iv, the regulations of clause 17.1 also apply to *Qualifying Scores* over 9 holes.
- ii. The 9-holes course shall have a *Course Rating* and *Slope Rating* issued by the *National Association*.

Note: The *Course Rating* and the *Slope Rating* for the front and back 9 holes of an 18-holes course should be calculated as soon as practicable and can easily be derived from the *Course Rating* and the *Slope Rating* of the 18-holes course.

- iii. The number of *Handicap Strokes* a player receives is:

$$\{Ex.Hcp \times 9\text{-holes SR} / 113 + (9\text{-holes CR} - 9\text{-holes PAR} \times 2)\} / 2$$

Example: The *Exact Handicap* of a player is 11.8. He plays the front 9-holes of a course from the Men's Back Tees.

<b>Men's Back Tees</b>			
	18 holes	Front 9-holes	Back 9-holes
Course Rating	72.4	71.6	73.1
Slope Rating	128	122	131
Par	72	35	37
Handicap Strokes	14	7	6

The number of *Handicap Strokes* he receives is:

$$Handicap\ Strokes = \{11.8 \times 122 / 113 + (71.6 - 2 \times 35)\} / 2 =$$

$$= \{12.7 + 1.6\} / 2 = 14.3 / 2 = 7.1 - \text{rounded downwards} = 7 \text{ strokes}$$





Strokes to be taken according to the relevant *Handicap Stroke Index*. In this example the odd numbered strokes are allocated to the back 9-holes and the even numbered strokes to the front 9-holes.

When playing the front 9-holes, the player receives seven strokes at the holes with Stroke Index 2, 4, 6, 8,10, 12 and 14.

When playing the back 9-holes, the player receives six strokes at the holes with Stroke Index 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11.

- iv. *Handicap Conditions* will apply provided the length of the 9-holes *Measured Course* is not less than 1375 metres and the course is not temporarily altered by more than 50 metres (see Definition 2.19 and clause 10).
- v. Only players with an *Exact Handicap* in *Handicap Categories* 3 to 5 may return scores over 9 holes for handicapping. However, the *National Association* may restrict the *Handicap Categories* to 4 and 5 or to 5 only.
- vi. A *National Association* may limit the number of 9-holes *Qualifying Scores* in any calendar year.
- vii. A player may return a 9-holes *Qualifying Score* after playing a round of only 9 holes. The score shall NOT be part of an 18-holes score.
- viii. A player may return only one 9-holes *Qualifying Score* per day.
- ix. The player must add 18 Stableford points to the result over 9 holes to obtain a *Qualifying Score* which can be recorded on his handicap record.  
In order to identify 9-holes *Qualifying Scores*, they must be separately recorded on the player's Handicap Record (see Appendix B).
- x. The following *Buffer Zones* apply to *Qualifying Scores* over 9 holes:

Handicap Category	Buffer Zone (Stableford points)
3	35 - 36
4	34 - 36
5	33 - 36

**17.3 The following scores shall NOT be accepted as *Qualifying Scores*:**

- i. Scores returned in any four-ball stroke play competition.
- ii. Scores returned in any competition in which competitors play in partnership with another competitor.





- iii. Scores returned in competitions over less than 18 holes by players with an *Exact Handicap* in *Handicap Category* 1 and 2, and at the discretion of the *National Association* in *Handicap Category* 3, 4 and/or 5 (see clause 17.2 v ).
- iv. Scores returned in any competition which is not played under *Handicap Conditions* or not in accordance with the Rules of Golf (e.g. a competition which limits the number of clubs permitted to less than 14).
- v. Scores returned in events organized by organisations which are not *Handicapping Authorities*, unless such events are administered by or under supervision of an *Affiliated Club* or have been previously approved by the *National Association* or *Area Authority* as a *Qualifying Competition*.
- vi. Converted *Qualifying Scores* below the relevant *Buffer Zone* from any round abandoned by the Committee.
- vii. All scores returned in a round of a competition which, before the start of the round, was declared “Non-Qualifying” (see clause 15.7).
- viii. Converted *Qualifying Scores* below the relevant *Buffer Zone* from any round declared by the Committee as “Reduction Only” (R/O).

In countries where the *National Association* has **NOT** adopted the *CSA* procedure, the committee **MUST** declare a round “Reduction Only” when, for whatever reason, **less** than ten (10) percent of the scores of the competitors is within the relevant *Buffer Zone* or better.

In countries where the *National Association* has adopted the *CSA* procedure the competition is deemed to be “Reduction Only” when the scores indicate that the *CSA* should be more than three strokes.

**Note: The EGA strongly recommends to introduce the CSA procedure as an additional way of adjusting the Stableford scores of the players to meet the variability of weather and course conditions on the day of the competition.**





**18. EXTRA DAY SCORES (EDS)**

- 18.1 A *National Association* may adopt and establish the conditions to be imposed in respect of *Extra Day Scores* (clause 12.11).
- 18.2 An *Extra Day Score* is a Stableford score returned under *Handicap Conditions* other than in a *Qualifying Competition*. An *Extra Day Score*, subject to the provisions of clauses 18.3, 18.4 and 18.5, counts for handicapping purposes.
- 18.3 Players may mark *Extra Day Scores* only at such courses as the *National Association* shall direct.
- 18.4 Only players with an *Exact Handicap* in *Handicap Categories 2* to *5* may return *Extra Day Scores* for handicapping.
- 18.5 An *Extra Day Score* only counts for handicapping when the player, before starting the round, has registered his name on the *EDS* Entry List. His entry shall include the number of holes to be played (9 or 18 Holes) and such other details as shall be required by his *National Association*. (E.g. date, name of *Marker*; *Exact* and *Playing Handicap*, etc.)
- 18.6 The player shall record the same details as mentioned in clause 18.5 on his scorecard and he shall return the scorecard signed by the *Marker* and countersigned by himself.
- 18.7 If the player, after registration on the *EDS* Entry List, does not return his scorecard, a No Return will be registered for handicapping purposes.
- 18.8 A player's *Exact Handicap* can not be reduced to a handicap in *Handicap Category 1* by returning an *Extra Day Score*.  
  
Example: A player with an *Exact Handicap* of 4.7 returns a *Extra Day Score* of 41 Stableford points. His *Exact Handicap* will only be reduced by 0.2 points to 4.5 and not by 0.7 points.
- 18.9 A *National Association* may limit the number of *Extra Day Scores* in any calendar year.
- 18.10 The *EGA* strongly recommends the *National Associations* to adopt *Extra Day Scores* over 9 or 18 holes as supplementary scores for handicapping purposes.

**19. PLAYING HANDICAP; EGA PLAYING HANDICAP**

- 19.1 The *Playing Handicap* is the number of *Handicap Strokes* a player receives for a specific set of *Tees* at the course being played (Definition 2.11)
- 19.2 If the *Playing Handicap* is negative (termed a "Plus" *Playing Handicap*), the player must give *Handicap Strokes* to the course, commencing at Stroke Index 18.







- 19.3 A player's *Playing Handicap* is determined by applying his *Exact Handicap* to the *EGA Playing Handicap Formula*:

$$\text{Playing Handicap} = \text{Exact Handicap} \times (\text{Slope Rating} / 113) + (\text{Course Rating} - \text{Par})$$

The *Playing Handicap* is expressed as a whole number (0.5 is rounded upwards, -0.5 [= "plus" 0.5] rounds upwards to 0 [scratch] and -1.5 [= "plus" 1.5] to -1 [= "plus" 1]).

- 19.4 A player's *Playing Handicap* may also be determined by applying his *Exact Handicap* to an *EGA Playing Handicap Table* (see Appendix H).
- 19.5 The *Handicap Allowance* is the number of *Handicap Strokes* a player receives (or gives) in a handicap competition. It is the percentage of the *Playing Handicap* determined by the Committee in charge of the competition
- 19.6 *Handicap Strokes* are allocated hole-by-hole according to the *Handicap Stroke Index* indicated on the scorecard.
- 19.7 *Exact Handicaps* may convert to a *Playing Handicap* exceeding the maximum *Exact Handicap*.
- 19.8 According to the *EGA Handicap System* a player plays exactly to his handicap when he returns a score of 36 Stableford points.

## 20. STABLEFORD

- 20.1 For handicapping all *Qualifying Scores* must be converted to Stableford points based on a *Handicap Allowance* of 100 % x *Playing Handicap*.
- 20.2 The purpose of applying the Stableford point calculation for handicapping is to reduce the impact of a particularly bad score on a hole which does not truly reflect a golfer's playing ability
- 20.3 For handicapping the Stableford points are awarded in relation to the Par at each hole as follows:

<b>Net score on a hole</b>	<b>Points</b>
More than one over Par or no score returned	0
One over Par	1
Par	2
One under Par	3
Two under Par	4
Three under Par	5
Four under Par	6

- 20.4 For handicapping, players may be requested to calculate their own Stableford points for all their *Qualifying Scores* (Stroke play, Par and Stableford).





**20.5** Any score in a Par *Qualifying Competition* MUST be converted into a Stableford score by adding 36 points to the player's final result.

Example:

- 2 down : - 2 + 36 = 34 Stableford points
- 5 up : + 5 + 36 = 41 Stableford points
- All square : 0 + 36 = 36 Stableford points

**20.6** In countries where the system of *Competition Stableford Adjustment* applies, the *CSA* shall be calculated at the conclusion of each round of a *Qualifying Competition* by following the procedure set out in Appendix D (see clause 15.2).

## 21. ATTAINING AN EGA EXACT HANDICAP

**21.1** An *EGA Handicap* may only be obtained by a member of an *Affiliated Club*, an individual member of a *National Association* or an individual player whose handicap is registered and controlled by a *National Association*.

**21.2** The maximum *Exact Handicap* is 36.0 for men and women.  
An *Exact Handicap* may convert into a *Playing Handicap* exceeding this number.

Note: For "Club Handicaps" of 37 and higher, see Appendix I.

**21.3** To attain an *EGA Exact Handicap* a player shall submit such number of Stableford scores over 18 holes or 9 holes (see clause 17.2) as the *National Association* requires, but not less than three.

A member of an *Affiliated Club* must play the rounds under *Handicap Conditions* at his *Home Club* or any other course recognized and approved by his *Handicapping Authority*.

A player who is not a member of an *Affiliated Club* must play the rounds under *Handicap Conditions* on a course of an *Affiliated Club* or any other course recognized and approved by the *National Association* subject to any directions made by the *National Association*.

Each score shall be signed by the *Marker* and countersigned by the player.  
At least one of the scores must equal an *Exact Handicap* of 36.0 or better (36 or more Stableford points). The best of the submitted Stableford scores counts for calculating the initial *Exact Handicap*.

The number of *Handicap Strokes* the player receives during these rounds is:

$$36 \times (\text{Slope Rating} / 113) + (\text{Course Rating} - \text{Par})$$

Example:

The maximum *Exact Handicap* is 36.

The *Slope Rating* of the course being played is 125, the *Course Rating* is 71.3 and the Par is 72. The player receives :

$$36 \times (125 \div 113) + (71.3 - 72) = 39.8 - 0.7 = 39.1 \Rightarrow 39 \text{ Handicap Strokes}$$





This number can also be determined by applying an *Exact Handicap* of 36.0 to the *Playing Handicap Table* of the course being played.

- 21.4** The initial *Exact Handicap* must be calculated on the basis of the best Stableford score returned:

$$\text{Initial Exact Handicap} = 36 - (\text{best Stableford score} - 36) \times 113 / \text{Slope Rating}$$

- 21.5** The *Handicap Committee* may allot a player a lower initial *Exact Handicap* if it has reason to consider that a lower *Exact Handicap* is more appropriate to the player's ability.

In exceptional circumstances a higher *Exact Handicap* may be allotted than that indicated by the best score.

- 21.6** When a player fails to return a score justifying an *Exact Handicap* of 36.0, he shall NOT be given an *Exact Handicap* of 36.0.

- 21.7** The *National Association* may, at its discretion, require that a player may only be allotted an *EGA Handicap* on condition that he has successfully passed an examination on the Rules of Golf and the Etiquette.

- 21.8** A player without a handicap shall not be allotted an *Exact Handicap* in *Handicap Category 1* without the written authority of the *National Association*, or *Area Authority* if so delegated.

## 22. ALTERATION OF HANDICAPS

- 22.1** Definition 2.17 divides *Exact Handicaps* into five *Handicap Categories*.

- 22.2** All *Qualifying Scores* shall be entered on the Handicap Record as Stableford points. The *Handicap Committee* shall record the player's *Qualifying Scores* in chronological order.

- 22.3** A player's Handicap Record shall contain:
- i. the date of event
  - ii. the date of entry
  - iii. the Stableford score (9-holes scores and 18-holes scores shall be recorded separately)
  - iv. the Competition Stableford Adjustment (if applicable)
  - v. the adjusted Stableford score (if applicable)
  - vi. the revised *Exact Handicap*
  - vii. such other information as may be required by the relevant *National Association* (see Appendix B).

- 22.4** A player shall return at least four (4) *Qualifying Scores* each calendar year to provide his *Handicapping Authority* with the necessary information about his playing ability in order to properly maintain his *Exact Handicap* in accordance with the provisions of clause 22.8 – 22.15 and to be able to adjust and confirm his *Exact Handicap* at the Annual Handicap Review.





**22.5** Only the following *Exact Handicaps* shall be maintained in accordance with the provisions of clause 22.8 – 22.15 :

- i. *Exact Handicaps* adjusted and/or confirmed at the Annual Handicap Review on the basis of four (4) or more *Qualifying Scores* in the past year.
- ii. *Exact Handicaps* maintained on the basis of four (4) or more *Qualifying Scores* in the present year.
- iii. *Exact Handicaps* attained in the past or the present year in accordance with clause 21.
- iv. *Exact Handicaps* that have again been reactivated for competition golf after the player has complied with the requirements of clause 22.7.

Such *Exact Handicap* shall be clearly marked with an asterisk \* on the player's Handicap Record and Handicap Certificate to indicate that his *Exact Handicap* is correctly maintained on the basis of sufficient current data and acceptable for entry into any *Qualifying Competition* which requires an *EGA Handicap*. (see Appendix G, Decision 5.1).

**22.6** An *Exact Handicap* based on only three (3) or less *Qualifying Scores* in the past calendar year is based on insufficient current data and cannot reliably be verified. In the absence of adequate and necessary information for adjustment and revision, that handicap may not truly reflect the scoring potential of the player. As such *Exact Handicap* is insufficiently active, it shall remain unchanged at the Annual Handicap Review. In the following year the *Exact Handicap* shall NOT be adjusted anymore in accordance with the provisions of clause 22.8 – 22.15.

An "inactive" *Exact Handicap* - at the discretion of his *Home Club*, any other *Affiliated Club* or his *National Association* - should NOT be acceptable for entry into any *Qualifying Competition* which requires an *EGA Handicap*, but may be used for social golf (competitions) and the like (see Appendix G, Decision 5.1).

**22.7** An *Exact Handicap* which is not active anymore will again be activated for competition golf and maintained in accordance with the provisions of clause 22.8 – 22.15, as soon as the player has returned three (3) scores under *Handicap Conditions* in the following year. His new *Exact Handicap* will be calculated on the basis of his last *Exact Handicap* and the three returned scores.

Note 1: The *Handicap Committee* shall review the player's newly calculated *Exact Handicap* in accordance with the requirements of clause 25.

Note 2: If a *Handicap Committee* permits a player to compete in *Qualifying Competitions* at his *Home Club* in order to return scores to reactivate his *Exact Handicap*, he should normally not be able to win a prize.

**22.8** If a player returns a *Qualifying Score* within his relevant *Buffer Zone* his *Exact Handicap* remains unchanged.





- 22.9 If a player returns a *Qualifying Score* with less Stableford points than his *Buffer Zone* or records a No Return, his *Exact Handicap* is increased by 0.1 for *Handicap Category* 1 to 4, and by 0.2 for *Handicap Category* 5.
- 22.10 If a player returns a *Qualifying Score* of 37 Stableford points or more, his *Exact Handicap* is reduced by an amount per Stableford point in excess of 36, the amount per point being determined by his *Handicap Category*.
- 22.11 *Exact Handicaps* shall be adjusted as follows, with reference to the handicap adjustment table, Appendix C:

Handicap Category	EGA Exact Handicap	Buffer Zone		Stableford-points below the Buffer-zone : Add only	Subtract for each point above 36 Stableford-points:
		18-holes scores	9-holes scores		
1	- 4.4	35 – 36	-	0.1	0.1
2	4.5 - 11.4	34 – 36	-	0.1	0.2
3	11.5 - 18.4	33 – 36	35 – 36	0.1	0.3
4	18.5 - 26.4	32 – 36	34 – 36	0.1	0.4
5	26.5 - 36.0	31 – 36	33 – 36	0.2	0.5

For example:  
 If a player on 11.2 returns a Stableford score of 32 points, his *Exact Handicap* becomes 11.3. If he then returns a Stableford score of 42 points, his *Exact Handicap* is immediately reduced by 6 times 0.2 = 1.2, i.e. to an *Exact Handicap* of 10.1.

