

Guide for Committees

From January 1st 2019 the Rules of Golf (21.2) introduce a new, additional format of scoring for stroke play. The Maximum Score competition will be an alternative to the main traditional Medal, Stableford and Par/Bogey scoring systems.

The player's score for each hole is capped at a maximum set by the Committee. The score may be 'fixed' against par (such as +5, +6, +10, etc), or related to par (such as 2 x par, triple bogey, etc). It should be noted that the CONGU® approach, which is supported by ISV Software, is to define the maximum score as a number of strokes above par (e.g. +5, +6 etc).

CONGU® directs that Competitions capped at less than par +5 per hole will not be eligible for handicap alterations, and will be deemed as 'non-qualifying' for handicap.

Once the player reaches the 'maximum score' (including any penalty strokes), he or she will pick up and record the maximum score allowed for that hole, or a zero, even if the actual score exceeds the maximum. Unlike a Medal, the player will not be disqualified for not holing out, but is able to pick up and move on (in the same way as Stableford competitions). The Committee is responsible for adjusting the player's score to the maximum for any hole where the score card shows either no score or any score over the maximum and, in a handicap competition, for applying any handicap. Also note that when such a competition qualifies for handicap purposes, the Nett Double Bogey (Stableford Point Adjustment) will still be applied when calculating the CSS and Nett Differentials (and thus handicap adjustments).

However, there is no intention to replace the integrity of the Medal scoring system for elite or championship golf. The 'max score' system may be useful at club level for beginners or less experienced players, or where pace of play is a particular concern. Club Committees should consider carefully the appropriateness of this format for traditional stroke play events, particularly those which have gross prizes, are qualifiers for subsequent rounds/match play, or which are for prestigious trophies.

Benefits

The benefits of the 'max score' competition are:

- a player who might feel discouraged by a high score on one or two holes will be encouraged to return a score for the competition;
- players who find Medal scoring intimidating will be reassured that any high score will 'capped' for the competition;
- players who have difficulty with the Stableford scoring system will find this scoring system more intuitive;
- pace of play may be improved.

Examples

Term of Competition		Maximum Score is Par + 5
Qualifying for handicap		
Par 3	Capped at 8	
Par 4	Capped at 9	
Par 5	Capped at 10	

Term of Competition		Maximum Score is Par + 4
Non-Qualifying for handicap		
Par 3	Capped at 7	
Par 4	Capped at 8	
Par 5	Capped at 9	

Term of Competition		Maximum Score is 2 x Par
Non-Qualifying for handicap		
Par 3	Capped at 6	
Par 4	Capped at 8	
Par 5	Capped at 10	

Term of Competition		Maximum Score is Par + 7
Qualifying for handicap		
Par 3	Capped at 10	
Par 4	Capped at 11	
Par 5	Capped at 12	