

Recording of Non Qualifying Scores.

From 1st January 2017 England Golf require all players to return all scores in Non Qualifying Competition, to assist handicap committees with handicap reviews. (Clause 4.5b/8.12)

Please note these scores will not directly affect a player's handicap, but may be used as 'supporting evidence' of performance when it comes to a handicap review.

Scores should be returned in all Singles, Am-Am, 4BBB and team competitions, with the exception of Texas Scrambles and Greensome competitions.

Clubs should also be aware of regular roll-ups that take place at their club, where players are playing off a measured course under Competition Play Conditions. We would advise that these types of competitions should be played as qualifiers when possible.

To assist with the return of scores, we advise that clubs outline a process to allow players to record these scores.

It is recommended that this is done directly to the Handicap Committee, and that the Committee keep a copy of all information for the current year and one previous year. The information does not have to be recorded on the handicap software, but should be stored in a format that can be used for any handicap review.

Information to be recorded:

- Date of Competition
- Format of Competition
- Venue/Course
- Tees used
- SSS of Course
- Name of playing partners
- Score returned

Failure to return these scores could result in loss or suspension of handicap under clause 24.1.

Guidance to Clubs running Open Competitions.

We also request that clubs running open competitions return the scores of the top 5 places to the player's or team's home club. To assist with this, we have designed a pro forma that a club can complete and return. This could be done by post or email (Non Qualifying Scores Open Return Form).

Question	Answer
<p>Why are England Golf Invoking Clause 4.5/8.12?</p>	<p>England Golf has made this decision in order to promote the integrity of the system, and maintain player confidence in handicapping. Every player should have confidence that they hold an equal opportunity to achieve success in a competition.</p> <p>A number of incidents in the last few years have highlighted that players must hold the responsibility with regards to notifying their home club as to their performance away from home in Non-Qualifying competitions where the results would not otherwise be known to the committee.</p> <p>Players must make every effort to maintain a handicap which reflects their current playing ability.</p>
<p>Who is responsible for reporting 'away' scores?</p>	<p>The individual player has an obligation to report away scores from competitions, and each Club should establish a process to enable this to be done.</p> <p>In addition, where a Club arranges/administers an event, England Golf requests that Club to advise players' home clubs of the top five. (optional)</p>
<p>Why ask clubs to return the results in Open Competitions?</p>	<p>It has been previously requested that clubs running open competitions should be able to inform the home clubs of visitors of the results, so that they can have some evidence of performance away from home. This is a polite request and not a mandatory requirement.</p>
<p>The requirement covers team events: what is not covered?</p>	<p>Texas Scrambles, Foursomes and Greensomes are not covered. The Rule does extend to better-ball events and teams where, for example, two or three scores from a group of four will count. Scores returned in mixed gender competitions must also be returned.</p>
<p>In a team event, an individual may not have holed out on every hole or contributed to the score, does this result still have to be reported?</p>	<p>Yes. The team score should be reported through the process established and be returned for consideration by the handicap committee at the annual review but cannot of itself be used to change a player's handicap.</p>
<p>Where a society plays an individual competition at a club, does the Club have any responsibility to return scores?</p>	<p>No – where the Club is not running the event, it does not have any obligation to make enquiries or return scores. However, the individual club member has an obligation under the CONGU rules.</p>

Do scores played in society events have to be recorded?	If the player has played in the event using his/her CONGU handicap UNDER COMPETITION PLAY CONDITIONS , then the score must be reported.
A group from our club has an annual trip to Spain, when they play a variety of singles and team competitions. Should they return their scores?	No. As the scores are not over a course measured in accordance with CONGU requirements there is no obligation to return scores.
Do we need to make our Saturday swindle into a qualifying competition?	No. The intent is not to affect social golf. However, Clubs should be aware of performances in swindles such that, in the annual review, handicap committees can take into account circumstances where a member of a swindle regularly outplays their official handicap.
With a notification of an away score, do we have to ascertain a CSS?	No. For team competitions and individual events (such as society golf), it is not feasible to assess a CSS and, therefore, the requirement is that the SSS of the course played is recorded.
Do I need to provide results of a match-play competition played at an away course?	No. it is very difficult to establish player performance from a match play result, as the player's performance may not be reflected in the result.
How should scores returned be used?	4BBB and Team competitions are not suitable for handicapping purposes: but if the same individuals or teams keeping winning or coming near the top of leader boards at events away from home, that should at least indicate to their Club Handicapping Officials that further investigations are required – and the only way to achieve that is by asking for all such scores to be reported.
What sanction does a Club have if it learns that a player has been playing in competitions at away clubs, but not reporting scores?	A Club may suspend a member's handicap under CONGU rule 24.1 where that player does not comply with his or her obligations as imposed by CONGU. We would see that as a last resort; and clubs in the first instance should firmly remind players of their responsibilities under the CONGU UHS.