

## Clarifications of the 2020 Rules of Handicapping

As of 1 April 2021

Additional clarifications will be included in this document as required, and date referenced.

### General

#### Application of Discretionary Items in Different Jurisdictions (Added 1 April 2021)

The Rules of Handicapping contain a number of areas where the Authorized Association has discretion to choose between two or more options, to accommodate the way that golf is played and administered within that jurisdiction. These ‘discretionary items’ are mandatory within the jurisdiction to which they apply, but when travelling to a different jurisdiction, where different options may have been selected, it is the player’s responsibility to find out which option applies to their round.

The following table sets out the position for each discretionary item that is available to Authorized Associations:

Rule #	Discretionary Item	When Round is Played ‘Away’
1.4b	Designating a Home Club	N/A
2.1a	Acceptability of Scores - Played in an Authorized Format of Play	As per Rule 2.1a(ii), Diagram 2.1a
2.1a(iii)	Pre-registration of Intent to Submit a Score in General Play	As per ‘Home’ and in a manner determined by Home Club
2.2a	Minimum Number of Holes Played for Score to be Acceptable For an 18-hole Score - when <u>lower</u> than home jurisdiction	As per ‘Away’ – to be consistent with Rule 2.1a(ii)
2.2a	Minimum Number of Holes Played for Score to be Acceptable For an 18-hole Score - when <u>higher</u> than home jurisdiction	As per ‘Home’ – to be consistent with Rule 2.1a(ii)
2.2b	Minimum Number of Holes Played for Score to be Acceptable For a 9-hole Score - when <u>lower</u> than home jurisdiction	As per ‘Away’ – to be consistent with Rule 2.1a(ii)
2.2b	Minimum Number of Holes Played for Score to be Acceptable For a 9-hole Score - when <u>higher</u> than home jurisdiction	As per ‘Home’ – to be consistent with Rule 2.1a(ii)
3.3	When a Hole is Started but Player Does Not Hole Out	As per ‘Away’ – to be consistent with Rule 2.1a(ii)
4.1b	Information Required for Scoring Record: For Scores Prior to Establishing a Handicap Index	As per ‘Home’
4.4	Certification of Score	As per ‘Home’
5.1a	Calculation of a Score Differential: For an 18-hole Score	As per ‘Home’
5.1b	Calculation of a Score Differential: For a 9-hole Score	As per ‘Home’

5.2a	Handicap Committee: Assignment of Handicap Index Below Threshold Must be Approved	N/A
6.1	Course Handicap Calculation	See Note*
7.1 a	Handicap Committee: Handicap Index Adjustments from Handicap Review Must be Sanctioned or Ratified	N/A
7.1 a	Handicap Committee: Upward Adjustments of Handicap Index Exceeding Number of Strokes Must be Sanctioned or Ratified	N/A

\*NOTE:

When playing in a different jurisdiction, the formula used to calculate a players' Course Handicap will depend on the format of play and the other participating players. For example:

In general play, either the 'Home' or 'Away' formula can be applied, depending on who is participating, such that:

- If 4 players from the same jurisdiction have travelled to a different jurisdiction to play a round together, they should calculate their Course Handicaps in the same way as they do at 'Home'.
- If a single player has travelled to a different jurisdiction to play a round with 3 players from the 'Away' jurisdiction, the single player should calculate their Course Handicap in the same way as the 'Away' players.

In competition play, the player should always use the 'Away' formula and Committees are encouraged to include this requirement within their Terms of the Competition.

**Definitions**

Low Handicap Index (Added 1 April 2021)

"The lowest Handicap Index achieved by the player during the 365-day period (one year) preceding the day on which the most recent score on their scoring record was played (see Rule 5.7)".

Lowest Handicap Index achieved should be interpreted to mean the lowest Handicap Index **calculated** during the 365-day period and should not include a Handicap Index calculated earlier, that was carried into the 365-day period.

**Interpretations**

**2.1/1 Score is Acceptable for Handicap Purposes Even If Holes Have Not Been Played in the Order Set by the Committee (Added 1 April 2021)**

Insertion of additional language, highlighted in red:

Rule 5.1 of the Rules of Golf requires holes in a round to be played in the order set by either the Committee in charge of the competition or the Committee in charge of the golf course. However, **provided the player has not been disqualified**, a score is acceptable for handicap purposes even if the holes in a round have not been played in the order set by the Committee.

For example:

- When the golf course is busy and starting at an alternative hole will allow a quicker pace of play.
- When playing holes in a different order will allow more players to complete their rounds, particularly during periods when daylight is limited.

**If the player has been disqualified, see Rule 2.1b.**