



CONGU® Changes 2018: Questions & Answers

Retirement of Club and Disability Handicaps	
What will happen to existing 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.
Will players who had a Club Handicap have a CONGU® competition handicap?	<p>Players with a 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 Club Handicap will have a CONGU® Competition handicap on 1st January 2018.</p> <p>Players who were awarded a Club Handicap in 2016 will have a CONGU® Competition handicap providing they have submitted a minimum of 3 qualifying scores in 2017. Otherwise Clause 26.3 applies.</p>
Some of our members refused a Club Handicap because they were prevented from playing in Club and Open competitions that required a CONGU® handicap. Can they refuse an increase in handicap now?	Players will not be able to refuse an increase in handicap from scores returned in qualifying competitions and are subject to the process outlined in the Annual Review. Any increase resulting from a Handicap Committee review will be subject to the usual Handicap Appeals Procedure laid down by England Golf.
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. Such adjustments can only be effective from 1 st January 2018. These players should be identified in the computer-generated Annual Review Report.
Does my 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].
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.
We run a Mixed 4BBB Open with handicap limits of 18 for a man and 24 for a woman off ¾ 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.



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 measured for men. Note: Tees may be rated for both genders.
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
Supplementary Scores	
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 Worldwide Handicapping 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.
Surely, by removing the restriction of one score per week, the system is open 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.'
Mixed Tee Competitions	
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.
Initial Handicap Allotment	
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.
Has the Handicap Allocation Process changed due to the higher handicaps?	Yes, you 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.
9 Hole Competitions	
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, either Medal or Stableford, to encourage players with limited time or physical restraints to return qualifying scores for handicap under Competition conditions.
Do I need a 9 hole SSS to run a medal competition?	Yes, to run any qualifying competition, the appropriate SSS must be obtained.





How will my handicap be adjusted after a 9 hole medal qualifying competition?

9 hole medal scores will be converted to a Stableford score and adjusted under Clause 22.6.

Handicap Adjustments

We have a system whereby we automatically reduce handicaps of players who have won certain trophy competitions. Can we still do this?

Such systems have always been discouraged within CONGU® and as from 1st January 2018, clubs are specifically prevented from applying such a system.

