

FORMATS AND OBTAINING A NATIONAL HANDICAP

Obtaining and maintaining a national golf handicap - For all members wishing to obtain an official handicap, we require 3 cards played from the blue tees, SSS 70 or white tees, SSS 72 or for the ladies the red tees SSS 71. These rounds can be played at anytime with a member or non member who holds an official handicap. To maintain your handicap and not allowing it to laps you must play 3 medal rounds per year. This does not include the year you obtain your handicap. If in any doubt please ask a member of staff in the pro-shop.

Calculating Your Handicap – All players have an EXACT handicap and a playing handicap. Your EXACT handicap is calculated in the way described below and usually produces a figure with a decimal point eg 12.2. This is rounded up or down to the nearest whole figure to produce a PLAYING handicap. 0.5 is rounded up.

Golfers PLAYING handicaps are divided into 4 Categories for men and 5 categories for ladies.

Category 1 is for handicaps 0 to 5 inclusive

Category 2 is for handicaps 6 to 12 inclusive

Category 3 is for handicaps 13 to 20 inclusive

Category 4 is for handicaps 21 to 28 inclusive

Category 5 (ladies only) is for handicaps 29 to 36 inclusive

The Category you are in affects the way changes to your handicap are calculated. For a start, each Category has a different 'buffer zone' which means if you return a card (in a qualifying competition) which shows that your nett score (gross minus Playing handicap) exceeds the competition scratch score by the number of strokes in your buffer zone or less, then there will be no change to your handicap. Buffer zones are as follows;

Category 1: 0 to +1

Category 2: 0 to +2

Category 3: 0 to +3

Category 4: 0 to +4

Category 5: (ladies only) 0 to +5

If your nett score exceeds the competition scratch score (CSS) by MORE than the number of strokes in your buffer zone, your EXACT handicap will be increased by 0.1 in all cases – no matter how high your score was on that particular day.

Club Competitions - For competition sign up lists, medal results, the master handicap list and other items relevant to golf member competitions please see the notice-board situated behind the pro-shop, visit www.howdidido.co.uk or contact the Pro shop.

Handicap Medal Competitions – Prizes are decided on nett scores (gross minus handicap)

Scratch Medal Competitions – Gross scores only count, there is no allowance for handicap. There is a best scratch prize for the monthly medal if the competition field exceeds 10 players.

Stableford Competitions – This is popular here at Whitekirk Golf & Country Club. The competition awards points on a hole by hole basis according to your nett score on each hole. It has the advantage of not penalising you heavily for the occasional bad hole. There is a Stableford medal monthly on a Friday and EVERY Sunday.

Points are awarded as follows:

Above bogey 0 points
Bogey (1 over par) 1 point
Par 2 points
Birdie (1 under par) 3 points
Eagle (2 under par) 4 points
Albatross (3 under par) 5 points

The player with the highest aggregate point score wins.

Foursomes Competition – This is a two against two competition, with each team having just one ball. After nominating who will strike the first tee shot on odd holes and who on even holes, team members take alternate shots. Foursomes can be played either as Match Play or Stroke Play.

Greensomes Competition – Similar to foursome in that it's a two against two competition, but all players drive off and each team selects its best shot before resuming alternate shot-taking for the rest of the hole.

Four ball Better Ball Competition – This is another two against two competition, but in this case each player completes the hole with his or her own ball. The better score in each team is the one that counts. The game is then decided between the two teams on either Match Play or a Medal Play basis.