



What Do I Post for Handicap Purposes?

During a round of golf a player may run into a situation where picking up and not finishing a hole makes sense for a multitude of reasons (partner has already won the hole, conceded a putt, etc.). Or the golfer may come across a par 5 hole which has been shortened to a par 3 because the maintenance staff is working on the teeing area. Do you know how to correctly record those scores for handicap purposes?

Unfinished Holes or Conceded Strokes

A player who starts but does not complete a hole or is conceded a stroke must record for handicap purposes the most likely score. The most likely score consists of the number of strokes already taken plus, in the player's best judgment, the number of strokes needed to complete the hole from that position more than half the time. The most likely score is not to exceed the player's maximum allowable under Equitable Stroke Control. However, there is no limit to the number of unfinished holes the player may have in a round, provided that failure to finish is not for the purpose of handicap manipulation.

Example: A player lies 3, 12 feet from the hole and is conceded the putt. For posting purposes, the player will record x-5 because 5 is the player's most likely score, based on the player's best judgment that two putts would have been required to complete the hole.

Holes Not Played or Not Played Under The Rules of Golf

If a player does not play a hole or plays it other than under the principles of the Rules of Golf (except for preferred lies), the score recorded for that hole for handicap purposes must be par plus any handicap strokes the player is entitled to receive on the hole. If 13 or more holes are played, the player must post an 18-hole score, scoring the remaining holes as par plus. If 7 to 12 holes are played, the player would post a nine-hole score.

Example 1: A player with a Course Handicap of 10 does not play the 18th hole on the course because of darkness. The 18th hole is a par 5 and is the number 1 handicap-stroke hole on the scorecard. For handicap purposes, the player will post a score of 6 (par = 5 plus 1 stroke based on the Course Handicap of 10).

Example 2: A player comes to the 12th hole of the course which is normally a par 5 but has been shortened to a par 4 for maintenance purposes. The player's Course Handicap is a 5 and the hole is the number 10 allocated stroke hole on the scorecard. For handicap purposes, the golfer will post a score of 5 for handicap purposes (par = 5, plus 0 strokes based on the Course Handicap of 5).

Please Note: The above is for returning a score for handicap purposes only and is not affected by the number of strokes actually taken when a player plays the modified temporary hole. Unless otherwise noted by the Committee at the club, actual strokes still apply for competitions in which the player may be participating.