- 22.12 When a player's *Exact Handicap* is to be reduced so that it goes from a higher *Handicap Category* to a lower *Handicap Category*, it shall be reduced at the rate appropriate to the higher category only so far as brings his *Exact Handicap* into the lower category and the balance of the reduction shall be at the rate appropriate to the lower category.

For example:  
 If a player on 19.1 returns a Stableford-score of 42 points, his *EGA Exact Handicap* is reduced as follows:  
 $19.1 - (2 \times 0.4) = 19.1 - 0.8 = 18.3$   
 $18.3 - (4 \times 0.3) = 18.3 - 1.2 = 17.1$

- 22.13 Subject to any determination made pursuant to clause 12.10, increases and reductions of a player's *Exact Handicap* shall be made and registered by the *Handicapping Authority* on the day the *Qualifying Score* becomes known to the *Handicapping Authority*.





Note: A *National Association* may determine that adjustments of a player's *Exact Handicap* shall be the responsibility of the player (see clause 12.10) and that increases and reductions of his *Exact Handicap* shall be made immediately after the *Qualifying Round by the player* and shall be registered on the day the score becomes known to the *Handicapping Authority*.

**22.14** A player's *Exact Handicap* can not be reduced to a handicap in *Handicap Category 1*, by returning *Extra Day Scores*.

Example:

If a player on 4.6 returns a *Extra Day Score* of 40 Stableford points, his *Exact Handicap* will only be reduced to 4.5

**22.15** Except for increases granted under clauses 25 and 26, a *National Association* may at its discretion limit the increases of *EGA Exact Handicaps* to 2.0 strokes above the minimum *EGA Exact Handicap* held in a calendar year.

### 23. SUSPENSION AND LOSS OF HANDICAPS

**23.1** The *Handicap Committee* of his *Handicapping Authority* may suspend the *EGA Handicap* of a player if, in its opinion, he has consistently, blatantly or purposely failed to comply with his obligations imposed by the *EGA Handicap System*.

**23.2** If, after due investigation, it is established to the satisfaction of the player's *Handicapping Authority* that a player has failed to report (away) *Qualifying Scores*, the *EGA Handicap* of the player may be suspended for such a period as the *Handicapping Authority* shall consider appropriate to obtain the necessary information to reinstate and adjust the player's handicap.

**23.3** The player must be notified of the period of suspension and of any other conditions imposed. No player's handicap shall be suspended without first affording the player the opportunity of appearing before the *Handicap Committee* of his *Handicapping Authority*.

**23.4** Subject to any directions to the contrary issued by the *National Association*, disciplinary proceedings in respect of an alleged offence committed at a player's *Home Club* shall be initiated and determined by his *Home Club*. In all other cases the player's *Handicapping Authority* shall hear and determine the issue.

**23.5** If a player is a member of more than one *Affiliated Club*, a club which is not his *Home Club* may not suspend his *EGA Handicap*.

**23.6** If a player is suspended from membership of his *Home Club*, his *Exact Handicap* shall be suspended automatically until the membership is reinstated.

**23.7** Whilst his handicap is suspended a player shall not be eligible to compete in or enter any golf event which requires an *EGA Handicap*.





**23.8** The suspension of a player's handicap shall apply at all *Affiliated Clubs* of which the player is or becomes a member during the period of suspension.

**23.9** *National Associations* shall direct the appeal procedure to be made available to a player, who is dissatisfied with a determination under the foregoing sub clauses.

Note: When exercising its powers described in clause 23.1 – 23.7 the Committee shall ensure compliance with any relevant legal requirements.

**23.10** Except when a player changes *Handicapping Authorities*, a player's *EGA Exact Handicap* is lost immediately the player ceases to be a member of any *Affiliated Club* or *National Association*.

## 24. RESTORATION OF HANDICAPS

**24.1** A player whose *Exact Handicap* has been suspended under the provisions of Clause 23.1 and 23.2 can regain his *Exact Handicap* in such manner as the *Handicap Committee* of his *Handicapping Authority* shall decide subject to the provisions of Clause 24.3.

**24.2** If the *Exact Handicap* of a player is to be reinstated within 12 months of the date on which the handicap was suspended or lost in accordance with clause 23.6 or 23.10, it shall be reinstated at the same handicap the player last held. In all other cases the player shall be allotted a new *Exact Handicap* after he has complied with the requirements of clause 21.

**24.3** When allotting a new handicap to a player the *Handicap Committee* shall give due consideration to the handicap last held. A Category 1 handicap shall not be allotted without the written approval of the *National Association* or the *Area Authority*, if so delegated.

## 25. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE HANDICAP COMMITTEE RELATING TO GENERAL PLAY

**25.1** Whenever the *Handicap Committee* of a player's *Handicapping Authority* considers that a player's *Exact Handicap* is too high and does not reflect his current playing ability the *Handicap Committee* shall, subject to the provisions of clause 25.3, reduce the *Exact Handicap* by not less than one whole stroke to the figure it considers appropriate.

**25.2** Whenever the *Handicap Committee* of a player's *Handicapping Authority* considers that a player's *EGA Exact Handicap* is too low and does not reflect his current playing ability the *Handicap Committee* shall increase the *Exact Handicap* by not less than one whole stroke to the figure it considers appropriate.

**25.3** When the *Handicap Committee* has decided that the *Exact Handicap* of a *Handicap Category 1* player shall be reduced or that the *Exact Handicap* of





a *Handicap Category 2* player shall be reduced into *Handicap Category 1*, the *Handicap Committee* must refer the matter to the *National Association*, or *Area Authority* if so delegated. The reduction will not be effective until ratified by the *National Association* or *Area Authority*.

- 25.4** When deciding whether to effect or recommend an adjustment of handicap, the *Handicap Committee* of the player's *Handicapping Authority* shall consider all available information regarding the player's golfing ability. It shall consider in particular:
- i. The frequency of rounds played.
  - ii. The frequency of rounds played in relation to the number of *Qualifying Scores* returned
  - iii. The number of *Qualifying Scores* recently returned, not only scores to and below his *Exact Handicap* but also scores in the Buffer Zone or worse.
  - iv. The player's achievements in match play, four-ball match play, four-ball stroke play competitions and other non-qualifying events.

Note: The *Handicap Committee* should consider dealing more severely with a player whose general standard of play is known to be improving rapidly and vice versa.

- 25.5** The *Handicap Committee* shall advise the player of any change of his *Exact Handicap* under this clause and the change becomes effective when the player becomes aware of the adjustment.

Note: If the player is dissatisfied with the Committee's decision, he shall be afforded the opportunity of appearing before the Committee. At that meeting the player shall also be informed of his rights and obligations imposed by the *EGA Handicap System*.

When exercising the powers described in clause 25.1 – 25.4 the Committee shall ensure compliance with any relevant legal requirements.

- 25.6** *National Associations* shall direct the appeal procedure to be made available to a player, who is dissatisfied with a determination under the foregoing sub clauses.
- 25.7** The *Handicap Committee* or other body organising a competition at a club which is not the player's *Home Club* may, if it has valid reasons to conclude that his *Exact Handicap* is too high, reduce his handicap. Any reduction made under this clause shall apply only to the competition for which it is made. The player's *Home Club* must be notified and provided with full details.







## 26. ANNUAL HANDICAP REVIEW

- 26.1** The *Handicap Committee* of a *Handicapping Authority* shall undertake an Annual Handicap Review as soon as possible after the end of the year (season). The Annual Handicap Review is mandatory for all players.
- 26.2** As a basis for a correct and fair revision of his *Exact Handicap* each player shall return at least four (4) *Qualifying Scores* in a period between two consecutive Annual Handicap Reviews.
- 26.3** At the Annual Handicap Review the *Handicap Committee* shall confirm or adjust the *Exact Handicap* (upward or downward) of all players who have returned four (4) or more *Qualifying Scores* in the past calendar year in accordance with the requirements of clause 25 (see also Appendix L for guidelines issued by the EGA).

Note: Such *Exact Handicaps* shall be clearly marked with an asterisk \* on the Handicap Records and Handicap Certificates to indicate that the *Exact Handicaps* are correctly reviewed on the basis of sufficient statistical data and acceptable for entry into any *Qualifying Competition* which requires an *EGA Handicap*. (see also clause 22.5).

- 26.4** An *Exact Handicap* based on only three (3) or less *Qualifying Scores* in the past calendar year is based on insufficient current data and cannot reliably be verified. In the absence of adequate and necessary information for adjustment and revision, that handicap may not truly reflect the scoring potential of the player. Such *Exact Handicap* shall remain unchanged (inactive) until the player has returned three scores under *Handicap Conditions* in the following year (see clause 22.6 and 22.7)
- 26.5** The *Handicap Committee* may use computer software based on the EGA Guidelines as described in Appendix L in order to identify handicaps of players meriting consideration for handicap adjustment.





# PART 5. APPENDICES

## APPENDIX A. USGA Handicap System; Section 12 - 15

### INTRODUCTION

The *EGA Handicap System* has been designed to achieve uniformity and equity in handicapping throughout Europe and to provide *EGA Playing Handicaps* that are adjusted according to the relative playing difficulty (*Course and Slope Rating*) of the course being played.

In consultation with the *National Associations* over the past years, the *EGA* has decided that these purposes can be most effectively achieved by incorporating the Course and Slope Rating System of the USGA as one of the foundations of the *EGA Handicap System*, which was approved by the USGA.

Policies of *National Associations* issuing Course and Slope Ratings must be consistent with the regulations of the USGA Course Rating System.

The *National Associations* shall follow all of the procedures in exactly the way the USGA Course Rating Manual and Guides prescribe. No alterations are allowed and all interpretations are made by the USGA.

The text in Appendix A of the *EGA Handicap System* concerning *Course and Slope Rating* is a modified copy of the text in section 12 through 15 of the "USGA HANDICAP SYSTEM" (Effective January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2007).

Section 12, 13, 14 and 15, by permission of the USGA, are modified to meet the conditions within the realm of the EGA.

### USGA HANDICAP SYSTEM SECTION 12. MEASUREMENTS

#### 12 - 1. Starting Point: Permanent Markers

Accurate permanent marker placement is imperative in the rating process. Permanent markers are to reflect an average placement of the movable tee markers over time. Incorrectly placed markers will make it difficult for the golf course staff to set up the course each day, keeping the effective course difficulty constant and in line with the ratings issued.

Permanent marker placement is more likely to have a greater impact on ratings than green speed, height of rough and other course maintenance practices. Courses and clubs should pay special attention to this issue and are encouraged to consult the authorized *National Associations* in the area for assistance in determining accurate placement.

When a single tee pad is designated for one set of tees, placement of the permanent marker at a point opposite the middle of the teeing area is appropriate. This maximizes the ability of the golf course to use the entire teeing area and gives the best chance of reflecting an average of movable marker placement over time.

When more than one set of tees uses a single tee pad, consider the percentage of a





club's existing or anticipated play from each set of tees when determining permanent marker placement. Allocate the percentage of play to the teeing area and place each permanent marker at a point opposite the mid-point of each of the allocated areas. As an example, a forty-yard teeing area is to be shared by three sets of tees. The club determines that 25% of play will be from the forward tees, 50% from the middle tees, and 25% from the back tees. Allocation would then have the first ten yards of the teeing area dedicated to the forward tees, the middle twenty yards to the middle tees and the final ten yards to the back tee. The permanent marker placement would be at the mid-point of each of these three areas.

On a nine-hole course, if separate tees or tee markers are used for each nine of an 18-hole round, separate measurements and permanent yardage markers must be established for each nine. The yardage markers (and their respective tee markers) for each nine may be uniquely identifiable.

## 12 - 2. Measuring

### a. How To Measure

Each hole must be measured horizontally (air line) by an electronic measuring device (EMD), surveying instruments, or a global positioning system (GPS) from the permanent yardage marker for every teeing area on the golf course to the center of the green. Any trained individual may perform course measurement, subject to review by the authorized *National Association* that issues the *Course Rating* to the *Affiliated Club*. Yardages on the scorecard should accurately reflect this measurement. Accurate hole measurements to the nearest yard are very important.

A hole with a dogleg must be measured on a straight line from the tee to the center of the fairway at the bend. If the pivot point is not easily discernible, select a pivot point that is approximately 250 (men) or 210 (women) yards from the set of tees played by the majority of golfers. The measurement must continue from that point on a straight line to the center of the green or to the next pivot point if applicable.

### b. Tee Markers; Posting of Ratings

The movable tee markers used to designate the teeing ground (see *The Rules of Golf*, Definitions) need to be consistent in color or design from one hole to the next and clearly distinguishable from the tee markers for other teeing grounds on the course. The actual color, design, or other method for identifying a particular set of tee markers is up to the committee in charge of the course in consultation with the *Handicap Committee*. *Playing Handicap Tables*, scorecards, and signage where scores are posted should use the same terminology in referring to the name, color, or design of the various tees and include the *Course Rating* and *Slope Rating* for each set of markers to make it easy for players to convert an *Exact Handicap* to a *Playing Handicap* before play and then to post a score for handicap purposes, complete with ratings, after play.





## Measuring Techniques

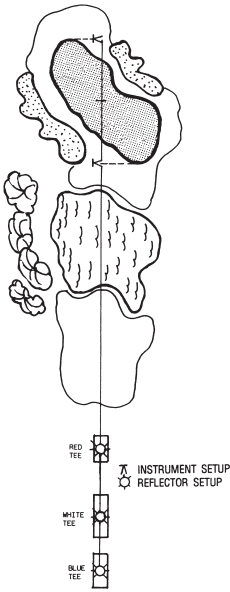


Fig. 1 — Example: Measuring setup for a par-3 hole.

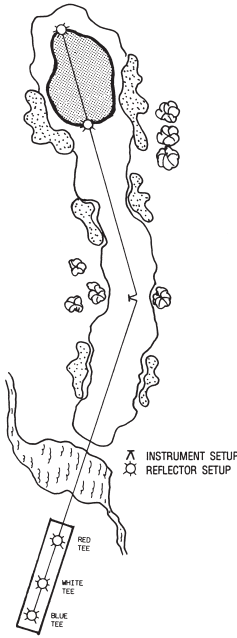


Fig. 2 — Example: Measuring setup for a par-4 hole.

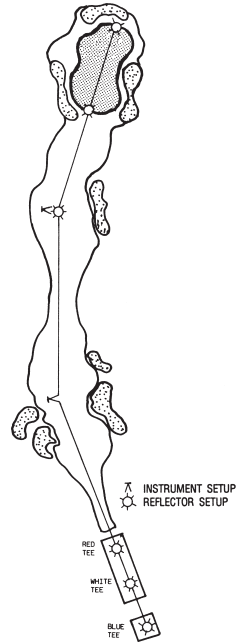


Fig. 3 — Example: Measuring setup for a par-5 hole.

Course Rating and Slope Rating				
Tees	Men's CR	Men's SR	Women's CR	Women's SR
Black	74.1	136	-	-
White	73.4	131	-	-
Yellow	72.0	123	74.5	134
Blue	71.3	121	73.7	129
Red	69.5	113	72.0	122
Orange	67.8	101	69.3	115

Where tees generally used by one gender are also used by the other, there should be a *Course Rating* and *Slope Rating* for men and for women from those tees so that all players may post their scores accurately for handicap purposes. The procedure for posting a score from a set of unrated tees may be used by both men and women





when they play a set of tees that has not been rated for the appropriate gender. Ratings for combinations of nine holes from each set of tee markers should be posted to assist players returning 18-hole scores made by combining nine-hole scores.

## SECTION 13. COURSE RATING

### 13 – 1. Definitions

**a. Scratch Golfer**

A “Scratch Golfer” is a player who can play to a *Playing Handicap* of zero on any and all rated courses. A male Scratch Golfer, for rating purposes, can hit tee shots an average of 250 yards and can reach a 470-yard hole in two shots at sea level.

A female scratch golfer, for rating purposes, can hit tee shots an average of 210 yards and can reach a 400-yard hole in two shots at sea level.

Note: See also the EGA Definition 2.35

**b. Yardage Rating**

Yardage rating is the evaluation of the playing difficulty of a course based on effective playing length.

**c. Obstacle Factors**

Obstacle factors are hazards, natural features, vegetation, and playing conditions found on the golf course that make play harder or easier than a standard course with the same effective playing length.

**d. Effective Playing Length**

Effective playing length is the measured length of the golf course adjusted by factors such as unusual roll, elevation changes, dogleg/forced lay-up, prevailing wind, and altitude above sea level that make the course play longer or shorter than its measured length. For example, when forced lay-ups result in a course playing effectively longer for the Scratch Golfer, the rating team modifies the yardage rating upward to arrive at the *Course Rating*.

**e. USGA Course Rating (*Course Rating*)**

A “USGA Course Rating” is the USGA’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.

Courses must be rated by authorized *National Associations*, not by *Affiliated Clubs* or any other organisation (See Section 14. and Clause 3. of the EGA Handicap System).

*Note:* Yardage Rating and *Course Rating* are not to be confused with *par*. *Par* is not an accurate measure of the playing difficulty of a golf course. It is possible for two golf courses to have the same *par*, but differ greatly in *Course Rating* and yardage rating.





