

CONGU®
Unified Handicap System
Manual

2012 – 2015

Effective 1 January 2012



2012 – 2015 Changes

- CSS Calculation (Clause 18)
- CSS and Small Fields (Clause 18)
- Nine-hole Scores (Clause 22)
- Exceptional Scoring (Clause 23)
- Annual Review (Clause 23)



CSS Calculation – Clause 18

- CSS calculation based on SSS + Buffer Zone
- Improved precision – especially in fields with a high percentage of Cat 3[4] players
- Minimal change on CSS outcome otherwise
- Gives players across all Handicap Categories a more intuitive focus
- Maintains consistency with EGA



CSS Nett Score Assessment

- CSS calculation now based on assessing the percentage of the field attaining SSS + Category Buffer Zone
- Example: if SSS is 72
 - Cat 1 Nett 73 and better
 - Cat 2 Nett 74 and better
 - Cat 3 Nett 75 and better
 - Cat 4 Nett 76 and better
 (Previously 74 across all categories)



SSS+2 versus SSS+BZ

Comparing a typical Ladies' field (0/10/90)

SSS+2 targets from current CSS table:

R/O	SSS+3	SSS+2	SSS+1	SSS	SSS-1
0-4%	5-7%	8-11%	12-15%	16-32%	33+ %

SSS+BZ targets from new CSS table:

R/O	SSS+3	SSS+2	SSS+1	SSS	SSS-1
0-6%	7-9%	10-15%	16-22%	23-45%	46+ %



Appendix B Table A – CSS Table (extract)

Handicap Categories			Adjustments to SSS to Determine the CSS					
1	2	3[&4]	+3(R/O)	+3	+2	+1	0	-1
0%	0%	100%	0-6%	7-9%	10-15%	16-22%	23-45%	46+%
0%	10%	90%	0-6%	7-9%	10-15%	16-22%	23-45%	46+%
0%	20%	80%	0-6%	7-9%	10-15%	16-22%	23-45%	46+%
0%	30%	70%	0-6%	7-10%	11-16%	17-23%	24-47%	48+%
0%	40%	60%	0-6%	7-10%	11-16%	17-23%	24-47%	48+%
0%	50%	50%	0-6%	7-10%	11-16%	17-23%	24-47%	48+%
0%	60%	40%	0-6%	7-11%	12-17%	18-25%	26-49%	50+%
0%	70%	30%	0-6%	7-11%	12-17%	18-25%	26-49%	50+%
0%	80%	20%	0-6%	7-11%	12-17%	18-25%	26-49%	50+%
0%	90%	10%	0-6%	7-11%	12-17%	18-25%	26-49%	50+%
0%	100%	0%	0-6%	7-11%	12-18%	19-26%	27-51%	52+%
10%	0%	90%	0-6%	7-9%	10-15%	16-22%	23-45%	46+%
10%	10%	80%	0-6%	7-10%	11-16%	17-23%	24-47%	48+%
10%	20%	70%	0-6%	7-10%	11-16%	17-23%	24-47%	48+%



CSS and Small Fields

- Defined as fewer than 10 players
- A disproportionate number of Reduction Only results
- This is self-perpetuating as players are then under-handicapped
- If CSS=SSS+3 R/O (no player achieves score within BZ) then Table B is applied
- Table B: examines the next best score relative to BZ
- For fields of 1-5 players, minimum CSS is SSS (as now)



Appendix B Table B – Small Field CSS Table

Lowest Net Score Relative to Category Buffer Zone				Field Size	(CSS estimate = R/O)		
+4	+3	+2	+1		Cat	Pts	BZ
R/O	SSS+3	SSS+2	SSS+1	1	3	32	+1
R/O	SSS+3	SSS+2	SSS+1	2	4	25	+11
R/O	SSS+3	SSS+2	SSS+1	3	5	37	-1
R/O	SSS+3	SSS+2	SSS+1	4	5	30	+6
R/O	SSS+3	SSS+2	SSS+1	5	5	28	+8
R/O	SSS+3	SSS+2	SSS+1	6	5	27	+9
R/O	SSS+3	SSS+2	SSS+1	7	5	20	+16
R/O	SSS+3	SSS+2	SSS+1	8			
R/O	SSS+3	SSS+2	SSS+1	9			



Nine-Hole Scores – Clause 22

- 9 hole qualifying competitions may now be submitted at any club at which the player holds playing membership (previously Home Club only)
- Allocation of a CONGU handicap now permissible from the submission of 9-hole scores.



Allocation of Handicap Based on Nine-Hole Scores

- Can use a combination of 18-hole and 9-hole scores
 - 3 x 18-holes
 - 2 x 18-holes plus 2 x 9-holes
 - 1 x 18-holes plus 4 x 9-holes
 - 6 x 9-holes
- Handicap allocated based on the best 54 holes submitted (not best individual holes).
- Adjustments use same rules as those for 18-hole scores
- Authorisation for a 9-hole SSS required



Exceptional Scoring

- Aimed at rapid improvers
- Removes pressure on the handicap committee to decide a General Play adjustment
- Automatic process (click to accept) - triggered when a player returns a nett differential of -4 or better
- Reduction based on second such score within a specified number of qualifying rounds
- Not applicable to Category 1
- Category 2 can only be reduced to 5.5



Exceptional Scoring Handicap Reduction Table

Average of the two Low Score Nett Differentials	4 or less qualifying scores in the sequence	5 to 9 qualifying scores in the sequence	10 or more qualifying scores in the sequence
-4.0 to -5.0	1 stroke	0.5 stroke	No change
-5.5 to -9.5	2 strokes	1 stroke	0.5 stroke
-10 or less	3 strokes	2 strokes	2 strokes

