

Appendix C: Handicap Allowances

Handicap allowances are designed to provide equity for players of all levels of ability in each format of play, over both 9 holes and 18 holes.

Handicap allowances are applied to the *Course Handicap* as the final step in calculating a player's *Playing Handicap* (see Rule 6.1 and Rule 6.2).

The National Association is responsible for establishing *handicap allowances* or it can delegate this responsibility to a Regional Golf Association or *golf club*.

The following table sets out the recommended *handicap allowances* based on medium-sized field net events. The allowances may be adjusted based on field size and the desired equity (see Interpretation C/1):

Format of Play	Type of Round	Recommended <i>Handicap Allowance</i>
Stroke play	Individual	95%
	Individual Stableford	95%
	Individual Par /Bogey	95%
	Individual Maximum Score	95%
	Four-Ball	85%
	Four-Ball Stableford	85%
	Four-Ball Par /Bogey	90%
Match Play	Individual	100%
	Four-Ball	90%
Other	Foursomes	50% of combined team handicap
	Greensomes	60% low handicap + 40% high handicap
	Pinehurst/Chapman	60% low handicap + 40% high handicap
	Best 1 of 4 stroke play	75%
	Best 2 of 4 stroke play	85%
	Best 3 of 4 stroke play	100%
	All 4 of 4 stroke play	100%
	Scramble (4 players)	25%/20%/15%/10% from lowest to highest handicap
	Scramble (2 players)	35% low/15% high
	Total score of 2 match play	100%
	Best 1 of 4 Par/Bogey	75%
	Best 2 of 4 Par/Bogey	80%
	Best 3 of 4 Par/Bogey	90%
4 of 4 Par/Bogey	100%	

Handicap Competitions:

For organized competitions, the Committee should specify the *handicap allowance* within the Terms of the Competition.

Appendix C

In general, after *handicap allowances* have been applied in stroke play formats, a player receives their full *Playing Handicap*.

In general, after *handicap allowances* have been applied in match play formats, the player with the lowest *Playing Handicap* plays off zero strokes relative to the other player(s). The other player(s) receive(s) the difference between their own *Playing Handicap* and that of the player with the lowest *Playing Handicap*.

Plus Playing Handicaps:

Unless otherwise specified by the Committee, players with a 'plus' *Playing Handicap* give strokes back to the course, beginning at the hole with *stroke index* 18. For example, a player with a *Playing Handicap* of +2 would give strokes back to the course at the holes with *stroke index* 18 and 17.

When *handicap allowances* are applied, a player with a plus *Playing Handicap* moves up towards zero including rounding. This is to maintain the same relative difference between *Playing Handicaps*.

Extra Holes:

Handicap allowances are designed to create equity over 9 or 18 holes. The Terms of the Competition should specify where handicap strokes should be applied if extra holes are required to determine the winner or other finishing positions (see Official Guide to the *Rules of Golf*, Committee Procedures, Section 7A).