**f. Bogey Golfer**

A male “*bogey golfer*” is a player who has a *Playing Handicap* of approximately 20 on a course of standard difficulty. He can hit tee shots an average of 200 yards and reach a 370-yard hole in two shots at sea level.

A female “*bogey golfer*” is a player who has a *Playing Handicap* of approximately 24 on a course of standard difficulty. She can hit tee shots an average of 150 yards and reach a 280-yard hole in two shots.

**g. Bogey Rating**

A “*Bogey Rating*” is the USGA’s 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.

**h. Slope Rating**

A “*Slope Rating*” is the USGA’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* (e.g. compared to the difficulty of a course for Scratch Golfers).

A *Slope Rating* is computed from the difference between the Bogey Rating and the *Course Rating*. The lowest *Slope Rating* is 55 and the highest is 155.

A golf course of standard playing difficulty has a *Slope Rating* of 113.

**13 - 2. Conditions for Rating**

**a. Placement of Tee Markers and Holes**

On the day a course is to be rated, the club is requested to do the following:

- (i) Place tee markers opposite the permanent yardage markers from which measurements were made (see Section 12);
- (ii) Cut average hole locations;
- (iii) Set up the course, and maintain conditions for normal scoring difficulty.

**b. In-Season Playing Conditions**

A *Course Rating* and *Slope Rating* must reflect conditions normal for the season(s) when the most rounds are played.

**c. The Rules of Golf**

The *Course Rating* and *Slope Rating* are based on the assumption that players observe and courses are marked under *The Rules of Golf*. Any local rules must conform with the spirit of *The Rules of Golf*.





### 13-3. Course Rating Procedures

#### a. Components

An authorized *National Association*, through the following components, determines the *Course Rating* and *Slope Rating*:

- (i) Effective playing length is obtained from official measurements of the course and an evaluation of the factors that cause the course to play significantly longer or shorter than its measured length. (Section 13-1d.) Yardage must be measured accurately. An error of only 22 yards in overall length will change the *Course Rating* by 0.1 of a stroke for men. An error of only 18 yards will change the *Course Rating* by 0.1 of a stroke for women.
- (ii) Yardage ratings for both the Scratch Golfer and Bogey Golfer are determined by applying the effective playing length to the appropriate yardage rating formulas. (Sections 13-1d and 13-3d.)
- (iii) *Course Rating* is the scratch yardage rating of a course modified by the obstacle factors as they affect the Scratch Golfer. (See Definitions.)
- (iv) Bogey Rating is the bogey yardage rating of a course modified by the obstacle factors as they affect the Bogey Golfer. (See Definitions.)
- (v) *Slope Rating* is the difference between the Bogey Rating and the *USGA Course Rating* multiplied by 5.381 for men and 4.24 for women. (See Definitions and 13-3f.)

#### b. Effective Playing Length

On each hole, the rating team evaluates four factors that affect the playing length: roll, elevation, dogleg, forced lay-up and prevailing wind. The effect of these factors, plus the altitude above sea level of the course as a whole, is converted to yardage that is added to or subtracted from the measured length to yield effective playing length. Effective playing length is then applied to the yardage rating formulas to produce scratch and bogey yardage ratings.

- (i) **Roll**  
Unirrigated, thin fairways and downhill landing areas result in the ball rolling farther than the normal 20 yards. Irrigated, lush fairways and uphill landing areas result in the ball rolling less than 20 yards.
- (ii) **Elevation**  
Holes that are uphill from tee to green play longer than those that are downhill from tee to green.
- (iii) **Dogleg/Forced Lay-up**  
Holes in which the fairway bends short of the normal landing area that force the player to hit less than a full tee shot. The same is true on holes where an obstacle, such as a water hazard, is situated in the landing area.





- (iv) **Prevailing Wind**  
The force and direction of the prevailing wind can affect the playing difficulty of the golf course.
- (v) **Altitude Above Sea Level**  
The yardage rating of a course at an altitude at or above 2,000 feet is adjusted downward. The ball will carry a greater distance at high altitudes.

**c. Obstacle Factors**

The rating team evaluates ten obstacle factors on a scale of 0 through 10, after considering separately their effect on the play of the Scratch Golfer and Bogey Golfer on each hole. When the evaluation process has been completed, the numbers for each factor are totalled and multiplied by a relative weight factor. The total weighted obstacle values are applied to scratch and bogey formulas, and then are converted to strokes. These strokes, which may be positive or negative, are added to the yardage ratings to produce the *Course Rating* and *Bogey Rating*. The obstacles are evaluated as follows:

- (i) **Topography:** the difficulty of stance in the fairway landing areas and any elevation change from the landing areas to the green;
- (ii) **Fairway:** the effective width of the landing area, which can be reduced by a dogleg, trees, or fairway tilt;
- (iii) **Green Target:** the size, firmness, shape, and slope of a green in relation to the length of the approach shot;
- (iv) **Recoverability and Rough:** the existence of rough and other penalizing factors in the proximity of the landing area and around the green;
- (v) **Bunkers:** the existence of bunkers in the proximity of the landing areas and around the green;
- (vi) **Out of Bounds/Extreme Rough:** the existence of out of bounds in the proximity of the landing areas and around the green, or the existence of extreme unmown rough that is similar in effect to out of bounds;
- (vii) **Water Hazards:** the existence of water hazards, particularly in the proximity of the landing areas and around the green;
- (viii) **Trees:** the strategic location, size, height, and density of trees-along with the probability of recovering from the trees;
- (ix) **Green Surface:** the contour and normal speed of the putting surface;
- (x) **Psychological:** the mental effect on play created by the presence of a combination of difficult obstacles.







#### d. Yardage Rating Formulas

Yardage ratings are obtained by using the following formulas:

(i) **Scratch Yardage Rating for Men**

Scratch Yardage Rating:

$$(\text{Scratch Effective Playing Length of Course} / 220) + 40.9$$

*Example:* If the effective playing length of the course is 6,419 yards, the scratch yardage rating for men is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Playing Length} / 220: 6419 / 220 = 29.18$$

$$\text{Result} + 40.9 = 29.18 + 40.9 = 70.08$$

Scratch Yardage Rating (rounded): 70.1

(ii) **Bogey Yardage Rating for Men**

Bogey Yardage Rating:

$$(\text{Bogey Effective Playing Length of Course} / 160) + 50.7$$

(iii) **Scratch Yardage Rating for Women**

Scratch Yardage Rating:

$$(\text{Scratch Effective Playing Length of Course} / 180) + 40.1$$

(iv) **Bogey Yardage Rating for Women**

Bogey Yardage Rating:

$$(\text{Bogey Effective Playing Length of Course} / 120) + 51.3$$

#### e. Course Rating Formulas

(i) **USGA Course Rating for Men and Women**

*USGA Course Rating:* Scratch Yardage Rating + Scratch Obstacle Stroke Value

(ii) **Bogey Rating for Men and Women**

*Bogey Rating:* Bogey Yardage Rating + Bogey Obstacle Stroke Value

#### f. Slope Rating Formulas

A *Slope Rating* is obtained by using the following formulas:

(i) **Men**

$$\text{Slope Rating: } 5.381 \times (\text{Bogey Rating} - \text{Course Rating})$$

(ii) **Women**

$$\text{Slope Rating: } 4.24 \times (\text{Bogey Rating} - \text{Course Rating})$$

The *Slope Rating* for a course of standard difficulty is 113. A course is given this *Slope Rating* when the difference between the Bogey Rating and *Course Rating* is 21 strokes for men, or 26.65 strokes for women (21 multiplied by 5.381, equals 113; 26.65 multiplied by 4.24, equals 113).





Note: Full details on *Course Rating* are contained in the books entitled “The USGA Course Rating System Guide” and “The USGA Course Rating System,” which are available only to authorized *National Associations*.

## SECTION 14. INSTALLING COURSE RATINGS IN A COUNTRY

### 14-1. Authorized National Associations to Rate Courses

All courses must be rated in accordance with USGA approved procedures by a course rating team representing an authorized *National Association*. A Course Rating Review Committee established by the authorized *National Association* must evaluate each rating. If more than one authorized *National Association* covers the same territory, a joint rating team is suggested.

Uniform ratings are required to make sure that each *Exact Handicap* is determined on the same basis.

### 14-2. Authorized National Association to Re-rate Courses

Authorized *National Associations* must periodically review Ratings of courses and revise them as necessary. Newly constructed courses change rapidly in the first few years and should be re-rated every three years for a period of nine years. A course must be re-rated at least every ten years, even if it has not been changed in any way. A course must no longer use its *Course Rating* and *Slope Rating* if its ratings are more than ten years old. The course must contact an authorized *National Association* in its area to be re-rated.

### 14-3. Personnel of Course Rating Team

A course rating team should be composed of at least three trained and experienced individuals. A rating team may be assisted by a club representative, preferably a player with a low *Exact Handicap* (or the club professional), who can inform the team of any unusual course conditions, including wind. Team members should have a practical knowledge of Scratch Golfers. Keeping the members of the team as permanent as possible helps to keep the ratings consistent.

One member of the team must be designated by the authorized *National Association* as the team leader. The team leader must have attended a course rating seminar conducted by the USGA. The team evaluates each obstacle on each hole on a scale of 0 through 10 and should attempt to agree, within one number, on the evaluation for each obstacle. If an agreement is not reached, the opinion of the team leader should prevail. While rating a course, team members may hit shots to assist them in evaluating obstacles.

It is recommended that the team play the course before or after the rating to substantiate the rating results. The team leader must submit completed rating forms to the authorized *National Association* for review by the Course Rating Review Committee. This committee may modify the results within specified limits, or it may direct a re-rating by another rating team. Once finalized by the course rating review committee, the authorized *National Association* must issue these ratings to the club.





## 14-4. Golf Association Records

### a. Information To Be Kept

A file of each Course Rating and *Slope Rating* must be kept by the authorized *National Association* for future reference. The checklist for the file should include: the scorecard, the names of the persons rating the course, the date on which the course was rated, the information regarding weather and other conditions on the day of rating, the fairway watering system, the types of grasses, the height of the rough, the official measurements of each hole, the names of persons who measured the golf course, and the presence of permanent yardage markers.

### b. List of All Ratings

The Course Rating Review Committee must compile a list showing total yardage and the *Course Rating* and *Slope Rating* for each course in its jurisdiction that has been rated. The committee must periodically review this list for accuracy.

An alphabetical listing of each *Course Rating* and *Slope Rating* of all courses, issued by an authorized *National Association*, in an area should be sent to each club for posting. This listing should help members post their scores made on area courses.

A copy must be submitted to the USGA Handicap Department and the *EGA Handicapping and Course Rating Committee* annually.

## 14-5. Modification of Courses

### a. Temporary Changes

When temporary tees and/or greens are used, the *Handicap Committee* should notify the authorized *National Association*. The authorized *National Association* will decide whether or not scores made under those conditions are to be accepted for handicap purposes, and whether the *Course Rating* and *Slope Rating* should be modified temporarily.

### b. Permanent Changes

The club must notify the authorized *National Association* when permanent changes are made to the course. Permanent changes to the course require the authorized *National Association* to review the current *Course Rating* and *Slope Rating* and to determine whether a re-rating is necessary.

## 14-6. Temporary Rating by a Golf Club

A club must never rate its own course. If a club is unable to obtain Ratings from an *Area Authority*, it should immediately contact the authorized *National Association* for assistance. An *Affiliated Club* cannot use the EGA Handicap System until it has been issued a *Course Rating* and *Slope Rating* by an authorized *National Association*.





## SECTION 15. COURSE SET-UP

### 15-1. Keeping Course Difficulty Constant

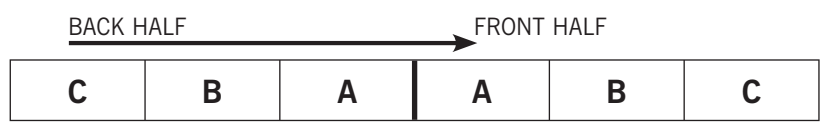
A golf course is rated on its effective playing length and its playing difficulty under normal conditions. Each hole may be evaluated in determining the course setup from a distance standpoint in order to provide a fair test and to require a player to use most or all clubs during a round. If the length or normal playing difficulty changes materially, an *Exact Handicap* will be distorted. A difference of 22 yards for men or 18 yards for women will change the yardage rating 0.1 of a stroke. The *Handicap Committee* should seek the cooperation of the Green Committee in maintaining both length and normal playing difficulty at a constant and fair level.

### 15-2. Balancing Placement of Tees

Placement of tee markers should be balanced so that the course's effective playing length is approximately the same from day to day. Adjustment may be made to allow for weather and turf conditions.

In The Rules of Golf, the "teeing ground" is defined as a rectangular area two club-lengths in depth, the front and the sides of which are defined by the outside limits of two tee markers. In view of this definition, the tee markers must always be at least two club-lengths forward of the back edge of the teeing ground.

In the illustration below, the total area represents the usual teeing ground, and the heavy line in the centre indicates the point of the permanent marker from which the hole was measured.



Balance tee placement as follows:

- a. Normal conditions**  
Place tee markers on odd-numbered holes on front half in area A (or B or C); on even numbered holes, place tee markers on back half of same-lettered area. When changing tee markers, place odd-hole markers on back half and even-hole markers on front half. In other words, alternate between the halves and rotate among lettered areas, always using areas of the same letter at the same time, except under conditions outlined below.
- b. Abnormal conditions**  
Use rear areas for a fast course and forward areas for a slow course. For example, when the course is hard and fast, place front-half markers in A and back-half markers in C. When the course is soft and slow, place front-half markers in C and back-half markers in A.  
Under extreme conditions, all markers should be placed in the back half or the front half of all tees, depending upon what is necessary to try to achieve normal playing distance.  
The above recommendation should be followed for each set of tee markers.





### 15-3. Hole Locations

Many factors affect the selection of hole locations. The first and most important is good judgment in deciding what will give fair results. Do not be tricky in selecting hole locations.

Following are specific points:

- (i) Study the design of the hole as the architect intended it to be played. Know the length of the shot to the putting green and how it may be affected by the probable conditions for the day - that is, wind and other weather elements, condition of the turf from which the shot will be played, and holding quality of the putting green.
- (ii) There must be enough putting green surface between the hole and the front and the sides of the green to accommodate the required shot. For example, if the hole requires a long iron or wood shot to the green, the hole may be located deeper in the green and farther from its sides than may be the case if the hole requires a short pitch shot. In any case, it is recommended that the hole be located at least four paces from any edge of the putting green. If a bunker is close to the edge, or if the ground slopes away from the edge, the distance should be greater, especially if the shot is more than a pitch. Consideration should be given to fair opportunity for recovery after a reasonably good shot that just misses the putting green.
- (iii) An area two to three feet in radius around the hole should be as nearly level as possible and of uniform grade. In no case should holes be located in tricky places, or on sharp slopes where a ball can gather speed. A player above the hole should be able to stop the ball at the hole.
- (iv) Consider the condition of nearby turf, especially taking care to avoid old hole plugs that have not completely healed.
- (v) Holes should be cut as nearly on the vertical as possible, not plumb with the contour of the putting green.
- (vi) There should be a balanced selection of hole locations for the entire course with respect to left, right, central, front, and back positions. For example, avoid too many left positions with the resulting premium on drawn or hooked shots.
- (vii) For a competition played over several days, the course should be kept in balance daily as to degree of difficulty. In a stroke play competition, the first hole of the first round is as important as the last hole of the last round, and so the course should not be set up appreciably more difficult for any round - balanced treatment is the aim. An old concept of making the course progressively harder round after round is fallacious.

Please feel free to consult the publication "How to Conduct a Competition" for further reference.





### 15-4. Preparing the Course

In determining the location of the tee markers, both the length and the various obstacles of each hole are taken into consideration in order to provide a consistent and fair test, which accurately reflects the *Course Rating* and *Slope Rating*. The various obstacles should be maintained in a manner that is similar to how they were rated, consistent with the principles of Section 15-1. There are many factors involved in preparing the course that are outlined in detail in "How To Conduct a Competition" (a USGA publication) or "Guidance on Running a Competition" (R&A publication).

### 15-5. Marking the Course

It is extremely important for the committee in charge of the competition or in charge of the course to ensure that the course has been properly and completely marked. It is difficult to play under The Rules of Golf on an unmarked golf course, and the *Course Rating* and *Slope Rating* is based on the course being properly marked. If all boundaries, water hazards, and ground under repair have been properly marked, the committee will have few problems during the golf season.



