

Handicaps

How to Obtain a Handicap

Those members who do not yet have a handicap are required to hand in three scorecards played at Silvermere, correctly completed (Stroke play format). At least two of the cards must be signed by a current Silvermere member. The cards should be clearly marked "For Handicap" in the competition name space and placed in the scorecard box in the Members bar. Your handicap will be established within a week and will be emailed to you and also published on the handicap list on the notice board on the outside of the starters hut.

How Handicaps are Calculated.

The Competitions and Handicaps committee in any club are responsible for overseeing all the established competitions in the club calendar and for modifying that calendar whenever appropriate. It is also the responsibility of the committee to check members cards and amend handicaps.

Full details of how the handicapping system works can be obtained from www.congu.com/online_version.htm but brief summaries are given here.

The card of the course will include a stroke index which shows the holes on which you are allowed to claim a stroke, according to your handicap.

Handicaps for Men

Only those members with current handicaps are eligible to compete in weekend competitions. You may however, play in mid-week competition time, Seniors competition time, Captains Roll ups and Members week-end times (see diary for details) with other members and use your scorecard for the purpose of gaining a handicap.

Handicaps are adjusted from the results of competitions.

All men have an EXACT handicap and a playing handicap. Your EXACT handicap is calculated in the way described below and usually produces a figure with a decimal point e.g. 11.3 this is rounded up or down to the nearest whole figure to produce your playing handicap 0.5 is rounded upwards.

PLAYING handicaps are divided into 4 categories plus a club handicap. Club handicaps are valid at Silvermere only and cannot be used in open competitions:

- Category 1: is for handicaps of 0 to 5 inclusive
- Category 2: is for handicaps of 6 to 12 inclusive
- Category 3: is for handicaps of 13 to 20 inclusive
- Category 4: is for handicaps of 21 to 28 inclusive
- Club H'cap: is for handicaps of 29 to 36 inclusive

The Category you are in affects the way changes to your handicap are calculated. For a start, each Category has a different "buffer zone" which means if you return a card (in a qualifying competition) which shows that your nett score (gross minus PLAYING handicap) exceeds

the competition scratch score by the number of strokes in your buffer zone or less, then there will be no change to your handicap, buffers are as follows.

Category 1: 0 to +1
Category 2: 0 to +2
Category 3: 0 to +3
Category 4: 0 to +4
Club H'cap: 0 to +5

If your nett score exceeds the competition scratch score by MORE than the number of strokes in your buffer zone, your EXACT handicap will be increased by 0.1 in all cases, no matter how high your score on that particular day

For example, a Category 3 player (with an EXACT handicap of 14.4) whose nett score exceeds the competition scratch score by 3 strokes will stay on exactly the same EXACT and playing handicap. If the same player had an unusually bad day, however, and exceeded the competition scratch score by 10 strokes his EXACT handicap would be increased by just 0.1 to 14.5 this would push his playing handicap up from 14 to 15.

If your nett score is LOWER than the competition scratch score, your EXACT handicap will be adjusted downwards by the following amounts for EACH STROKE that your nett score is lower than the competition scratch score:

Category 1: subtract 0.1 for each stroke
Category 2: subtract 0.2 for each stroke
Category 3: subtract 0.3 for each stroke
Category 4: subtract 0.4 for each stroke
Club H'cap: subtract 0.5 for each of the first 6 strokes below then 1.0 for each subsequent stroke.

For example, if the Category 3 player above, with an EXACT handicap of 14.4 returned a nett score 4 strokes below the competition scratch score, his EXACT handicap would be reduced by $4 \times 0.3 = 1.2$ The EXACT handicap would become 13.2 and the PLAYING handicap would be reduced from 14 to 13.

Separate competition scratch scores are calculated for the Saturday and Sunday of the weekend competitions.

Handicaps for Ladies

Three scorecards are required, signed by a Player with a current handicap, one of which must be a Lady Member of Silvermere. All rounds must be played at Silvermere. Please contact one of the Ladies Committee Members listed in the Changing room if you wish to play a round with a handicapped member- this will usually be on a Wednesday which is traditionally Ladies Day at Silvermere, with a tee off time commencing at 9.00am. However, this can be arranged at the weekend. Cards submitted for handicap should be placed in the handicap box situated in the Ladies Locker Room.

All ladies have an EXACT handicap and a PLAYING handicap. Your EXACT handicap is calculated as described below and usually produces a figure with a decimal point e.g. 9.3 this is rounded up or down to the nearest whole figure to produce your PLAYING handicap. 0.5 is rounded upwards.

Ladies PLAYING handicaps are divided into 5 categories plus a club handicap. Club handicaps are valid at Silvermere only and cannot be used in open competitions. Each has its own buffer zone within which no increase is made to a handicap:

Category 1: is for handicaps of 5 or less
Category 2: is for handicaps of 6 to 12 inclusive
Category 3: is for handicaps of 13 to 20 inclusive
Category 4: is for handicaps of 21 to 28 inclusive
Category 5: is for handicaps of 29 to 36 inclusive
Club H'cap: is for handicaps of 36 to 54 inclusive

The Category you are in affects the way changes to your handicap are calculated. For a start, each Category has a different "buffer zone" which means if you return a card (in a qualifying competition) which shows that your nett score (gross minus PLAYING handicap) exceeds the competition scratch score by the number of strokes in your buffer zone or less, then there will be no change to your handicap. Buffer zones are as follows;

Category 1: 0 to +1
Category 2: 0 to +2
Category 3: 0 to +3
Category 4: 0 to +4
Category 5: 0 to +5
Club H'cap: 0 to +5

If your nett score exceeds the Competition Scratch Score by MORE than the number of strokes in your buffer zone (or you hand in a No Return) your EXACT handicap will be increased by 0.1 in all cases, no matter how high your score on that particular day.

For example, if a category 4 player with an EXACT handicap of 22.4 returns a nett score that is 4 strokes higher than the Competition Scratch Score, no change will be made to her EXACT or PLAYING handicaps. If the same player returns a nett score 8 strokes higher than the LGU Scratch Score her EXACT handicap would be increased in her PLAYING handicap from 22 to 23.

If your nett score is LOWER than the Competition Scratch Score, your exact handicap will be adjusted downwards by the amounts for EACH STROKE that is lower:-

Category 1: subtract 0.1 for each stroke
Category 2: subtract 0.2 for each stroke
Category 3: subtract 0.3 for each stroke
Category 4: subtract 0.4 for each stroke
Category 5: subtract 0.5 for each stroke
Club H'cap: subtract 0.5 for each of the first 6 strokes below then 1.0 for each subsequent stroke.

For example, if the category 4 player above with an EXACT handicap of 22.4 returns a nett score 4 strokes below the Competition Scratch Score, her EXACT handicap will be reduced by 1.6 (4×0.4) to 20.8. This would trigger a reduction in her PLAYING handicap from 22 to 21.

When the calculations involve a change from one category to another the rules for both categories are taken into account.

Changes to Ladies' handicaps can be made in qualifying competitions by all categories. Any changes are immediate. The LGU scratch score for the course must always be 60 or more.

Ladies Additional Handicap for use in Men's Competitions.

Ladies may obtain additional handicap by submitting three cards played off the white or yellow tees. This handicap allows the Ladies to enter the Men's competitions.