



NOTICE TO GOLFERS REGARDING 1 OCTOBER 2008 ESC CHANGES

New Zealand Golf has elected to change the Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) aspect of the handicap system as of 1 October 2008.

What is ESC?

'*Equitable Stroke Control*' (ESC) is the downward adjustment of individual hole scores for handicap purposes in order to make handicaps more representative of a player's potential scoring ability. Many players refer to these score changes on a hole as a 'ringer' or their 'adjusted gross' for a hole.

What are the changes and how will they affect hole scores for handicapping?

For many years, the NZ Golf ESC system has required players who score above the maximum allowable score on an individual hole to adjust downwards their score to what is effectively a net bogey (1 over par) or, the score that would provide them with 1 Stableford point.

Under the new ESC system players who score above the maximum allowable score on an individual hole will be required, for handicap purposes, to adjust downward their score to what is effectively a net double bogey (2 strokes over par) or, the lowest score that would give no Stableford points. For example:

On a par 4 hole (double bogey score of 6) with a stroke index of 12

Player	Course H'cap	Actual Score	ESC Score
John	5	6	6 (John received no handicap stroke, $6 + 0 = 6$)
Kate	14	8	7 (Kate received 1 handicap stroke, $6 + 1 = 7$)
Grant	31	Pick up	8 (Grant received 2 handicap strokes, $6 + 2 = 8$)
Brenda	49	10	9 (Brenda received 3 handicap strokes, $6 + 3 = 9$)
Sandi	66 (Local H'cap)	12	10 (Sandi received 4 handicap strokes, $6 + 4 = 10$)

Does the new system have an effect on scores for holes not played?

The ESC system is not currently applied to holes not played and this will not change on 1 October.

When a player does not commence play of a hole they must record for that hole a score of par plus any handicap strokes that they would receive on that particular hole as their score. For example:

John and Grant are playing a non-competitive round and a sudden change in the weather causes them to finish their game after 14 holes. When submitting their card for handicapping purposes they will enter the following scores for holes 15 to 18:

Hole	Par	Stroke Index	John (5)	Grant (31)
15	4	5	5 (par + 1)	6 (par + 2)
16	4	7	4 (par + 0)	6 (par + 2)
17	4	3	5 (par + 1)	6 (par + 2)
18	4	17	4 (par + 0)	5 (par + 1)