## APPENDIX B

EXAMPLE OF A HANDICAP RECORD SHEET										EGA
Player:		Mr. P.A.R. Greenside			Code: Green 01 M / F		Date of Birth: 18-01-1942			
Home Club :		Up Hill Golf & Country Club			Other Clubs:					
Standard Tees :		CR = 71.2 SR = 128 PAR = 72								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	Date of score entry	Date of event	Round	Venue	Event	9 holes Stableford Score	18 holes Stableford Score	CSA	Adjusted Stableford Score	Revised Exact Hcp
	01-01-05				AR	Exact Handicap confirmed "active"				18.2*
1	21-03-05	21-03-05	1	Home Club	SFD		34	0	34	18.2 *
2	12-05-05	09-05-05	1	K.H.G.& C.C.	SP		30	+1	31	18.3 *
3	18-10-05	15-10-05	1	Home Club	PAR		28	0	28	18.4 *
4	01-01-06				AR	Exact Handicap becomes "inactive"				18.4
4	24-04-06	23-04-06	1	Home Club	EDS	10		0	28	18.4
5	24-04-06	24-04-06	1	Home Club	EDS	23		0	41	18.4
6	14-06-06	14-06-06	1	Home Club	EDS		30	0	30	18.4
	14-06-06					Exact Handicap becomes "active"				17.0 *
7	12-07-06	12-07-06	1	Home Club	SP		28	0	28	17.1 *
8	25-08-06	22-08-06	1	Home Club	EDS	14		0	32	17.2 *
9	12-09-06	10-09-06	1	K.H.G.& C.C.	PAR		37	+1	38	16.6 *
10	01-01-07				AR	Exact Handicap confirmed "active"				16.6 *
11										
12										

SFD = Stableford;

PAR = Par;

EDS = Extra Day Score

SP = Stroke Play;

AR = Annual Review;

Note 1: A *National Association* may determine that adjustments of a player's *Exact Handicap* shall be the responsibility of the player (see clause 12.10) and that increases and reductions of his *Exact Handicap* shall be made immediately after the *Qualifying*



*Round by the player* and shall be registered on the day the score becomes known to the *Home Club*.

Note 2 : The *Handicap Committee* shall ensure that all *Qualifying Scores* are recorded as soon as possible and that all *EGA Exact Handicaps* have been correctly calculated in relation to scores recorded in chronological order.

Note 3 : 9-hole scores shall be recorded separately.

Note 4: When the *Exact Handicap* became active it was recalculated:  $18.4 + 0.1 - 1.6 + 0.1 = 17.0$





# APPENDIX C

## Table of Handicap Adjustments

COMPETITION STABLEFORD POINTS																				
Exact Handicaps	<-Buffer	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	
4.4 and less	+0.1	0.0	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.4	-0.5	-0.6	-0.7	-0.8	-0.9	-1.0	-1.1	-1.2	-1.3	-1.4	-1.5	-1.6	-1.7	-1.8
4.5 - 4.6	+0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.3	-0.4	-0.5	-0.6	-0.7	-0.8	-0.9	-1.0	-1.1	-1.2	-1.3	-1.4	-1.5	-1.6	-1.7	-1.8	-1.9
4.7 - 4.8	+0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.4	-0.5	-0.6	-0.7	-0.8	-0.9	-1.0	-1.1	-1.2	-1.3	-1.4	-1.5	-1.6	-1.7	-1.8	-1.9	-2.0
4.9 - 5.0	+0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.4	-0.6	-0.7	-0.8	-0.9	-1.0	-1.1	-1.2	-1.3	-1.4	-1.5	-1.6	-1.7	-1.8	-1.9	-2.0	-2.1
5.1 - 5.2	+0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.4	-0.6	-0.8	-0.9	-1.0	-1.1	-1.2	-1.3	-1.4	-1.5	-1.6	-1.7	-1.8	-1.9	-2.0	-2.1	-2.2
5.3 - 5.4	+0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.4	-0.6	-0.8	-1.0	-1.1	-1.2	-1.3	-1.4	-1.5	-1.6	-1.7	-1.8	-1.9	-2.0	-2.1	-2.2	-2.3
5.5 - 5.6	+0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.4	-0.6	-0.8	-1.0	-1.2	-1.3	-1.4	-1.5	-1.6	-1.7	-1.8	-1.9	-2.0	-2.1	-2.2	-2.3	-2.4
5.7 - 5.8	+0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.4	-0.6	-0.8	-1.0	-1.2	-1.4	-1.5	-1.6	-1.7	-1.8	-1.9	-2.0	-2.1	-2.2	-2.3	-2.4	-2.5
5.9 - 6.0	+0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.4	-0.6	-0.8	-1.0	-1.2	-1.4	-1.6	-1.7	-1.8	-1.9	-2.0	-2.1	-2.2	-2.3	-2.4	-2.5	-2.6
6.1 - 6.2	+0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.4	-0.6	-0.8	-1.0	-1.2	-1.4	-1.6	-1.8	-1.9	-2.0	-2.1	-2.2	-2.3	-2.4	-2.5	-2.6	-2.7
6.3 - 6.4	+0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.4	-0.6	-0.8	-1.0	-1.2	-1.4	-1.6	-1.8	-2.0	-2.1	-2.2	-2.3	-2.4	-2.5	-2.6	-2.7	-2.8
6.5 - 6.6	+0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.4	-0.6	-0.8	-1.0	-1.2	-1.4	-1.6	-1.8	-2.0	-2.2	-2.3	-2.4	-2.5	-2.6	-2.7	-2.8	-2.9
6.7 - 6.8	+0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.4	-0.6	-0.8	-1.0	-1.2	-1.4	-1.6	-1.8	-2.0	-2.2	-2.4	-2.5	-2.6	-2.7	-2.8	-2.9	-3.0
6.9 - 7.0	+0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.4	-0.6	-0.8	-1.0	-1.2	-1.4	-1.6	-1.8	-2.0	-2.2	-2.4	-2.6	-2.7	-2.8	-2.9	-3.0	-3.1
7.1 - 7.2	+0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.4	-0.6	-0.8	-1.0	-1.2	-1.4	-1.6	-1.8	-2.0	-2.2	-2.4	-2.6	-2.8	-2.9	-3.0	-3.1	-3.2
7.3 - 7.4	+0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.4	-0.6	-0.8	-1.0	-1.2	-1.4	-1.6	-1.8	-2.0	-2.2	-2.4	-2.6	-2.8	-3.0	-3.1	-3.2	-3.3
7.5 - 7.6	+0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.4	-0.6	-0.8	-1.0	-1.2	-1.4	-1.6	-1.8	-2.0	-2.2	-2.4	-2.6	-2.8	-3.0	-3.2	-3.3	-3.4
7.7 - 7.8	+0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.4	-0.6	-0.8	-1.0	-1.2	-1.4	-1.6	-1.8	-2.0	-2.2	-2.4	-2.6	-2.8	-3.0	-3.2	-3.3	-3.4
7.9 - 11.4	+0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.4	-0.6	-0.8	-1.0	-1.2	-1.4	-1.6	-1.8	-2.0	-2.2	-2.4	-2.6	-2.8	-3.0	-3.2	-3.4	-3.6
11.5 - 11.7	+0.1	0.0	-0.3	-0.5	-0.7	-0.9	-1.1	-1.3	-1.5	-1.7	-1.9	-2.1	-2.3	-2.5	-2.7	-2.9	-3.1	-3.3	-3.5	-3.7
11.8 - 12.0	+0.1	0.0	-0.3	-0.6	-0.8	-1.0	-1.2	-1.4	-1.6	-1.8	-2.0	-2.2	-2.4	-2.6	-2.8	-3.0	-3.2	-3.4	-3.6	-3.8
12.1 - 12.3	+0.1	0.0	-0.3	-0.6	-0.9	-1.1	-1.3	-1.5	-1.7	-1.9	-2.1	-2.3	-2.5	-2.7	-2.9	-3.1	-3.3	-3.5	-3.7	-3.9
12.4 - 12.6	+0.1	0.0	-0.3	-0.6	-0.9	-1.2	-1.4	-1.6	-1.8	-2.0	-2.2	-2.4	-2.6	-2.8	-3.0	-3.2	-3.4	-3.6	-3.8	-4.0
12.7 - 12.9	+0.1	0.0	-0.3	-0.6	-0.9	-1.2	-1.5	-1.7	-1.9	-2.1	-2.3	-2.5	-2.7	-2.9	-3.1	-3.3	-3.5	-3.7	-3.9	-4.1
13.0 - 13.2	+0.1	0.0	-0.3	-0.6	-0.9	-1.2	-1.5	-1.8	-2.0	-2.2	-2.4	-2.6	-2.8	-3.0	-3.2	-3.4	-3.6	-3.8	-4.0	-4.2
13.3 - 13.5	+0.1	0.0	-0.3	-0.6	-0.9	-1.2	-1.5	-1.8	-2.1	-2.3	-2.5	-2.7	-2.9	-3.1	-3.3	-3.5	-3.7	-3.9	-4.1	-4.3
13.6 - 13.8	+0.1	0.0	-0.3	-0.6	-0.9	-1.2	-1.5	-1.8	-2.1	-2.4	-2.6	-2.8	-3.0	-3.2	-3.4	-3.6	-3.8	-4.0	-4.2	-4.4
13.9 - 14.1	+0.1	0.0	-0.3	-0.6	-0.9	-1.2	-1.5	-1.8	-2.1	-2.4	-2.7	-2.9	-3.1	-3.3	-3.5	-3.7	-3.9	-4.1	-4.3	-4.5
14.2 - 14.4	+0.1	0.0	-0.3	-0.6	-0.9	-1.2	-1.5	-1.8	-2.1	-2.4	-2.7	-3.0	-3.2	-3.4	-3.6	-3.8	-4.0	-4.2	-4.4	-4.6
14.5 - 14.7	+0.1	0.0	-0.3	-0.6	-0.9	-1.2	-1.5	-1.8	-2.1	-2.4	-2.7	-3.0	-3.3	-3.5	-3.7	-3.9	-4.1	-4.3	-4.5	-4.7
14.8 - 15.0	+0.1	0.0	-0.3	-0.6	-0.9	-1.2	-1.5	-1.8	-2.1	-2.4	-2.7	-3.0	-3.3	-3.6	-3.8	-4.0	-4.2	-4.4	-4.6	-4.8
15.1 - 15.3	+0.1	0.0	-0.3	-0.6	-0.9	-1.2	-1.5	-1.8	-2.1	-2.4	-2.7	-3.0	-3.3	-3.6	-3.9	-4.1	-4.3	-4.5	-4.7	-4.9
15.4 - 15.6	+0.1	0.0	-0.3	-0.6	-0.9	-1.2	-1.5	-1.8	-2.1	-2.4	-2.7	-3.0	-3.3	-3.6	-3.9	-4.2	-4.4	-4.6	-4.8	-5.0
15.7 - 15.9	+0.1	0.0	-0.3	-0.6	-0.9	-1.2	-1.5	-1.8	-2.1	-2.4	-2.7	-3.0	-3.3	-3.6	-3.9	-4.2	-4.5	-4.7	-4.9	-5.1
16.0 - 16.2	+0.1	0.0	-0.3	-0.6	-0.9	-1.2	-1.5	-1.8	-2.1	-2.4	-2.7	-3.0	-3.3	-3.6	-3.9	-4.2	-4.5	-4.8	-5.0	-5.2
16.3 - 16.5	+0.1	0.0	-0.3	-0.6	-0.9	-1.2	-1.5	-1.8	-2.1	-2.4	-2.7	-3.0	-3.3	-3.6	-3.9	-4.2	-4.5	-4.8	-5.0	-5.3
16.6 - 18.4	+0.1	0.0	-0.3	-0.6	-0.9	-1.2	-1.5	-1.8	-2.1	-2.4	-2.7	-3.0	-3.3	-3.6	-3.9	-4.2	-4.5	-4.8	-5.1	-5.4
18.5 - 18.8	+0.1	0.0	-0.4	-0.7	-1.0	-1.3	-1.6	-1.9	-2.2	-2.5	-2.8	-3.1	-3.4	-3.7	-4.0	-4.3	-4.6	-4.9	-5.2	-5.5
18.9 - 19.2	+0.1	0.0	-0.4	-0.8	-1.1	-1.4	-1.7	-2.0	-2.3	-2.6	-2.9	-3.2	-3.5	-3.8	-4.1	-4.4	-4.7	-5.0	-5.3	-5.6
19.3 - 19.6	+0.1	0.0	-0.4	-0.8	-1.2	-1.5	-1.8	-2.1	-2.4	-2.7	-3.0	-3.3	-3.6	-3.9	-4.2	-4.5	-4.8	-5.1	-5.4	-5.7
19.7 - 20.0	+0.1	0.0	-0.4	-0.8	-1.2	-1.6	-1.9	-2.2	-2.5	-2.8	-3.1	-3.4	-3.7	-4.0	-4.3	-4.6	-4.9	-5.2	-5.5	-5.8
20.1 - 20.4	+0.1	0.0	-0.4	-0.8	-1.2	-1.6	-2.0	-2.3	-2.6	-2.9	-3.2	-3.5	-3.8	-4.1	-4.4	-4.7	-5.0	-5.3	-5.6	-5.9
20.5 - 20.8	+0.1	0.0	-0.4	-0.8	-1.2	-1.6	-2.0	-2.4	-2.7	-3.0	-3.3	-3.6	-3.9	-4.2	-4.5	-4.8	-5.1	-5.4	-5.7	-6.0
20.9 - 21.2	+0.1	0.0	-0.4	-0.8	-1.2	-1.6	-2.0	-2.4	-2.8	-3.1	-3.4	-3.7	-4.0	-4.3	-4.6	-4.9	-5.2	-5.5	-5.8	-6.1
21.3 - 21.6	+0.1	0.0	-0.4	-0.8	-1.2	-1.6	-2.0	-2.4	-2.8	-3.2	-3.5	-3.8	-4.1	-4.4	-4.7	-5.0	-5.3	-5.6	-5.9	-6.2
21.7 - 22.0	+0.1	0.0	-0.4	-0.8	-1.2	-1.6	-2.0	-2.4	-2.8	-3.2	-3.6	-3.9	-4.2	-4.5	-4.8	-5.1	-5.4	-5.7	-6.0	-6.3
22.1 - 22.4	+0.1	0.0	-0.4	-0.8	-1.2	-1.6	-2.0	-2.4	-2.8	-3.2	-3.6	-4.0	-4.3	-4.6	-4.9	-5.2	-5.5	-5.8	-6.1	-6.4
22.5 - 22.8	+0.1	0.0	-0.4	-0.8	-1.2	-1.6	-2.0	-2.4	-2.8	-3.2	-3.6	-4.0	-4.4	-4.7	-5.0	-5.3	-5.6	-5.9	-6.2	-6.5
22.9 - 23.2	+0.1	0.0	-0.4	-0.8	-1.2	-1.6	-2.0	-2.4	-2.8	-3.2	-3.6	-4.0	-4.4	-4.8	-5.1	-5.4	-5.7	-6.0	-6.3	-6.6
23.3 - 23.6	+0.1	0.0	-0.4	-0.8	-1.2	-1.6	-2.0	-2.4	-2.8	-3.2	-3.6	-4.0	-4.4	-4.8	-5.2	-5.5	-5.8	-6.1	-6.4	-6.7
23.7 - 24.0	+0.1	0.0	-0.4	-0.8	-1.2	-1.6	-2.0	-2.4	-2.8	-3.2	-3.6	-4.0	-4.4	-4.8	-5.2	-5.5	-5.8	-6.1	-6.4	-6.7
24.1 - 24.4	+0.1	0.0	-0.4	-0.8	-1.2	-1.6	-2.0	-2.4	-2.8	-3.2	-3.6	-4.0	-4.4	-4.8	-5.2	-5.6	-6.0	-6.3	-6.6	-6.9
24.5 - 24.8	+0.1	0.0	-0.4	-0.8	-1.2	-1.6	-2.0	-2.4	-2.8	-3.2	-3.6	-4.0	-4.4	-4.8	-5.2	-5.6	-6.0	-6.4	-6.7	-7.0
24.9 - 25.2	+0.1	0.0	-0.4	-0.8	-1.2	-1.6	-2.0	-2.4	-2.8	-3.2	-3.6	-4.0	-4.4	-4.8	-5.2	-5.6	-6.0	-6.4	-6.8	-7.1
25.3 - 26.4	+0.1	0.0	-0.4	-1.0	-1.2	-1.6	-2.0	-2.4	-2.8	-3.2	-3.6	-4.0	-4.4	-4.8	-5.2	-5.6	-6.0	-6.4	-6.8	-7.1
26.5 - 26.9	+0.2	0.0	-0.5	-1.0	-1.3	-1.7	-2.1	-2.5	-2.9	-3.3	-3.7	-4.1	-4.5	-4.9	-5.3	-5.7	-6.1	-6.5	-6.9	-7.3
27.0 - 27.4	+0.2	0.0	-0.5	-1.0	-1.4	-1.8	-2.2	-2.6	-3.0	-3.4	-3.8	-4.2	-4.6	-5.0	-5.4	-5.8	-6.2	-6.6	-7.0	-7.4
27.5 - 27.9	+0.2	0.0	-0.5	-0.8	-1.5	-1.9	-2.3	-2.7	-3.1	-3.5	-3.9	-4.3	-4.7	-5.1	-5.5	-5.9	-6.3	-6.7	-7.1	-7.5
28.0 - 28.4	+0.2	0.0	-0.5	-0.9	-1.5	-2.0	-2.4	-2.8	-3.2	-3.6	-4.0	-4.4	-4.8	-5.2	-5.6	-6.0	-6.4	-6.8	-7.2	-7.6
28.5 - 28.9	+0.2	0.0	-0.5	-1.0	-1.5	-2.0	-2.5	-2.9	-3.3	-3.7	-4.1	-4.5	-4.9	-5.3	-5.7	-6.1	-6.5	-6.9	-7.3	-7.7
29.0 - 29.4	+0.2	0.0	-0.5	-1.0	-1.5	-2.0	-2.5	-3.0	-3.4	-3.8	-4.2	-4.6	-5.0	-5.4	-5.8	-6.2	-6.6	-7.0	-7.4	-7.8
29.5 - 29.9	+0.2	0.0	-0.5	-1.0	-1.5	-2.0	-2.5	-3.0	-3.5	-3.9	-4.3	-4.7	-5.1	-5.5	-5.9	-6.3	-6.7	-7.1	-7.5	-7.9
30.0 - 30.4	+0.2	0.0	-0.5	-1.0	-1.5	-2.0	-2.5	-3.0	-3.5	-4.0	-4.4	-4.8	-5.2	-5.6	-6.0	-6.4	-6.8	-7.2	-7.6	-8.0
30.5 - 30.9	+0.2	0.0	-0.5	-1.0	-1.5	-2.0	-2.5	-3.0	-3.5	-4.0	-4.5	-4.9	-5.3	-5.7	-6.1	-6.5	-6.9	-7.3	-7.7	-8.1
31.0 - 31.4	+0.2	0.0	-0.5	-1.0	-1.5	-2.0	-2.5	-3.0	-3.5	-4.0	-4.5	-5.0	-5.4	-5.8	-6.2	-6.6	-7.0	-7.4	-7.8	-8.2
31.5 - 31.9	+0.2	0.0	-0.5	-1.0	-1.5	-2.0	-2.5	-3.0	-3.5	-4.0	-4.5	-5.0	-5.5	-5.9	-6.3	-6.7	-7.1	-7.5	-7.9	-8.3
32.0 - 32.4	+0.2	0.0	-0.5	-1.0	-1.5	-2.0	-2.5	-3.0	-3.5	-4.0	-4.5	-5.0	-5.5	-6.0	-6.4	-6.8	-7.2	-7.6	-8.0	-8.4
32.5 - 32.9	+0.2	0.0																		



