

COMPETITIONS OF BETWEEN 9-17 HOLES – Golf Australia Q&A for Committees

What are the handicapping system regulations for competitions of between 9-17 holes?

Any stipulated round of nine holes or more may be used for handicapping purposes. Please note it is a committee decision as to whether a 9-hole event (or an event of between 10-17 holes) is to be a competition round and handicapped.

The score shall be converted to an 18-hole score by the following method:

- a) When the score is **worse than net par** for a stipulated round of less than 18 holes, the score is extended to 18 holes on a pro-rata basis, eg:
 - ◆ Stableford round over 12 holes – score of 20 points is extended to 30 points
 - ◆ Par competition over 9 holes – score of -3 is extended to -6
 - ◆ Stroke competition over 9 holes – score of 4 over par is extended to 8 over par
- b) When the score is **equal to or better than net par** for a round of less than 18 holes, the score is extended to 18 holes by completing the card with net par figures, eg:
 - ◆ Stableford round over 12 holes – score of 26 points is extended to 38 points (26 plus 12)
 - ◆ Par competition over 9 holes – score of +3 is extended to +3 (+3 plus Square)
 - ◆ Stroke competition over 9 holes – score of net 33 (par 36) is extended by adding the net par of the other 9 (say 35) – net 68

The extended scores are then used as in a normal 18-hole competition.

Are 9-hole cards acceptable as initial cards for the purpose of obtaining a handicap?

Yes. In accordance with the current handicapping regulations, three 9-hole rounds are sufficient to obtain a handicap.

At 1 January each year, players must have returned 3 cards within the previous 12-month period. Do 9-hole cards count as full cards for this purpose?

Yes.

What AWCR/AMCR should be used for a 9-hole competition?

As the 9-hole scores are converted to 18-hole scores for handicapping purposes, the ordinary 18-hole AWCR/AMCR for the course should be used.

What stroke index should be used for 9-hole competitions?

Golf Australia recommends that Committees use the course's ordinary 18-hole stroke index.

What handicap should be used for 9-hole events?

Golf Australia recommends that Committees use the 18-hole stroke index to determine how many handicap strokes each player receives for the 9 holes being played. For example, if stroke index holes 1 and 3 are on the front nine and the 9-hole competition is being played over the front 9 then a player on a 3 handicap would be allowed 2 strokes for that 9. (The same three handicapper would be allowed 1 stroke if the competition was being played on the back nine.)

If a player submits 9-hole cards for handicapping, does this give them a separate 9-hole handicap?

No. A player only has one Australian Handicap – this is irrespective of whether it is based on 9-hole or 18-hole scores (or any card returned over 9-18 holes).

If a club conducts a single competition over multiple days, how should the competition be processed for handicapping purposes?

For handicapping purposes, each day must be processed as a separate competition.

If a club conducts concurrent 9-hole and 18-hole competitions, and a player enters both, which of their scores is processed for handicapping purposes?

For handicapping purposes, only the 18-hole score is used – the 9-hole score is disregarded.

If a club conducts concurrent 9-hole and 18-hole competitions, should the scores of players only playing in the 9-hole competition be mixed in with the 18-hole scores when processing for handicapping purposes?

No. For handicapping purposes, the scores of players only playing in the 9-hole competition should be processed as a separate competition.

If an 18-hole competition is shortened to a 9-hole competition mid-round as a result of poor weather, should the competition be used for handicapping?

No. The Rules of Golf do not allow a stipulated round to be shortened once that round has commenced.

The Golf Australia Handicapping & Course Rating Committee hopes this document will assist in the management of handicapping at your golf club. Please feel free to contact either myself or your state association if you have any queries or if you would like any further information.

Kind regards,

Simon Magdulski
Manager – Rules & Handicapping

*Email – simonm@golfaustralia.org.au
 Direct phone – (03) 9626 5023*