- The process does not apply to Category 1
- Any reduction recommended for a Category 2 player will be limited to reducing the player's handicap to 5.5

Exceptional Scoring Reduction

Present System			
ND	H/cap	Change	New Exact
-5	16.2	-(5*0.3)	14.7
-7	14.7	-(7*0.3)	12.6
5	12.6	0.1	12.7
-3	12.7	-(1*0.3+2*0.2)	12.0
6	12.0	0.1	12.1
7	12.1	0.1	12.2
-5	12.2	-(5*0.2)	11.2

Annual Review – Clause 23

- Existing process can recommend handicap decreases with 3 qualifying scores or more for a player
- However, increases are only recommended if a player has at least 7 qualifying scores
- Process changed to consider players for handicap increase when they have 3,4,5 or 6 qualifying scores
- In addition, further guidance and explanations will be provided in the Manual
- (NB: Formula for handicap review can be found on the CONGU website)



Other Issues

- Four-Ball Handicap Allowance
 - Reviewed using simulations based on actual individual scores. Further research being undertaken
- Active vs. Inactive handicaps
 - CDH data shows:
 - 93% of ladies are active
 - 85% of men are active
 - No intention at present to increase required number of qualifying scores



Other Issues - SLOPE

- Whereas SSS is a course rating measured for a scratch golfer, Slope is a course rating measured for an 18-handicap golfer
- A course of average slope is rated as 113. The higher the rating, the more difficult the course
- Application of Slope to the calculation of CONGU handicaps in Europe is showing evidence of problems that may be aggravated by the use of Slope
- Application of Slope for adjustment of stroke allowance when playing away from home was reviewed using scores from Ladies' competitions



Other Issues - SLOPE

- Analysis of the application of Slope for adjustment of stroke allowance:
 - On average, the visitors from 'easier' courses who were therefore in receipt of additional strokes achieved far better scores than the other players
 - On average, the visitors from 'tougher' courses who were therefore conceding strokes achieved far worse scores than the other players
 - The original unadjusted data confirmed that on average visitors' scores were 1-2 shots worse than Home players' scores, regardless of the Slope of the courses
- Unless substantial new evidence comes forward it is difficult to see how Slope, in its present form, could realistically be introduced into the CONGU system



Central Database of Handicaps (CDH) Checklist

- Have all members within the handicapping system been identified as either 'Home' or 'Away' players?
- Have 'Away' players' CDH numbers been included in your handicapping software?
- Do you always ensure that ex-members are removed from your handicapping database?
- Are new members always asked for their CDH number?
- Is your handicapping data on multiple systems? If so, do you ensure that multiple uploads of data are not occurring?
- Is your system automatically set to send data to the CDH?
- Do you check for Away scores on a regular basis?
- Have you notified all your members of their CDH numbers?



CDH – New For 2012

- Identify that scores have been sent via CDH
- Facility to search for an event on CDH
- Facility to submit one single score rather than re-open the event and submit all scores
- Confirmation email to be received to identify submitted scores
- Home Club Not Set – CDH id number deleted after 6 months
- Retention of records – current and previous two calendar years (as per Clause 6.11)



Changes/Additions to 2012 CONGU Manual

Appendix O: Mixed Golf

- Combined CSS is now mandatory for handicap alteration purposes
- For mixed competitions an adjustment is required to take into account any difference between SSS or Par of the courses being played
- For Gross competitions or when awarding a Gross prize a similar adjustment is required to take into account any difference between SSS of the courses being played



Appendix O: Mixed Golf

Example: Handicap competitions

	SSS	Par	'to handicap'
Men	71	72	net 71 (37pts)
Ladies	74	74	net 74 (36pts)

For result purposes only, in this example, the ladies will have a reduction to their score of 3 strokes for a stroke play competition

Similarly, the ladies will have 1 stroke added to their handicap, prior to play, for a Stableford competition

ADJUSTMENT IS MANDATORY



Appendix O: Mixed Golf

Example: Gross Competitions

	SSS	Gross Score
Men	72	71
Ladies	74	72

For result purposes only an adjustment equivalent to the difference in SSS is to be applied to the gross score

In this example, the lady's gross score is adjusted to 70 declaring her the winner

ADJUSTMENT IS MANDATORY



Changes/Additions to 2012 CONGU Manual - 1

- English version
 - Also an online version (without the CSS tables)
- CONGU Calendar Year
 - to start January 1st
- Clause 10: Establishing Par
 - extended to include Par 6
- Clause 16.3d: Allotment of Handicap
 - clause to be deleted
- Clause 17: extended to include Medford competitions (9 holes Medal/ 9-holes Stableford)
- Clause 21.5: Supplementary Scores
 - Period between Annual Review date to be January 1st
 - New Decision: Supplementary Score to be first of the day



Changes/Additions to 2012 CONGU Manual - 2

- Clause 25: Lapse of Handicap
 - changed to 'Status of Handicap'
- Appendix P: DQ Scores in Qualifying Competition
 - addition: no handicap on card - score still to be accepted
- Decision 1j: wording strengthened
 - a player must play off full handicap
 - correct Playing Handicap must be used for calculation of the CSS
 - the Committee may adjust the scores for the purpose of awarding prizes
- New Decision: Scratch competition
 - no handicap on card is now a Committee responsibility for calculation of the CSS (no DQ)