## APPENDIX D

### COMPETITION STABLEFORD ADJUSTMENT (CSA)

#### INTRODUCTION

The USGA course rating states: "The USGA Course Rating and Slope Rating must reflect conditions normal for the season(s) when most rounds are played". However, often there are rounds played when either the weather or the course conditions are not normal and within the *EGA Handicap System* these rounds directly affect handicaps. The *CSA* calculation was developed to determine when the conditions deviate so far from normal that effectively the "normal conditions Rating" does not apply and an allowance should be made to compensate. The *CSA* system is based on the very successful system of Competition Scratch Score (CSS) which was developed by the British "Council of National Golf Unions" and introduced in 1989.

In the *CSA* calculation, the performance of the field of players is compared with the calculated expected performance of these players under normal conditions. If the variation from the expected is outside set limits an adjustment is made to the Stableford scores of all players dependant on how large the variation is. The expected score is varied according to proportion of each *Handicap Category* in the field. When conditions deviate from normal the *CSA* can adjust Stableford scores upwards (+1, +2 or +3) or downwards (-1), and, if conditions are extreme, can even result in the scores counting for Reduction Only with no increase being applied.

Like in the first two editions of the *EGA Handicap System* the adoption of *CSA* will remain optional. However, the introduction of *CSS* in Great Britain and Ireland and *CSA* in a few continental countries was so successful that the positive results on handicapping can not longer be neglected.

**The *EGA* strongly recommends the *National Associations* to adopt *CSA* as from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2007.**

#### DEFINITION

The "Competition Stableford Adjustment" is an adjustment factor to be made to a player's Stableford score following each round of a *Qualifying Competition* pursuant to clause 20.6.

#### PROCEDURE

The *CSA* shall be calculated at the conclusion of each round of a *Qualifying Competition* by following the procedure set out below.





Number of competitors including No Returns		Percentages		Rounded %
Category 1	A	$A \times 100 / D$	F	I
Category 2	B	$B \times 100 / D$	G	J
Category 3 + 4	C	100 minus boxes I & J		K
Total	D	Total		100
Number of Stableford scores of 34 points or more in Hcp. Categories 1, 2 and 3 + 4	E	$E \times 100 / D$	H	L

1. Enter in boxes A, B, and C the number of competitors, **including No Returns**, from each of the *Handicap Categories 1, 2 and 3 + 4*.
2. Enter the total number of competitors in *Handicap Categories 1, 2, 3 and 4* including No Returns, in box D. This number shall not be less than 10. If the number is less than 10 no CSA will be applied.
3. Enter in box E the number of competitors in *Handicap Categories 1, 2, 3 and 4* who have returned scores of 34 Stableford points or more.
4. In boxes F,G and H enter the percentages of the adjacent boxes in relation to box D as indicated.
5. Round the number in box F to the nearest 10 % and enter the result in box I (5 % upwards).
6. Round the number in box G to the nearest 10 % and enter the result in box J (5 % upwards).  
  
Note: Occasionally the rounding of boxes F and G will produce a total of boxes I and J in excess of 100. When this occurs, round the number in box G downwards and insert the amended number in box J.
7. Enter in box K the total of boxes I and J deducted from 100. The percentage in box K may not coincide with the rounded percentage box C would provide if calculated.
8. Round the number in box H to the nearest whole number (0.5 upwards) and enter the result in box L.
9. Select the relevant Table: Table A when the total number of competitors in *Handicap Categories 1, 2 and 3 + 4* exceeds 30, otherwise Table B.  
Select the row which contains the percentages shown in boxes I, J and K.





10. In the row selected find the column which includes the number in box L. The adjustment to the Stableford score of each competitor is shown in the heading of that column and that number is added to or deducted from all scores before calculating handicap adjustments.
11. The heading R/O at the top of a column in the Tables indicates that scores returned shall not result in handicap increases. Reductions of handicap will be made after adding three Stableford points to the Stableford scores of all competitors.
12. When a competition has been abandoned for any reason, reductions of handicaps shall be on the basis of Stableford points scored without adjustment. No handicaps shall be increased.
13. In the event of all competitors in a *Qualifying Competition* holding handicaps in *Handicap Categories 5*, handicap increases and reductions of handicap shall be on the basis of the Stableford points scored without adjustment.
14. Handicap Committees are reminded that they do not have a discretion to determine whether a Qualifying Competition shall or shall not be "Reduction Only".
15. CSA may not be applied to Extra Day Scores.

*National Associations* should calculate the CSA, not only for each round of *EGA* Championships but also for each round of their own National and International Championships, even if the *National Association* has not adopted the CSA procedure for domestic competitions. The *National Association* should make these figures, along with the relevant Rating(s) of the course(s) used for the Championship, available to all participating players so that they may report correctly their scores, complete with all other required information, to their Home Club. (see also clause 12.21).





**TABLE A : COMPETITION STABLEFORD ADJUSTMENT (CSA)**  
**More than 30 competitors in Handicap Categories 1, 2 and 3 + 4**

Handicap Categories			Reduction Only	+3	+2	+1	0	-1
1	2	3						
0%	0%	100%	0 - 4	5 - 7	8 - 10	11 - 15	16 - 30	31 +
0%	10%	90%	0 - 4	5 - 7	8 - 11	12 - 15	16 - 32	33 +
0%	20%	80%	0 - 5	6 - 7	8 - 11	12 - 16	17 - 34	35 +
0%	30%	70%	0 - 5	6 - 8	9 - 12	13 - 17	18 - 36	37 +
0%	40%	60%	0 - 5	6 - 8	9 - 12	13 - 18	19 - 38	39 +
0%	50%	50%	0 - 5	6 - 8	9 - 13	14 - 19	20 - 40	41 +
0%	60%	40%	0 - 5	6 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 20	21 - 41	42 +
0%	70%	30%	0 - 5	6 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 21	22 - 43	44 +
0%	80%	20%	0 - 5	6 - 9	10 - 15	16 - 22	23 - 45	46 +
0%	90%	10%	0 - 6	7 - 10	11 - 15	16 - 23	24 - 47	48 +
0%	100%	0%	0 - 6	7 - 10	11 - 16	17 - 24	25 - 49	50 +
10%	0%	90%	0 - 5	6 - 8	9 - 12	13 - 17	18 - 34	35 +
10%	10%	80%	0 - 5	6 - 8	9 - 12	13 - 18	19 - 36	37 +
10%	20%	70%	0 - 5	6 - 8	9 - 13	14 - 18	19 - 38	39 +
10%	30%	60%	0 - 5	6 - 9	10 - 13	14 - 19	20 - 39	40 +
10%	40%	50%	0 - 5	6 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 20	21 - 41	42 +
10%	50%	40%	0 - 5	6 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 21	22 - 43	44 +
10%	60%	30%	0 - 6	7 - 9	10 - 15	16 - 22	23 - 45	46 +
10%	70%	20%	0 - 6	7 - 10	11 - 16	17 - 23	24 - 47	48 +
10%	80%	10%	0 - 6	7 - 10	11 - 16	17 - 24	25 - 49	50 +
10%	90%	0%	0 - 6	7 - 10	11 - 17	18 - 25	26 - 51	52 +
20%	0%	80%	0 - 5	6 - 8	9 - 13	14 - 19	20 - 38	39 +
20%	10%	70%	0 - 5	6 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 20	21 - 39	40 +
20%	20%	60%	0 - 5	6 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 21	22 - 41	42 +
20%	30%	50%	0 - 6	7 - 9	10 - 15	16 - 22	23 - 43	44 +
20%	40%	40%	0 - 6	7 - 10	11 - 15	16 - 22	23 - 45	46 +
20%	50%	30%	0 - 6	7 - 10	11 - 16	17 - 23	24 - 47	48 +
20%	60%	20%	0 - 6	7 - 10	11 - 16	17 - 24	25 - 49	50 +
20%	70%	10%	0 - 6	7 - 11	12 - 17	18 - 25	26 - 51	52 +
20%	80%	0%	0 - 6	7 - 11	12 - 18	19 - 26	27 - 53	54 +
30%	0%	70%	0 - 6	7 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 21	22 - 41	42 +
30%	10%	60%	0 - 6	7 - 10	11 - 15	16 - 22	23 - 43	44 +
30%	20%	50%	0 - 6	7 - 10	11 - 16	17 - 23	24 - 45	46 +
30%	30%	40%	0 - 6	7 - 10	11 - 16	17 - 24	25 - 47	48 +
30%	40%	30%	0 - 6	7 - 11	12 - 17	18 - 25	26 - 49	50 +
30%	50%	20%	0 - 6	7 - 11	12 - 17	18 - 26	27 - 51	52 +
30%	60%	10%	0 - 6	7 - 11	12 - 18	19 - 26	27 - 53	54 +
30%	70%	0%	0 - 7	8 - 11	12 - 18	19 - 27	28 - 55	56 +
40%	0%	60%	0 - 6	7 - 10	11 - 16	17 - 23	24 - 45	46 +
40%	10%	50%	0 - 6	7 - 10	11 - 16	17 - 24	25 - 47	48 +
40%	20%	40%	0 - 6	7 - 11	12 - 17	18 - 25	26 - 49	50 +
40%	30%	30%	0 - 6	7 - 11	12 - 18	19 - 26	27 - 51	52 +
40%	40%	20%	0 - 7	8 - 11	12 - 18	19 - 27	28 - 53	54 +
40%	50%	10%	0 - 7	8 - 12	13 - 19	20 - 28	29 - 55	56 +
40%	60%	0%	0 - 7	8 - 12	13 - 19	20 - 29	30 - 57	58 +
50%	0%	50%	0 - 6	7 - 11	12 - 17	18 - 25	26 - 49	50 +
50%	10%	40%	0 - 7	8 - 11	12 - 18	19 - 26	27 - 51	52 +
50%	20%	30%	0 - 7	8 - 12	13 - 18	19 - 27	28 - 53	54 +
50%	30%	20%	0 - 7	8 - 12	13 - 19	20 - 28	29 - 55	56 +
50%	40%	10%	0 - 7	8 - 12	13 - 20	21 - 29	30 - 57	58 +
50%	50%	0%	0 - 7	8 - 13	14 - 20	21 - 30	31 - 59	60 +
60%	0%	40%	0 - 7	8 - 12	13 - 19	20 - 27	28 - 53	54 +
60%	10%	30%	0 - 7	8 - 12	13 - 19	20 - 28	29 - 55	56 +
60%	20%	20%	0 - 7	8 - 12	13 - 20	21 - 29	30 - 57	58 +
60%	30%	10%	0 - 7	8 - 13	14 - 20	21 - 30	31 - 59	60 +
60%	40%	0%	0 - 7	8 - 13	14 - 21	22 - 31	32 - 61	62 +
70%	0%	30%	0 - 7	8 - 13	14 - 20	21 - 30	31 - 57	58 +
70%	10%	20%	0 - 7	8 - 13	14 - 21	22 - 31	32 - 59	60 +
70%	20%	10%	0 - 8	9 - 13	14 - 21	22 - 31	32 - 60	61 +
70%	30%	0%	0 - 8	9 - 14	15 - 22	23 - 32	33 - 62	63 +
80%	0%	20%	0 - 8	9 - 13	14 - 22	23 - 32	33 - 60	61 +
80%	10%	10%	0 - 8	9 - 14	15 - 22	23 - 33	34 - 62	63 +
80%	20%	0%	0 - 8	9 - 14	15 - 23	24 - 34	35 - 64	65 +
90%	0%	10%	0 - 8	9 - 14	15 - 23	24 - 34	35 - 64	65 +
90%	10%	0%	0 - 8	9 - 15	16 - 24	25 - 35	36 - 66	67 +
100%	0%	0%	0 - 9	10 - 15	16 - 24	25 - 36	37 - 68	69 +
I	J	K	VALUES OF L (Percentages)					



**TABLE B : COMPETITION STABLEFORD ADJUSTMENT (CSA)**  
**Less than 31 competitors in Handicap Categories 1, 2 and 3 + 4**

