

CONGU® Changes 2018: Questions & Answers

1 Retirement of Club and Disability Handicaps		
1.1	What happens to existing CONGU® Club Handicaps?	The CONGU® handicap limit of 28[36] has been removed and replaced with 54 for both men and women thus aligning with other handicapping systems around the world. Handicapping software will automatically adjust handicaps past the current limits into Category 5 for men and Category 6 for men and women when scores are outside the Buffer Zone as from 1 st January 2018.
1.2	Will players who had a CONGU® Club Handicap have a Competition Handicap?	<p>Players with a CONGU® Club Handicap will automatically have an official CONGU® handicap from 1st January 2018 and this will be a Competition Handicap provided they meet the minimum requirement of 3 qualifying scores.</p> <p>Players who submitted scores in 2017 and were awarded a CONGU® Club Handicap will have a Competition Handicap on 1st January 2018.</p> <p>Players who were awarded a CONGU® Club Handicap in 2016 will have a Competition Handicap providing they have submitted a minimum of 3 qualifying scores in 2017. Otherwise Clause 26.3 applies.</p>
1.3	Some of our members refused a CONGU® Club Handicap due to competition restrictions. Can they refuse an increase in handicap now?	Players cannot refuse an increase in handicap from scores returned in qualifying competitions and are subject to the process outlined in the Annual Review.
1.4	Should we review all handicaps that are 28/36?	It is recommend that all players currently at the maximum handicap are reviewed with a view to increasing their handicap to a level that reflects their playing ability. The software will allow such adjustments from 1 st January 2018. These players will have been identified in the computer-generated Annual Review Report, especially the new 'All Members' report.
1.5	What are the guidelines for adjusting those whose handicaps are at the 28[36] limits at year end 2017 and who have not had any reductions in the year?	<p>Review the Performance Against Target (PAT) for those players from the Annual Review documentation. The following adjustments are recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAT > 3 but < 5 1 shot increase • PAT >=5 but < 12 2 shot increase • PAT 12+ 3 shot increase <p>Note: these are the recommended increases – the Committee are best placed to review their players and should ensure any adjustments are appropriate.</p>
1.6	Does a club have to award an Initial Handicap Allotment over 28/36?	When considering scores for handicap purposes, the procedure in Clause 16 must be followed and this may result in a handicap of over 28[36]. However, the Handicap Committee should always take all information available into account when allocating an initial handicap – the system suggested value is a guide to this and may be overridden.

1.7	We have handicap limits on our main trophy competitions. Do we have to increase these limits?	Clubs may include any entry requirement in their Conditions of Competitions they consider appropriate, including handicap limits. Clubs may wish to review any limits to include players who may otherwise be excluded due to the change in handicap limits.
1.8	We run a Mixed 4BBB Open with handicap limits of 18 for a man and 24 for a woman off $\frac{3}{4}$ handicap. Do we have to change these limits and allowances?	Open competitions, like internal competitions, can have any entry requirement the organisers consider appropriate. However, where CONGU® Handicaps are used they are subject to the mandatory Handicap Allowances shown in Appendix F. For a 4BBB competition, 90% allowance must be used for competitions of this format.
1.9	Currently, our junior boys play from the red tees until they reach a handicap of 28 and then they immediately start playing off the men's tees. What happens now?	A junior boy should continue playing from the tees best suited to his standard and awarded a CONGU® Handicap when he demonstrates that he has reached the level of competency required when playing on a course rated for men. Note1: Tees may be rated for both genders and in the situation described in this question, the red tee would need to be rated for men in order for any score to be qualifying for handicap. Note2: As from 1 January 2018 the handicapping regulations make no distinction between the genders, nor between adults and juniors, nor between the disabled and able-bodied golfers. For handicapping purposes all players must, however, play from tees that have been rated for their gender and any score returned that does not meet this requirement cannot be used for handicapping even though it may be valid under the Conditions of Competition on the day.
1.10	What will the boundaries be for the new handicap categories?	Categories 1, 2 and 3 will remain the same for all players. Category 4 will be 20.5 to 28.4 Category 5 will be 28.5 to 36.4 Category 6 will be 36.5 to 54
2	Supplementary Scores	
2.1	Removing the restriction of one supplementary score per week could cause clubs a considerable amount of extra work. Do we have to record these scores on the player's record?	These scores must be recorded on the player's record. In preparation for the new World Handicap System, it is essential that all players have sufficient scores on their record so that a reasonable determination of their handicap can be made. Relaxing the rules regarding Supplementary Scores provides all players with greater opportunity to return more scores than they would otherwise do.
2.2	Surely, by removing the restriction of one score per week, the system is open to abuse and manipulation?	There is more potential for manipulation and abuse by removing the limit on submitting Supplementary Scores and it is recommended that clubs remind players that 'Supplementary Score returns may be subject to action under CONGU® Clause 21.11/23B if malpractice is suspected.'
3	Mixed/Multi Tee Competitions	
3.1	Do all our competitions played on the same day have to be combined so that we produce a single CSS?	This is not a mandatory requirement. However, having a single CSS for two or more competitions on the same day provides for a more equitable value in situations where one of the competitions may have a small field size. For a multi-tee competition run for players of the same gender or of mixed genders it is very strongly recommended that the single CSS Adjustment is adopted.

4	Initial Handicap Allotment	
4.1	Is it correct that players who have been given an Initial Handicap Allotment (IHA) could potentially retain this until the end of the next golfing year, without playing in a single qualifying competition?	The scores used to obtain an IHA entered into the player's record are qualifying scores. As such, as with any other handicapped player, the handicap status will be valid until the end of the next golfing year providing the player is a member of an Affiliated Club.
4.2	Has the Handicap Allocation Process changed due to the higher handicaps?	Yes, Handicap Committees are now required to adjust any score of more than double par at any hole to a score of double par (i.e. 6 on a Par 3, 8 on a Par 4 and 10 on a Par 5). All other elements of Clause 16 remain the same. Note: The adjusting algorithm in Clause 16.3 (b) now applies throughout the handicap range whereas previously it was not used in a Club/Disability Handicap calculation.
5	Nine-Hole Competitions	
5.1	Does my club have to schedule 9-Hole qualifying Medal competitions as well as 9-Hole Stableford competitions?	It is not mandatory to schedule 9-Hole Medal competitions. CONGU strongly recommends that clubs provide 9-Hole qualifying competitions (Stableford or Medal) to encourage players with limited time or physical restraints to return qualifying scores for handicap under competition conditions. Note: From a time-constraint point of view, the recommended format would be Stableford.
5.2	Do I need a 9-Hole SSS to run a medal competition?	Yes, to run any qualifying competition, an appropriate SSS must be obtained from your National Union.
5.3	On what basis is my handicap adjusted when competing in a 9-Hole Medal competition?	The competition will simply display the Medal result, whilst the underlying score will be recorded as Stableford. Thus the handicap adjustment will be on the basis of the equivalent Stableford score and your handicap record will show that Stableford score.