



CHANGE TO NEW ZEALAND GOLF EQUITABLE STROKE CONTROL SYSTEM

SECTION 4 - ADJUSTING HOLE SCORES

The game of golf is based on the premise that a golfer will play as well as the player can play. Under the NZG *Handicap System* players are required to record a score for a hole not finished, not played, or not played under the Rules of Golf, and to adjust any hole score when it is higher than the maximum number allowed under *ESC*.

4-1 Unfinished Holes and Conceded Strokes

A player who starts but does not complete a hole or is conceded a stroke, must record for handicap purposes the *most likely* score. The *most likely* score consists of the number of strokes already taken plus, in the player's best judgement, the number of strokes that the player would need to complete the hole from that position more than half the time. This number may not exceed the player's *ESC* limit, defined in Section 4-3. The *most likely* score should be circled, or, where individually printed scorecards are used, defined in the appropriate way for that scoring system.

There is no limit to the number of unfinished holes a player may have in a round provided that failure to finish is not for the purpose of handicap manipulation.

Example 1 A and B are partners in a four-ball stroke play competition. On a hole on which neither receives a handicap stroke, Player A lies two, 18 feet from the hole, Player B lies two, 25 feet from the hole. B holes the putt for a three, therefore A picks up because B's score cannot be beaten. Player A records a circled (or other determined way) 4 on the score card because that was the *most likely* score.

Example 2 A and B are playing a match. On a hole which neither player receives a handicap stroke, A has holed out in four, B has a 30 foot putt for five. B has lost the hole, and picks up. B records a circled (or other determined way) 6 on the score card because that was the *most likely* score.

Example 3 A and B are playing a match. A drives straight down the fairway, but B hits into the trees and fails to find the ball. Rather than return to the tee B concedes the hole. In this case Player A records *par* plus any handicap shots received on the hole, and B records the maximum score on the hole allowable under *ESC*.

4-2 Holes Not Played or Not Played Under the Rules of Golf

If a player does not play a hole or plays it other than under the principles of the Rules of Golf (except for *Clean and Place*) the score for that hole for handicap purposes shall be *par* plus any handicap strokes the player is entitled to receive on the hole. This hole score, when recorded, should be circled, or, where individually printed scorecards are used, defined in the appropriate way for that scoring system.

Example A player with a course handicap of 10 receives a handicap stroke on the first 10 allocated *handicap stroke holes*. If the player does not play the sixth allocated stroke hole because of construction on the green, the player must record a score *par* plus one for handicap purposes.

Note: A score must not be posted if the majority of the holes are not played under the principles of *The Rules of Golf*.

4-3 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. *ESC* sets a maximum number that a player can post on any hole depending on the player's *Course Handicap*. *ESC* is used only when a player's actual score exceeds a maximum number based on the table below.

(a) A score for any hole is reduced to a specified number of strokes over *par* for handicap purposes only, as follows:

Course Handicap Stroke	Limitation on Hole Score
+1 handicap stroke on a hole	Limit of 1 stroke over <i>par</i>
No handicap stroke on hole	Limit of 2 strokes over <i>par</i>
1 handicap stroke on hole	Limit of 3 strokes over <i>par</i>
2 handicap strokes on hole	Limit of 4 strokes over <i>par</i>
3 handicap strokes on hole	Limit of 5 strokes over <i>par</i>
4 handicap strokes on hole (Women's Local H'cap)	Limit of 6 strokes over <i>par</i>

(b) In accordance with the above formula, an 18 hole score is automatically adjusted downward when, due to one or more unusually high scores on individual holes, the score is abnormal to the player's general ability. Each player is responsible for adjusting the player's score in accordance with the formula before it is returned for handicap purposes.

(c) Under no circumstances shall this provision be used to control handicaps artificially. If it should be used for this purpose, the player's handicap may be adjusted arbitrarily.