Handicap Categories			Reduction Only	+3	+2	+1	0	-1
1	2	3						
0%	0%	100%	0 - 3	4 - 5	6 - 8	9 - 12	13 - 30	31 +
0%	10%	90%	0 - 3	4 - 6	7 - 9	10 - 13	14 - 32	33 +
0%	20%	80%	0 - 3	4 - 6	7 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 34	35 +
0%	30%	70%	0 - 4	5 - 6	7 - 10	11 - 14	15 - 36	37 +
0%	40%	60%	0 - 4	5 - 6	7 - 10	11 - 15	16 - 38	39 +
0%	50%	50%	0 - 4	5 - 7	8 - 10	11 - 16	17 - 40	41 +
0%	60%	40%	0 - 4	5 - 7	8 - 11	12 - 17	18 - 41	42 +
0%	70%	30%	0 - 4	5 - 7	8 - 11	12 - 17	18 - 43	44 +
0%	80%	20%	0 - 4	5 - 7	8 - 12	13 - 18	19 - 45	46 +
0%	90%	10%	0 - 4	5 - 7	8 - 12	13 - 19	20 - 47	48 +
0%	100%	0%	0 - 4	5 - 8	9 - 13	14 - 19	20 - 49	50 +
10%	0%	90%	0 - 4	5 - 6	7 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 34	35 +
10%	10%	80%	0 - 4	5 - 6	7 - 10	11 - 15	16 - 36	37 +
10%	20%	70%	0 - 4	5 - 6	7 - 10	11 - 15	16 - 38	39 +
10%	30%	60%	0 - 4	5 - 7	8 - 11	12 - 16	17 - 39	40 +
10%	40%	50%	0 - 4	5 - 7	8 - 11	12 - 17	18 - 41	42 +
10%	50%	40%	0 - 4	5 - 7	8 - 12	13 - 18	19 - 43	44 +
10%	60%	30%	0 - 4	5 - 7	8 - 12	13 - 18	19 - 45	46 +
10%	70%	20%	0 - 4	5 - 8	9 - 12	13 - 19	20 - 47	48 +
10%	80%	10%	0 - 4	5 - 8	9 - 13	14 - 20	21 - 49	50 +
10%	90%	0%	0 - 4	5 - 8	9 - 13	14 - 20	21 - 51	52 +
20%	0%	80%	0 - 4	5 - 7	8 - 11	12 - 16	17 - 38	39 +
20%	10%	70%	0 - 4	5 - 7	8 - 11	12 - 16	17 - 39	40 +
20%	20%	60%	0 - 4	5 - 7	8 - 11	12 - 17	18 - 41	42 +
20%	30%	50%	0 - 4	5 - 7	8 - 12	13 - 18	19 - 43	44 +
20%	40%	40%	0 - 4	5 - 7	8 - 12	13 - 19	20 - 45	46 +
20%	50%	30%	0 - 4	5 - 8	9 - 13	14 - 19	20 - 47	48 +
20%	60%	20%	0 - 4	5 - 8	9 - 13	14 - 20	21 - 49	50 +
20%	70%	10%	0 - 4	5 - 8	9 - 13	14 - 21	22 - 51	52 +
20%	80%	0%	0 - 4	5 - 8	9 - 14	15 - 22	23 - 53	54 +
30%	0%	70%	0 - 4	5 - 7	8 - 12	13 - 18	19 - 41	42 +
30%	10%	60%	0 - 4	5 - 7	8 - 12	13 - 18	19 - 43	44 +
30%	20%	50%	0 - 4	5 - 8	9 - 12	13 - 19	20 - 45	46 +
30%	30%	40%	0 - 4	5 - 8	9 - 13	14 - 20	21 - 47	48 +
30%	40%	30%	0 - 4	5 - 8	9 - 13	14 - 20	21 - 49	50 +
30%	50%	20%	0 - 5	6 - 8	9 - 14	15 - 21	22 - 51	52 +
30%	60%	10%	0 - 5	6 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 22	23 - 53	54 +
30%	70%	0%	0 - 5	6 - 9	10 - 15	16 - 23	24 - 55	56 +
40%	0%	60%	0 - 4	5 - 8	9 - 13	14 - 19	20 - 45	46 +
40%	10%	50%	0 - 4	5 - 8	9 - 13	14 - 20	21 - 47	48 +
40%	20%	40%	0 - 5	6 - 8	9 - 14	15 - 21	22 - 49	50 +
40%	30%	30%	0 - 5	6 - 8	9 - 14	15 - 21	22 - 51	52 +
40%	40%	20%	0 - 5	6 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 22	23 - 53	54 +
40%	50%	10%	0 - 5	6 - 9	10 - 15	16 - 23	24 - 55	56 +
40%	60%	0%	0 - 5	6 - 9	10 - 15	16 - 24	25 - 57	58 +
50%	0%	50%	0 - 5	6 - 8	9 - 14	15 - 21	22 - 49	50 +
50%	10%	40%	0 - 5	6 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 22	23 - 51	52 +
50%	20%	30%	0 - 5	6 - 9	10 - 15	16 - 22	23 - 53	54 +
50%	30%	20%	0 - 5	6 - 9	10 - 15	16 - 23	24 - 55	56 +
50%	40%	10%	0 - 5	6 - 9	10 - 16	17 - 24	25 - 57	58 +
50%	50%	0%	0 - 5	6 - 10	11 - 16	17 - 25	26 - 59	60 +
60%	0%	40%	0 - 5	6 - 9	10 - 15	16 - 23	24 - 53	54 +
60%	10%	30%	0 - 5	6 - 9	10 - 15	16 - 24	25 - 55	56 +
60%	20%	20%	0 - 5	6 - 9	10 - 16	17 - 24	25 - 57	58 +
60%	30%	10%	0 - 5	6 - 10	11 - 16	17 - 25	26 - 59	60 +
60%	40%	0%	0 - 5	6 - 10	11 - 17	18 - 26	27 - 61	62 +
70%	0%	30%	0 - 5	6 - 10	11 - 16	17 - 25	26 - 57	58 +
70%	10%	20%	0 - 5	6 - 10	11 - 16	17 - 25	26 - 59	60 +
70%	20%	10%	0 - 5	6 - 10	11 - 17	18 - 26	27 - 60	61 +
70%	30%	0%	0 - 5	6 - 10	11 - 17	18 - 27	28 - 62	63 +
80%	0%	20%	0 - 5	6 - 10	11 - 17	18 - 26	27 - 60	61 +
80%	10%	10%	0 - 6	7 - 10	11 - 18	19 - 27	28 - 62	63 +
80%	20%	0%	0 - 6	7 - 11	12 - 18	19 - 28	29 - 64	65 +
90%	0%	10%	0 - 6	7 - 11	12 - 18	19 - 28	29 - 64	65 +
90%	10%	0%	0 - 6	7 - 11	12 - 19	20 - 29	30 - 66	67 +
100%	0%	0%	0 - 6	7 - 11	12 - 19	20 - 30	31 - 68	69 +
I	J	K	VALUES OF L (Percentages)					

**APPENDIX D. COMPETITION STABLEFORD ADJUSTMENT**



## APPENDIX E.

### STROKE INDEX ALLOCATION

Rule of Golf 33-4 requires Committees to “Publish a table indicating the order of holes at which *Handicap Strokes* are to be given or received”.

To provide consistency at *Affiliated Clubs* it is recommended that the allocation is made as follows:

- i. It is of paramount importance that the strokes to be received at all handicap differences are evenly spread over the 18 holes.
- ii. This is best achieved by allocating the odd numbered strokes to the more difficult of the two nine holes, usually the longest nine, and the even numbers to the other nine.
- iii. The first and second stroke index holes should be placed close to the centre of each nine and the first six strokes should not be allocated to adjacent holes.
- iv. The 7th to the 10th strokes should be allocated so that a player receiving 10 strokes does not receive three strokes on consecutive holes.
- v. None of the first eight strokes should be allocated to the 1st or the last hole and, at clubs where competitive matches may be started at the 10th hole, at the 9th or 10th hole.

This avoids a player receiving an undue advantage on the 19th hole should a match continue to sudden death.

- vi. Unless there are compelling reasons to the contrary, stroke indexes 9, 10, 11 and 12 should be allocated to holes 1, 9, 10 and 18 in such order as shall be appropriate.
- vii. Subject to satisfying the foregoing recommendations, when selecting each stroke index in turn holes of varying length should be selected. Index 1 could be a par-5, index 2 a long par-4, index 3 a shorter par-4 and index 4 a par-3. There is no recommended order for this selection, the objective being to select in index sequence holes of varying playing difficulty. Such a selection provides more equal opportunity for all handicaps in match play and Stableford and Par competitions than an order based upon hole length or difficulty to obtain par.

Note 1: Par is not an indicator of hole difficulty. Long par-3 and par-4 holes are often selected for low index allocation in preference to par-5 holes on the basis that it is easier to score par on a par-5 hole than 4 on a long par-4. However, long par-3 and par-4 holes are difficult pars for low handicap players but often easy bogeys for the player with slightly higher handicaps.

Difficulty in relation to par should not be taken into account when selecting stroke indexes.

Note 2: When allocating a stroke index it should be noted that in the majority of social matches there are small handicap differences thereby making the even distribution of the lower indexes of great importance.

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The above recommendations supplement those made by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews contained in “Guidance on Running a Competition”.





## APPENDIX F

### HANDICAP ALLOWANCES

As recommended by the European Golf Association

#### F-1. PLAYERS COMPETING FROM DIFFERENT TEES; OR MEN AND WOMEN COMPETING FROM SAME TEES

The *Course Rating* reflects the playing difficulty of the golf course for a *Scratch Golfer*. The *Course Rating* and the *Slope Rating*, together one of the foundations of the *EGA Handicap System*, reflect the playing difficulty of the golf course for players with a handicap other than scratch.

The course with the higher *Course Rating* is more difficult. When players compete in the same competition but play from different tees (men vs. women, but also men vs. men or women vs. women) or when men and women play from the same tees, the player playing from the set of tees with the higher *Course Rating* should receive additional *Handicap Strokes* equal to the difference between the *Course Ratings*. However, the formula of the *EGA Playing Handicap* (see clause 19.3) compensates for that difference and automatically adjusts the *Playing Handicaps* accordingly.

Different tees may also have a different Par, but Par is not a standard of the difficulty of a golf course. Par is only included in the formula of the *Playing Handicap* because the *EGA Handicap System* is also based on Stableford scores for reasons of Stroke Control (see Appendix J, The relevance of Par).

This means that in Stroke Play and Match Play Handicap Competitions, when players compete in the same competition but play from tees with a different Par, the players playing from the set of tees with the higher Par receive additional strokes equal to the difference between the Par of the sets of tees.

First, the *Playing Handicap* should be determined and then the additional strokes are added to the *Playing Handicap* of the player(s) playing from the tees with a higher Par.

#### EXAMPLE 1:

If, in a Stroke Play or Match Play competition, men playing from the Men's Standard Tees where the Par is 71 compete against women playing from the Ladies' Standard Tees where the Par is 72, the ladies must add one stroke to their *Playing Handicap*.

Note: For handicapping calculations the additional stroke(s) must be disregarded !!

#### EXAMPLE 2:

Mrs. A and Mr. B are partners in a mixed foursome competition (Stroke Play or Match Play only). The men play from the Men's Standard Tees where the Par is 71 and the women play from the Ladies' Standard Tees where the Par is 72.

Mrs. A has a *Playing Handicap* of 21 and Mr. B of 7. Mrs. A must add one stroke to her *Playing Handicap*, so she will play off 22. The *Playing Handicap* of the team is  $50 \% \times (22 + 7) = 29 / 2 = 14.5 \Rightarrow$  rounded to 15







If less than full *Playing Handicaps* are recommended in such competitions (e.g. Four-ball Stroke Play), the percentage reduction in playing handicaps must also affect the adjustment for the difference between the Pars. In that case the following procedure is recommended:

1. Determine the *Playing Handicaps*.
2. Apply the adjustment for the difference in Pars.
3. Apply the *Handicap Allowance* for the appropriate form of play (e.g. 90 percent).

**EXAMPLE 3:**

In a Four-ball Stroke Play competition the men play from the Men's Standard Tees where the Par is 71 and the women play from the Ladies' Standard Tees where the Par is 72.

Mrs. A has an *Playing Handicap* of 16.

The *Handicap Allowance* for this competition is 90 percent of her adjusted playing handicap :  $90 \% \times \{16 + (72 - 71)\} = 90 \% \times 17 = 15.3 \Rightarrow$  rounded to 15

**EXAMPLE 4:**

Mrs. A and Mr. B are partners in a mixed greensomes competition (Stroke Play or Match Play). The men play from the Men's Standard Tees where the Par is 71 and the women play from the Ladies' Standard Tees where the Par is 72.

Mr. B has an *Playing Handicap* of 8 and Mrs. A of 21.

The recommended *Handicap Allowance* is 60 percent of the lower handicap + 40 percent of the higher handicap:

Mr. B receives 60 percent of 8 = 4.8 strokes.

Mrs. A receives 40 percent of her adjusted playing handicap:  $40 \% \times (21 + 1) = 8.8$  strokes

The team receives  $4.8 + 8.8 = 13.6 \Rightarrow$  rounded to 14

**F-2. HANDICAP ALLOWANCES**

The *European Golf Association* recommends that the following *Handicap Allowances* shall apply in the following forms of play.

A *National Association* may at its discretion make the recommendations mandatory.

The reference to handicaps in all cases refers to *EGA Playing Handicaps*.

**F-2/1 MATCH PLAY**

*Handicap Strokes* to be taken according to the *Handicap Stroke Index*.

**Singles:**

The player with the higher handicap receives the full difference between the *Playing Handicaps* of the two players.

**Foursomes:**

The side with the higher sum of the *Playing Handicaps* of the partners receives 50 % of the full difference between the aggregate handicap of each side (0.5 is rounded upwards).





**Example:**

Players A (*Playing Handicap* 11) and B (*Playing Handicap* 18) play a match against Players C (*Playing Handicap* 6) and D (*Playing Handicap* 12)

$$A \text{ and } B \text{ receive: } 50\% \times [(11 + 18) - (6 + 12)] = 50\% \times (29 - 18) = 50\% \times 11 = 5.5 - \text{rounded upwards } 6 \text{ strokes}$$

Note: In Mixed Foursomes Match Play, *Handicap Strokes* are taken as assigned on the *Handicap Stroke Index* for men.

**Four-ball:**

The player with the lowest *Playing Handicap*, who shall play from scratch, to concede *Handicap Strokes* to the three other players based on 90 % of the difference between the *Playing Handicaps*.

Note: In Mixed Four-ball Match Play, *Handicap Strokes* are taken as assigned on the player's respective *Handicap Stroke Indices*.

**Greensomes:**

The partner with the lower *Playing Handicap* receives 60 % of his *Playing Handicap* and the partner with the higher playing handicap receives 40% of his *Playing Handicap*. Both figures are added before rounding. The final figure (= the playing handicap of the side) is rounded (0.5 upwards).

The side with the higher playing handicap receives the full difference between the handicaps of the two sides.

If, in the above formats, players play from different tees with a different Par, see clause F-1 in this Appendix.

**F-2/2 BOGEY, PAR AND STABLEFORD COMPETITIONS**

**Singles:**

The player receives 100 % of his *Playing Handicap*.

**Foursomes:**

The side receives 50 % of the sum of the *Playing Handicaps* of the partners. (0.5 rounded upwards).

**Four-ball:**

Each partner receives 90 % of his *Playing Handicap*.

**Greensomes:**

The partner with the lower *Playing Handicap* receives 60 % of his *Playing Handicap* and the partner with the higher *Playing Handicap* receives 40 % of his *Playing Handicap*. Both figures are added before rounding. This final figure (= the playing handicap of the side) is rounded (0.5 upwards).

*Handicap Strokes* to be taken according to the *Handicap Stroke Index*.

Players with a "plus" handicap give one or more strokes to the course commencing at stroke index 18.





In a mixed foursome or greensome *Handicap Strokes* are taken as assigned on the *Handicap Stroke Index* for men.

In a mixed four-ball *Handicap Strokes* are taken as assigned on the player's respective *Handicap Stroke Indices*.

In the above formats, when players compete in the same competition but play from different tees with a different Par, **NO EXTRA** adjustment for the difference in Pars will be applied to their playing handicaps since the formula of the *EGA Playing Handicap* (see clause 19.3) compensates for that difference.

#### **F-2/3 STROKE PLAY**

##### **Singles:**

The player receives 100 % of his *Playing Handicap*.

##### **Foursomes:**

The side receives 50 % of the of the sum of the *Playing Handicaps* of the partners (0.5 rounded upwards).

##### **Four-ball:**

Each partner receives 90 % of his *Playing Handicap*.

*Handicap Strokes* to be taken according to the *Handicap Stroke Index*.

In mixed four-ball stroke play *Handicap Strokes* are taken as assigned on the player's respective *Handicap Stroke Indices*.

##### **Greensomes:**

The partner with the lower playing handicap receives 60 % of his *Playing Handicap* and the partner with the higher *Playing Handicap* receives 40 % of his *Playing Handicap*. Both figures are added before rounding. The final figure (= the playing handicap of the side) is rounded (0.5 upwards).

In the above formats, when players compete in the same competition but play from different tees with a different Par, see clause F-1.

*Note 1: Handicap Allowances* in a handicap competition must be laid down by the Committee in the conditions under which the competition is to be played (Rules of Golf, Rule 33-1).

*Note 2:* The Committee in charge of a competition to be played over an extended period may provide in the Conditions of the Tournament, that a player's *Exact Handicap* may be changed during a competition.

*Note 3:* In handicap competitions over 36 holes, *Handicap Strokes* should be given or taken on a basis of two 18 holes rounds.

*Note 4:* Sudden death play-off. When extra holes are played in handicap competitions, *Handicap Strokes* should be taken in accordance with the *Handicap Stroke Index*.

*Note 5:* Players with a "plus" handicap give one or more strokes to the course commencing at stroke index 18.





## APPENDIX G

### DECISIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS

#### 1. QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS

##### 1.1. Competitions in which Handicap Limits apply

**Question:** An *Affiliated Club* organizes a *Qualifying Competition* in which a Handicap Limit of 24.0 applies. However, the Committee accepts the entry of a competitor with an *Exact Handicap* of 28.2 on condition that he plays off 24. Is the competition a *Qualifying Competition* for this player?

**Answer:** Yes, if it is a stroke-play competition the *Handicap Committee* after each round shall convert the player's score to Stableford points according to his *Playing Handicap* based on his *Exact Handicap* of 28.2. If it is a Stableford competition, the Committee, after each round, shall calculate the player's Stableford score for the competition based on an *Exact Handicap* of 24 but for handicapping purposes the player shall play of a *Playing Handicap* based on his *Exact Handicap* of 28.2.

However, if the Committee has valid reasons to organize a *Qualifying Competition* in which a Handicap Limit applies, the *EGA* recommends not accepting the entry of competitors with a higher handicap.

##### 1.2. Competitions in which Handicaps do not apply

**Question:** An *Affiliated Club* organizes a Stroke Play competition in which handicaps do not apply. Is the competition a *Qualifying Competition*?

**Answer:** The competition must be declared a *Qualifying Competition* provided all other requirements of *Handicap Conditions* are satisfied. After the competition the *Handicap Committee* must calculate the Stableford score for each player using his *Playing Handicap* based on his *Exact Handicap*.

##### 1.3. Starting Qualifying Competition other than from the 1st Tee

*Qualifying Competitions* in which the Committee authorizes competitors to commence play elsewhere than from the 1st tee will count for handicap purposes provided all other regulations of the *EGA Handicap System* are satisfied.

Competitions with a "Shotgun Start" may be *Qualifying Competitions*.

##### 1.4. Competition is not a Qualifying Competition; Competitor registers for an Extra Day Score.

**Question:** A Committee has valid reasons to deprive a certain competition of its status as *Qualifying Competition*. May competitors play in such a competition but concurrently return an *Extra Day Score*?





**Answer:** Yes, provided that the format is either Stroke Play or Stableford and provided all requirements of *Handicap Conditions* and *Extra Day Scores* are satisfied.

Note: The Committee should never deprive a competition of its status as *Qualifying Competition* solely to circumvent the regulations of the *EGA Handicap System* and thus prevent it counting for handicapping purposes.

