



# WHS Considerations for Competitions

The advent of the World Handicapping System has had a number of implications on how we should record scores in qualifying competitions. We should now all be familiar with the concept of *Course Handicaps* and *Playing Handicaps*, both of which are printed on the scorecards you receive at the start of your round. The former is derived from your personal *Handicap Index* and is adjusted for the course and tee-markers that have been designated for play. You should always play with your *Course Handicap* in mind as it is this that will determine any handicap changes following the completion of your round.

In a qualifying competition only (specifically not in general play) a *Handicap Allowance* (normally 95% for singles) will be applied to your *Course Handicap* to create your *Playing Handicap*. For anyone with a *Course Handicap* greater than 10, this will reduce the number of shots received for that competition only. **It is important to realise that any handicap adjustment arising from that competition will still be based on performance relative to the *Course Handicap* - the *Playing Handicap* has no bearing on this.**

**This means that in Stableford competitions you should not pick up your ball until you can no longer score relative to the shots received for that hole based on your *Course Handicap*. Similarly, in Bogey / Par competitions, where pace-of-play considerations would traditionally suggest you pick up if you can no longer halve the hole (nett par), you should always continue until you reach your nett bogey score. Any unfinished hole will be treated for handicap purposes as a nett double bogey and this will adversely impact your handicap if you pick up too early.**

The following table uses the example of a golfer with a *Course Handicap* of 18 playing the 7<sup>th</sup> hole (SI 18) at Hale in an individual stroke play event (i.e. *Playing Handicap* of 17). It illustrates the impacts of different scores on the player's WHS handicap submission and the actual competition. It includes the case when the player picked up before holing out and when the member did not play the hole at all.

Scorecard Entry	WHS Nett (Course H'cap)	Comp Nett (Playing H'cap)	Medal	Max Score	Stableford (Points)	Bogey/Par (W/H/L)
1	0	1	1	1	4	W
2	1	2	2	2	3	W
3	2	3	3	3	2	H
4	3	4	4	4	1	L
5	4	5	5	5	0	L
6	5	6	6	6	0	L
7	5	7	7	7	0	L
DNP *	3	-	NR	8	0	L
Picked up	5	-	NR	8	0	L

*Note that for a 9-hole competition to count as qualifying, all nine holes must be played; for an 18-hole competition at least 10 holes must be completed. For score entry, a score of zero will be interpreted as an uncompleted hole; one left blank or tagged as DNP will be treated as 'Did Not Play' and your overall competition score will be adjusted accordingly.*

\* When fewer than 14 holes are completed for an 18-hole round, the score for the first hole not played is recorded as a Net Par + 1 stroke. Omitted holes need not be consecutive and may occur at any point in the round.