Such action is contrary to the Spirit of the *EGA Handicap System*. The Committee should give the players the opportunity to return as many *Qualifying Scores* as possible.

### **1.5. Competition declared Non-Qualifying. Competitor registers for an Extra Day Score.**

**Question:** On the day of a *Qualifying Competition* and before commencement of play the Committee has declared the competition “Non-Qualifying” because of exceptionally bad weather conditions (clause 15.7). May competitors play in such a competition but concurrently return an *Extra Day Score*?

**Answer:** No.

## **2. QUALIFYING SCORES**

### **2.1. Scores returned in competitions organized in other country than Home Country.**

Scores returned in competitions organized by a *National Association*, an *Area Authority* or an *Affiliated Club* in a country other than the player’s own country are *Qualifying Scores* provided the *National Association* in that country has adopted the *EGA Handicap System* and all the requirements of this system are satisfied.

### **2.2. Stroke play scores returned in Open Amateur Championships organized in GB&I or elsewhere in the world.**

Stroke play scores returned in an Open Amateur Championship organized by a *National Association* which has not adopted the *EGA Handicap System* and *Slope Rating* shall nevertheless be recorded as *Qualifying Scores* under the following conditions:

- The player must return his score at his *Home Club*.
- The Course Rating (or S.S.S.), the CSS, if calculated, the Par of the 18 individual holes, the Par of the course and the *Stroke Index* must be recorded on the scorecard.
- The Stroke Play score must be converted to Stableford points.
- Under the circumstances the player’s *Playing Handicap* for the round must be calculated as follows:  
$$Pl. Hcp = \text{The player's EGA Exact Handicap} + \text{Course Rating (or S.S.S.)} - \text{Par.}$$

The result must be rounded to the nearest whole figure.
- In competitions where the *National Association* has calculated a CSA, the CSA must be applied to the player’s Stableford score. (  $CSA = CSS - SSS$  )





**2.3. Disqualified Scores**

Clause 17.1 iii of the *EGA Handicap System* provides that *Qualifying Scores* shall include “Corrected” Stableford scores from *Qualifying Rounds* that have been disqualified for an acceptable reason.

**DISQUALIFIED SCORES ACCEPTABLE FOR HANDICAPPING PURPOSES**

The following are examples when, following disqualification under the Rules of Golf, Stableford scores shall still be accepted for handicapping purposes provided that, where appropriate, the correction has been applied to the score on the Handicap Record.

- (a) Rule 3-4. – Player refuses to comply with the Rules affecting the rights of another competitor.
- (b) Rule 6-2b. – No handicap or too high a handicap recorded on the scorecard. The correct handicap shall be applied for handicapping purposes and Stableford points shall be adjusted accordingly. A similar process shall be applied if too low a handicap is recorded.
- (c) Rule 6-3a. – Player returns score, but failed to start at the correct time.
- (d) Rule 6-6b. – Scorecard not signed by the player or his marker, except if the marker’s signature has been withheld for valid reasons.
- (e) Rule 6-6b. – Player unduly delays the return of his scorecard. The actual score should be accepted if the card is returned before the competition is closed. If the scorecard has not been returned before the competition has been closed the score should be entered as a No Return.
- (f) Rule 6-7. – Player unduly delaying play, subsequent offence.
- (g) Rule 6-8. – Discontinuance of play; Resumption of play – see also item (n)

**DISQUALIFIED SCORES NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR HANDICAPPING PURPOSES**

Scores that have been disqualified for “technical” offences where it cannot be determined how much advantage the player may have gained by the breach of Rule shall NOT be acceptable as *Qualifying Scores* for handicapping purposes.

For example:

- (h) Rule 1-2. – A serious breach when taking any action to influence the position or the movement of a ball.
- (i) Rule 1-3. – Agreement to waive the Rules of Golf.
- (j) Rule 3-2. – Failure to hole out.
- (k) Rule 4-1., 4-2. and 4-3. – Using illegal clubs.
- (l) Rule 5-1. and 5-2. – Use of non-conforming ball or applying foreign material to a ball.
- (m) Rule 6-6d. – Score recorded for a hole lower than actually taken.
- (n) Rule 6-8. – Discontinuance of play for reason unacceptable to the Committee – see also item (g)
- (o) Rule 7-1b. – Practicing on the course prior to play.
- (p) Rule 11-4b. – Playing from outside Teeing Ground, not rectified.
- (q) Rule 14-3. – Using artificial devices and unusual equipment.
- (r) Rule 15-3b. – Play of Wrong Ball, not rectified.
- (s) Rule 20-7. - Playing a ball from a wrong place, not rectified. Offence considered a Serious Breach.





## 2.4. No Returns

- (a) All *Qualifying Scores* must be returned, whether complete or not.
- (b) It is expected that every player who plays a *Qualifying Round* intends to complete the round.
- (c) Since a No Return may have the effect of increasing a player's *EGA Exact Handicap*, the *Affiliated Club* would be justified in refusing to accept a score card or record a No Return when a player has walked in after playing only a few holes.
- (d) Score cards for a *Qualifying Round* should not be issued to players when there is obviously insufficient light for them to complete the round.
- (e) Sympathetic consideration should be given to players who have had to discontinue play for any cause considered to be reasonable by the organizing Committee. Such scores should be disregarded as *Qualifying Scores*.  
Clauses 23 and 25 of the *EGA Handicap System* give the *Affiliated Clubs* the discretion to deal with players who persistently submit No Returns if they consider they are attempting to "build a handicap".

## 3. HANDICAP STROKES

### 3.1. Plus Handicaps

When playing a Bogey, Par or Stableford competition, a player with a "Plus" *EGA Playing Handicap* gives *Handicap Strokes* to the course. The first stroke shall be conceded to the course at the hole allocated stroke index 18, the second at the hole allocated stroke index 17, and so forth.

## 4. PLAYING HANDICAP WHEN PLAYING ABROAD

### 4.1. Playing Handicap in competition in countries where the *EGA Handicap System* has not been adopted

**Question:** A player plays in a tournament organized in a country other than his own country. The *National Association* in the country concerned has not adopted the *EGA Handicap System*. What is the player's *Playing Handicap* for the competition?

**Answer:** Before the first round of the competition the player must report to the Committee. The player is obliged to show an official certificate issued by his *Handicapping Authority* showing his *EGA Exact Handicap* and the *Slope Rating* of the standard tees of his *Home Club*.

His Competition *Playing Handicap* should be:

$EGA\ Exact\ Handicap \times Slope\ Rating\ of\ his\ Home\ Course \div 113$

The result shall be rounded to the nearest whole number (0.5 is rounded upwards).

The Committee should accept the entry of the player playing off that *Playing Handicap*.

However, if the player cannot produce an official certificate showing the above *EGA Playing Handicap* and *Slope Rating*, the Committee would be justified in accepting the entry of the player to play off his *EGA Exact Handicap* rounded to the nearest whole number.



**4.2. Player with CONGU Handicap (GB&I) plays in country where EGA Handicap System has been adopted**

**Question:** A member of an *Affiliated Club* in a country where the *EGA Handicap System* has not been adopted plays in a tournament organized in a country that has adopted the *EGA Handicap System*. What is his *Playing Handicap* for the competition?

**Answer:** His *Playing Handicap* for the competition should be calculated as follows:  
 Competition *Playing Handicap* = CONGU **Exact** Handicap + (Course Rating – Par)

Example:

CONGU **Exact** Handicap = 19.5

Course Rating = 71.2; Par = 72

Competition *Playing Handicap* = 19.5 + (71.2 – 72) = 19.5 + (– 0.8) = 19.5 – 0.8 = 18.7 ⇒ 19

**4.3. Two Home Clubs**

**Question:** A player is a member of two clubs affiliated to two different *National Associations*, both applying the *EGA Handicap System*. He resides in each country for periods of three or more consecutive months. May the player have two *Home Clubs*?

**Answer:** Yes, but it is the responsibility of the player to inform the respective clubs of achieved results at each change of residence. It is also the responsibility of the player to choose one of these *Home Clubs* to perform the annual review of his handicap. The player may not have more than two *Home Clubs*.

**4.4. Procedure for conversion of CONGU Handicap to EGA Handicap**

**Question:** A player living in England has a CONGU Exact Handicap of 19.5. He moves to a country where the *EGA Handicap System* has been adopted and becomes a member of an *Affiliated Club* in that country. What is the procedure for conversion of his CONGU Handicap to an *EGA Handicap*?

**Answer:** As Slope Rating is not part of the CONGU Handicapping System, the CONGU Handicaps are not comparable with the *EGA Handicaps*.

However, the EGA recommends the following formula for conversion:

EGA **Exact** Handicap = CONGU **Exact** Handicap

The player, playing of that handicap, shall as soon as practical return three scores played under *Handicap Conditions* to provide his *Handicapping Authority* enough information to adjust or confirm his *Exact Handicap* in accordance with the requirements of clause 25.







## 5. ALTERATION OF HANDICAPS; ANNUAL HANDICAP REVIEW

### 5.1. Introduction of Clause 22.4 – 22.7.

The second revised edition of the *EGA Handicap System* will become effective on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2007. However, the *EGA* strongly recommends to introduce clause 22.4 – 22.7 not until the **1<sup>st</sup> of January 2008** as the *National Associations* and *Affiliated Clubs* should first advise all players at the beginning of the year 2007 that their handicaps will not be maintained anymore in accordance with the provisions of clause 22.8 – 22.15 if they fail to return at least four (4) *Qualifying Scores* before the end of the year.

The *EGA* also recommends that *National Associations* and *Affiliated Clubs* from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2008 do not accept the entry of players with an inactive *Exact Handicap* into any *Qualifying Competition* as their handicaps do not truly reflect their scoring potential. Such players can not compete in handicap events on equal terms.

## 6. MISCELLANEOUS

### 6.1. Players allowed to post own scores in computer

**Question:** May a *National Association* direct that players post their own *Qualifying Scores* in the computer of the *Club*?

**Answer:** Yes. However players must simultaneously deliver an adequately signed scorecard to the *Handicap Committee* for control.



# APPENDIX H

APPENDIX H.

GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "GOLFERS PARADISE" EGA							
EGA PLAYING HANDICAP							
MEN'S BACK TEES		MEN'S FORWARD TEES		LADIES' BACK TEES		LADIES' FORWARD TEES	
CR = 72.7 PAR = 70 SR = 130		CR = 70.3 PAR = 70 SR = 120		CR = 72.0 PAR = 70 SR = 129		CR = 70.4 PAR = 70 SR = 126	
EGA EXACT HANDICAP	EGA PLAYING HANDICAP	EGA EXACT HANDICAP	EGA PLAYING HANDICAP	EGA EXACT HANDICAP	EGA PLAYING HANDICAP	EGA EXACT HANDICAP	EGA PLAYING HANDICAP
-6.2 - -5.4	-4	-4.5 - -3.6	-4	-4.8 - -4.0	-3	-3.4 - -2.7	-3
-5.3 - -4.6	-3	-3.5 - -2.7	-3	-3.9 - -3.1	-2	-2.6 - -1.8	-2
-4.5 - -3.7	-2	-2.6 - -1.7	-2	-3.0 - -2.2	-1	-1.7 - -0.9	-1
-3.6 - -2.8	-1	-1.6 - -0.8	-1	-2.1 - -1.4	0	-0.8 - 0.0	0
-2.7 - -2.0	0	-0.7 - 0.1	0	-1.3 - -0.5	1	0.1 - 0.9	1
-1.9 - -1.1	1	0.2 - 1.1	1	-0.4 - 0.4	2	1.0 - 1.8	2
-1.0 - -0.2	2	1.2 - 2.0	2	0.5 - 1.3	3	1.9 - 2.7	3
-0.1 - 0.6	3	2.1 - 3.0	3	1.4 - 2.1	4	2.8 - 3.6	4
0.7 - 1.5	4	3.1 - 3.9	4	2.2 - 3.0	5	3.7 - 4.5	5
1.6 - 2.4	5	4.0 - 4.8	5	3.1 - 3.9	6	4.6 - 5.4	6
2.5 - 3.3	6	4.9 - 5.8	6	4.0 - 4.8	7	5.5 - 6.3	7
3.4 - 4.1	7	5.9 - 6.7	7	4.9 - 5.6	8	6.4 - 7.2	8
4.2 - 5.0	8	6.8 - 7.7	8	5.7 - 6.5	9	7.3 - 8.1	9
5.1 - 5.9	9	7.8 - 8.6	9	6.6 - 7.4	10	8.2 - 9.0	10
6.0 - 6.7	10	8.7 - 9.6	10	7.5 - 8.3	11	9.1 - 9.9	11
6.8 - 7.6	11	9.7 - 10.5	11	8.4 - 9.1	12	10.0 - 10.8	12
7.7 - 8.5	12	10.6 - 11.4	12	9.2 - 10.0	13	10.9 - 11.7	13
8.6 - 9.3	13	11.5 - 12.4	13	10.1 - 10.9	14	11.8 - 12.6	14
9.4 - 10.2	14	12.5 - 13.3	14	11.0 - 11.8	15	12.7 - 13.5	15
10.3 - 11.1	15	13.4 - 14.3	15	11.9 - 12.7	16	13.6 - 14.4	16
11.2 - 11.9	16	14.4 - 15.2	16	12.8 - 13.5	17	14.5 - 15.3	17
12.0 - 12.8	17	15.3 - 16.1	17	13.6 - 14.4	18	15.4 - 16.2	18
12.9 - 13.7	18	16.2 - 17.1	18	14.5 - 15.3	19	16.3 - 17.1	19
13.8 - 14.6	19	17.2 - 18.0	19	15.4 - 16.2	20	17.2 - 18.0	20
14.7 - 15.4	20	18.1 - 19.0	20	16.3 - 17.0	21	18.1 - 18.9	21
15.5 - 16.3	21	19.1 - 19.9	21	17.1 - 17.9	22	19.0 - 19.8	22
16.4 - 17.2	22	20.0 - 20.9	22	18.0 - 18.8	23	19.9 - 20.7	23
17.3 - 18.0	23	21.0 - 21.8	23	18.9 - 19.7	24	20.8 - 21.6	24
18.1 - 18.9	24	21.9 - 22.7	24	19.8 - 20.5	25	21.7 - 22.5	25
19.0 - 19.8	25	22.8 - 23.7	25	20.6 - 21.4	26	22.6 - 23.4	26
19.9 - 20.6	26	23.8 - 24.6	26	21.5 - 22.3	27	23.5 - 24.3	27
20.7 - 21.5	27	24.7 - 25.6	27	22.4 - 23.2	28	24.4 - 25.2	28
21.6 - 22.4	28	25.7 - 26.5	28	23.3 - 24.0	29	25.3 - 26.0	29
22.5 - 23.2	29	26.6 - 27.4	29	24.1 - 24.9	30	26.1 - 26.9	30
23.3 - 24.1	30	27.5 - 28.4	30	25.0 - 25.8	31	27.0 - 27.8	31
24.2 - 25.0	31	28.5 - 29.3	31	25.9 - 26.7	32	27.9 - 28.7	32
25.1 - 25.9	32	29.4 - 30.3	32	26.8 - 27.5	33	28.8 - 29.6	33
26.0 - 26.7	33	30.4 - 31.2	33	27.6 - 28.4	34	29.7 - 30.5	34
26.8 - 27.6	34	31.3 - 32.2	34	28.5 - 29.3	35	30.6 - 31.4	35
27.7 - 28.5	35	32.3 - 33.1	35	29.4 - 30.2	36	31.5 - 32.3	36
28.6 - 29.3	36	33.2 - 34.0	36	30.3 - 31.0	37	32.4 - 33.2	37
29.4 - 30.2	37	34.1 - 35.0	37	31.1 - 31.9	38	33.3 - 34.1	38
30.3 - 31.1	38	35.1 - 35.9	38	32.0 - 32.8	39	34.2 - 35.0	39
31.2 - 31.9	39	36.0 - 36.0	39	32.9 - 33.7	40	35.1 - 36.0	40
32.0 - 32.8	40			33.8 - 34.6	41		
32.9 - 33.7	41			34.7 - 35.4	42		
33.8 - 34.5	42			35.5 - 36.0	43		
34.6 - 35.4	43						
35.5 - 36.0	44						

Instructions:

- Decide from which tees you will play.
- Find the range containing your *Exact Handicap* in the left column of the tees from which you play. Your *Playing Handicap* is the corresponding number in the right column.



## APPENDIX I

### CLUB HANDICAP

#### I / 1. PURPOSE OF A CLUB HANDICAP

In order to increase the pleasure for inexperienced golfers, in particular beginners, many golf clubs issue handicaps exceeding the official limits for *EGA Exact Handicaps* as determined by the *National Associations* (clause 21.1).

These so called Club Handicaps may often amount to 54, but may go even higher. The general purpose of Club Handicaps is that they allow members of an *Affiliated Club* to play and compete at their Home Course only, with limitations as directed by the *Home Club*.

#### I / 2. DEFINITIONS

##### Club Handicap

A "Club Handicap" is a Handicap exceeding the official limit for an *EGA Exact Handicap*. *EGA Exact Handicaps* may not exceed 36.0.

A Club Handicap is expressed as a whole number.

The *Handicap Committee* may allot a player an initial Club Handicap which is appropriate to the player's ability

The Club Handicap is used for conversion to a Club Playing Handicap.

##### Club Handicap Differential

The "Club Handicap Differential" is the difference between an *EGA Exact Handicap* of 36.0 and the corresponding *EGA Playing Handicap* at the course being played.

##### Example:

According to the *EGA Playing Handicap Table* a player with an *Exact Handicap* of 36.0, playing from the forward tees at his *Home Club* has a *Playing Handicap* of 39.

The Club Handicap Differential when playing from the forward tees is:  $39 - 36.0 = 3$

##### Club Playing Handicap

A "Club Playing Handicap" is the number of *Handicap Strokes* a player with a Club Handicap receives from a specific set of tees at the course being played.

For reasons of simplicity a player's Club Playing Handicap is determined by adding the Club Handicap Differential of the course being played to his Club Handicap.

##### Example:

The maximum Club Handicap at a player's Home Club is 54.

The Club Handicap Differential from the men's forward tees is 3.

A men's Club Handicap of 38 converts to a Club Playing Handicap of 41 ( $= 38 + 3$ ), a Club Handicap of 53 to a Club Playing Handicap of 56 ( $= 53 + 3$ ), etc...

The Club Handicap Differential from the ladies' forward tees is 5.

A ladies' Club Handicap of 41 converts to a Club Playing Handicap of 46 ( $= 41 + 5$ ).





**I / 3. ALTERATION OF CLUB HANDICAPS**

Club Handicaps shall not be increased except analogously clause 25.2 of the EGA Handicap System.

Club handicaps are decreased in whole numbers.

If a player returns a score of 37 Stableford points or more, his Club Handicap is reduced by an amount per Stableford point in excess of 36. The amount per point is 1.0

*Example:*

A lady with a club handicap of 49 returns a score of 39 Stableford points. Her Club Handicap is consequently reduced to 46 (= 49 - 3).





## APPENDIX J

### THE RELEVANCE OF PAR

Par is not and has never been a well defined entity. Par as a term was invented in connection with the Open Championship in 1870. A British golf journalist, A.H. Doleman, asked a couple of golf professionals how many strokes would be required to win on the 12-holes course at Prestwick. The answer was that a flawless game would yield 49 strokes, which he called Par, a term that he transferred from the stock-exchange. When Young Tom Morris won the three-round event in 149 strokes the term stuck.

Par was given an additional dimension in 1931 when Dr. Stableford invented his point-system after having been exceptionally unlucky at the first hole of an important tournament. The first competition using Stableford points was played in May 1932 at the Wallasey Golf Club.

Golf courses should be designed in harmony with the landscape and the design should not be based on future figures for Par or Course and Slope Rating, nor on handicap systems.

Tees should be placed accordingly. However, since Par is not well defined it is easy to understand that holes could differ in Par when played from different tees and that a hole could also differ in Par for men and women. Although the recommended lengths for holes with Par 3, 4 or 5 in any system include important latitudes, there are courses where the Par of a hole differs from one tee to another. In continental Europe the same Par is generally applied both for men and women and from the various tees.

“Stroke control” has long remained an enigma and a large number of variations have been tried with the aim of achieving a basis for correct handicapping. In Europe where the Stableford system has become increasingly popular, the *EGA* finally has chosen to use Stableford points in order to achieve Stroke Control. For handicapping the Stableford points are awarded in relation to the Par at each hole. This does not cause problems on courses where Par is equal for men and women. However, particularly in Great Britain, courses with a different Par for men and women are frequent. This causes unfairness when men and women compete in the same competition, but play from different tees with different PARS.

The *EGA Handicap System* is based on the Course and Slope Ratings of the course being played and on Stableford points for stroke control. For that reason and for the sake of simplicity, Course Rating, Slope Rating and Par are included in the formula which converts *EGA Exact Handicaps* to *EGA Playing Handicaps*. This means that all players receive a number of *Handicap Strokes* which varies from one set of tees to another. This is true both for men and women. The more difficult the course, the more *Handicap Strokes*.

However, Par is not a standard of the difficulty of a golf course and does not play a part in Match Play and Stroke Play competitions. This means that in Match Play and Stroke Play when players compete in the same competition but play from tees with a different Par, the difference between the Par of the sets of tees must be compensated.





As an illustration we can imagine a lady golfer, who at her *Home Club* on average has the potential of playing the course from the Ladies' Standard Tees in 92 strokes. Her Par is 73. Consequently, according to the structure of the *EGA Playing Handicap Formula* her Playing Handicap should be 19 ( = 92 - 73).

A gentleman playing the same course on average has the potential to play the course from the Men's Standard Tees in 90 strokes. However his Par is 72. Consequently his Playing Handicap should be 18 ( = 90 - 72).

When this lady and gentleman eventually play each other in Match Play on equal terms it is evident that the lady should receive 2 ( = 92 - 90) strokes. However, the difference in Playing Handicaps (19-18) is only one stroke. Consequently in Match Play the difference in Par must be taken into account.

This means that in Match Play and in Stroke Play competitions, when players compete in the same competition but play from tees with a different Par, the players playing from the set of tees with the higher Par receive additional Handicap Strokes equal to the difference between the Par of the sets of tees.





## APPENDIX K.

### INTRODUCTION OF THE EGA HANDICAP SYSTEM

A *National Association* that has decided to adopt the *EGA Handicap System* must first establish a national Handicap Committee to administer the *EGA Handicap System* within its own country and a Course Rating Committee to supervise the rating of all courses in accordance with the "USGA Course Rating System".

As the "USGA Course Rating System" is the property of the *USGA*, the *National Association* must first obtain written authorization from the *USGA* in order to use their System. The task of the Course Rating Committee is to:

- i. Enlist volunteers to be trained as Course Raters and form at least one Rating Team ( 4 Course Raters).
- ii. Order the "USGA Course Rating System" Manuals and Guides from the *USGA*:

United States Golf Association  
 PO Box 708  
 77 Liberty Corner Rd.  
 Far Hills, NJ 07931-0708  
 United States

Phone: (908) 234-2300  
 (908) 234-9687  
 Website: www.usga.org

- iii. Organize the training of Course Raters, either through *USGA* training and calibrating seminars or with help of the *EGA* and/or a *National Association* of an experienced neighboring country.  
 At least one of the Course Raters must have attended a *USGA* training seminar in order to be nominated as team leader.
- iv. Designate experienced Course Raters as team leaders.
- v. Measure all the courses in accordance with Appendix A, section 12.
- vi. Rate the courses of all *Affiliated Clubs* and all other courses approved by the *National Association* for handicapping purposes.
- vii. Determine the *Course Ratings* and the *Slope Ratings*.

Note: A *National Association* in a country with only a few golf courses may ask the *EGA* for help. At the expense of the *National Association* the *EGA* will try to send a team of at least two very experienced Course Raters.

Once the *National Association* has finished course rating, it must also obtain the written authorization from the *EGA* in order to use the *EGA Handicap System*.

In order to achieve uniformity in the application of the *EGA Handicap System* a *National Association* shall NOT amend the regulations of the system and must ensure the integrity of *EGA Handicaps* issued under its jurisdiction (clause 12.6)

However, the *EGA Handicap System* allows the *National Association* some latitude to choose different options in the system.

Before introducing the system the association must come to a decision on the following items:

- a. Should any part of the jurisdiction for the administration of the *EGA Handicap System* be delegated to an *Area Authority* (clause 12.3)





- b. May the system only be used for members of *Affiliated Clubs*, or also for
  - (i) individual members of the Association; or
  - (ii) individual players registered and controlled by the Association (clause 12.7).

How will the administration and registration of handicaps of the last two categories be organized. In this case the Association must assume the responsibility as *Handicapping Authority*.
- c. Is the adjustment of a player's handicap the responsibility of the player or his *Handicapping Authority* (clause 12.10)
- d. Are scores over 9 holes accepted for handicapping purposes and for which *Handicap Categories* (clause 17.2)
- e. Are *Extra Day Scores* accepted for handicapping purposes (clause 12.11 + 18.1) and will there be a limit of the number of *Extra Day Scores* allowed (clause 18.9). May a player mark an *Extra Day Score* only at his *Home Club*, or at any *Club* (clause 18.3).
- f. Does the Association adopt the Competition Stableford Adjustment (clause 12.12 + Appendix D). The *EGA* strongly recommends the adoption of CSA.
- g. The Association shall establish the procedure to record *Qualifying Scores* (clause 12.13, Appendix B).
- h. The Association shall determine the *Period for Preferred Lies* (clause 12.14).
- i. The Association must declare the duration of the *Winter Period*, if adopted.
- j. Does the Association require an examination on the Rules of Golf before allotting a player an *EGA Exact Handicap* (clause 12.16).
- k. The Association shall establish a procedure to adjudicate upon the suspension of handicaps pursuant to clause 23.5 (clause 12.17).
- l. Shall direct the appeal procedure to be made available to a player, who is dissatisfied with a determination under clauses 23, 25 and 26.
- m. Does the Association restrict increases of *EGA Exact Handicaps* to 2.0 strokes above the minimum *EGA Exact Handicap* held in a calendar year (clause 22.15).
- n. The Association may issue guidelines regarding the consequences for entry into competitions for all players who return three (3) or less scores in a calendar year.

*National Associations* are permitted to adapt and translate the *EGA Handicap System* from English into their own language. The translation does not need to be literal and the *National Association* may use the terminology that is commonly used in its own country.

However, the system must be called the "EGA Handicap System" and the handicaps shall be called "EGA Handicap".







## Appendix L.

### PROCEDURE AND COMPUTER SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS FOR ANNUAL HANDICAP REVIEW

#### Introduction

According to clause 26.1 the *Handicap Committee* of a *Handicapping Authority* shall undertake an Annual Handicap Review (AHR) as soon as possible after the end of the year (season). The AHR is mandatory for all players.

At the AHR the *Handicap Committee* shall confirm or adjust the *Exact Handicap* (upwards or downwards) of all players who have returned four (4) or more *Qualifying Scores* in the past calendar year in accordance with the requirements of clause 25. However, till today many *Handicap Committees* have never performed an AHR because the *EGA* has not yet published any guidelines and a review of all the members of a club without help of a computer was too labour-intensive and time consuming.

At request of some *National Associations* the following guidelines have been developed to assist the *Handicap Committee* in conducting an AHR based on computer analysis as mentioned in clause 26.5.

The purpose of a computer analysis is to readily identify all handicaps meriting consideration for handicap adjustment at the AHR and give an indication of the number of strokes for increase. However, **all proposals for increase by the computer shall still be confirmed by the *Handicap Committee***. The number of strokes for any possible reduction of an *Exact Handicap* should not be proposed by a computer but must be determined by the *Handicap Committee*.

*Handicap Committees* must be aware that a good AHR will include all aspects of players' results for the previous year. The number of scores returned in relation to the number of rounds played, performances in Four-ball, Team and Match play competitions should be taken into consideration. This may be particularly important where players return few (four or five) *Qualifying Scores* yet regularly compete in social events.

The basis of the *EGA Handicap System* is the assumption that every player will try to make the best score he can at each hole in every round he plays and that he will return as many *Qualifying Scores* per calendar year as possible but not less than four (4). All *Exact Handicaps* maintained on the basis of four or more scores shall be clearly marked with an asterisk \* on the Handicap Records and Handicap Certificates to indicate that the *Exact Handicaps* have been correctly reviewed on the basis of sufficient statistical data and are acceptable for entry into any *Qualifying Competition* which requires an *EGA Handicap* (clause 22.5).

All *Exact Handicaps* based on only three (3) or less *Qualifying Scores* in a calendar year are statistically not reliable and, in the absence of adequate and necessary information for adjustment and revision, do not reflect the scoring potential of the players with sufficient accuracy. It is not possible to conduct a meaningful AHR based purely on such limited information. For that reason such "inactive" handicaps shall first be listed at the AHR because they will remain unchanged and, in the following year, shall NOT be maintained anymore in accordance with the provisions of clause 22 (see clause 22.4 – 22.7).





**Expected Mean Stableford Score (EMSS):**

The “Expected Mean Stableford Score” is the Stableford Score, calculated from handicapping statistics, that a properly handicapped player most likely will make when playing an 18-holes round.

According to the statistical foundations of the *EGA Handicap System* a player is not expected to make a Stableford score in his relevant *Buffer Zone* or better each time he plays a *Qualifying Round*, so one can easily understand that his EMSS will be lower than the lowest score of his *Buffer Zone*.

The EMSS can be calculated for every *Exact Handicap*, but for reasons of simplicity the EMSS has only been computed for seven ranges of *Exact Handicaps*, which do not necessarily coincide with the five *Handicap Categories*:

Handicap	-- 2.4	2.5 – 5.4	5.5 – 9.4	9.5 – 13.4	13.5 – 18.4	18.5 – 26.4	26.5 – 36
EMSS	34	33	32	31	30	29	28

**Procedure**

The procedure below performed by a computer will identify different categories of players. It is expected that by separating the *Exact Handicaps* that should be considered for adjustment from the large numbers that need not be examined, the work involved at the AHR will be greatly reduced and raised to a higher level of accuracy.

1. *Exact Handicaps* of players with less than four (4) scores returned are listed and shall remain unchanged (see clause 22.6 and 22.7).

Note: *Handicap Committees* must be aware that these handicaps are not declared lost or lapsed but should only be used for social golf or other events as the players’ *Home Clubs* may direct.

2. *Exact Handicaps* attained in the past year are listed and shall not be increased but could be considered for reduction.
3. The performance of each player who has returned four (4) or more scores will be evaluated by first computing the Average of the Better Half of his Stableford Scores (ABHSS). The ABHSS shall not be rounded but is expressed as a number taken to one decimal place.

Example 1:

In a calendar year a player returns 6 Stableford scores: 24, **35**, **32**, 28, **30** and 25  
His ABHSS is: (30 + 32 + 35) / 3 = 32.3

Example 2:

In a calendar year a player returns 5 Stableford scores: 24, **28**, 25, **29** and **32**  
His ABHSS is: (28 + 29 + 32) / 3 = 29.6





In case of an odd number of scores, the middle score will count for the better half of the scores.

Example 3:

In a calendar year a player returns 4 Stableford scores: 24, **31**, No Return and **36**. His ABHSS is:  $(31 + 36) / 2 = 33.5$

Note: A No Return is normally very unusual in Stableford competitions. *Handicap Committees* should be aware that a player who regularly reports a No Return might try to manipulate his handicap.

4. The value of the player's ABHSS will then be compared with his EMSS. A computer can easily identify the following groups of players:
  - a. **The player's ABHSS is equal to or higher than the sum of the Lower Limit of his Buffer Zone + 3:**  
 Subject to the provisions of clause 25.1 and 25.3, the player's *Exact Handicap* should be considered for reduction.

Handicap Category	I	II	III	IV	V
Buffer Zone	35 – 36	34 – 36	33 – 36	32 – 36	31 – 36
Lower Limit Buffer Zone + 3	38	37	36	35	34

Note: *Handicap Committees* must be aware that only one exceptionally high *Qualifying Score* might cause a (too) high ABHSS when a player has returned only a few scores. One very high score will normally not be a valid reason to reduce a player's *Exact Handicap* on the basis of general play.

- b. **The player's ABHSS is equal to, or higher than his EMSS but below the sum of the lower limit of his Buffer Zone + 3:**  
 The player's *Exact Handicap* will normally remain unchanged and will be confirmed.

Example:  
 A player's *Exact Handicap* is 4.2  $\Rightarrow$  EMSS = 33  
 The sum of the lower limit of his *Buffer Zone* + 3 = 35 + 3 = 38  
 The player's *Exact Handicap* remains unchanged when:  $33 \leq \text{ABHSS} < 38$



**c. The player's ABHSS is lower than his EMSS:**

It is recommended to increase his *Exact Handicap* by the difference between ABHSS and EMSS but with a maximum being determined by his *Handicap Category* (see table below):

Handicap Category	I	II	III	IV	V
Maximum increase	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0

The system is advisory in the sense that the computer selects *Exact Handicaps* of players meriting consideration for adjustment and suggests a number of strokes (for increase only). The *Handicap Committee* is then obliged to evaluate the proposal and all other pertinent data and, after approval, make the final adjustment.

After the Annual Handicap Review all handicaps are listed and should be made available for peer review and consultation by all other players and organising committees.

Note 1: The second revised edition of the *EGA Handicap System* will become effective on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2007. However, the *EGA* strongly recommends to use the above guidelines not until the **1<sup>st</sup> of January 2008** as the *National Associations* and *Affiliated Clubs* should first advise all players at the beginning of the year 2007 about the consequences and that their handicaps will not be maintained anymore in accordance with the provisions of clause 22.8 – 22.15 if they fail to return at least four (4) *Qualifying Scores* before the end of the year.

Note 2: The *EGA* reserves the right to amend the above guidelines after careful examination and evaluation of the results of AHR each year. *National Associations* are invited to send the results of AHR in their own country to the *Handicapping Course Rating Committee* of the *EGA*.



Design and production: *Uitgeverij Equipe BV* - [www.golfmedia.nl](http://www.golfmedia.nl)

