



**System Overview**

**What is the new system?**

An interactive, online handicapping system that promotes handicapping relative to actual player performances ahead of competition results. The aim is to generate handicaps that allow players to compete equally with their peers and to maintain this level playing field on an ongoing basis from week to week rather than year on year.

**How do clubs participate?**

1. *Submitting standard scratch for their course*

Every club in the union will be able to manage multiple courses, typically clubs have a single course but in some cases they have multiple for different event types. Each course that a club manages will require a standard scratch score which clubs will submit to the system. This SSS will be ratified by the National Handicap Committee.

A standard scratch score is the score that a scratch player would be expected to score on the course in normal playing conditions. This is a fixed value that must be in place before a course can be used for handicapping competitions. Alterations will go to the National Handicap Committee for ratification.

2. *Creating and managing competitions*

Clubs will be able to create and manage their competitions in the handicap system. In order for the handicapping system to work effectively as many singles strokeplay events as is practical for clubs should be managed in the system. This includes club competitions and open events.

3. *Registering members*

All existing registered PPUI members will have a handicap created for them in the new handicap system, equal to their last active handicap on the go live date. All new members to the PPUI will be given a handicap of -15 on their first day as registered members, irrespective of age or gender.

Returning members will have handicaps created for them automatically by the system upon registration, their handicaps will be adjusted based on the following rules to allow for loss of ability during absence:

Previous Real Handicap	< 3 years absence	3 to 5 years absence	> 5 years absence
< 5.0	-0.4	-1.0	-1.6
>= 5.0 and < 10.0	-1.0	-1.6	-2.6
>= 10.0	-1.6	-2.6	-3.0

4. *Returning scores*

Clubs will need to return the counting score for their members in every competition in the system that they enter. Since handicaps will have an effective period of one week, clubs will need to have completely returned all scores and closed their competitions before the end of the relevant return period, which is always midnight on the Sunday of the week after the competition takes place, in order for the competition to be considered valid and for the handicap adjustments created by the competition to be applied to members.



## **Handicaps**

Players will have two handicap values available to them in the new handicap system, as follows:

1. *Real*

This is the members current handicap with all adjustments applied, correct to 1 decimal place. It is the handicap value which will be directly adjusted by the system. Players should never use their real handicap as their playing handicap when entering a competition.

2. *Playing*

This is the member's current playing handicap which should be used to enter competitions. It will be equal to their real handicap rounded to the nearest whole number.

## **Handicap Period**

To make the handicap system work well for both players and administrators, real and playing handicaps will be effective for a full week, from Sunday midnight to Sunday midnight. Clubs will have until midnight on the Sunday of the week after a competition to return all counting scores and close the competition in order for the event to be valid and for adjustments created by the competition to be applied to members.

Handicap Period closing will be managed centrally by the PPUI office.

## **Entry Requirements**

Members will be required to return a minimum of 10 singles rounds in a season to be eligible for negative handicap adjustments (shots back). Members who do not return 10 singles rounds in a season will need to return a 10<sup>th</sup> round in the following season to become eligible for negative adjustments. Members will always remain eligible for positive adjustments (handicap cuts).

## **Accessing Data**

All members will have a public profile that is available online and can be viewed at any time to check the latest handicap information for the member. A member's handicap information will only change on the first day of a handicap period.

## **Counting Competitions**

The system is currently built to manage handicaps based on singles strokeplay events only. This decision was made since those are the events in which individual performance can be most accurately measured. Team and matchplay events are currently outside the scope of the system. The results of these events will continue to be recorded by the PPUI Office and the National Handicap Committee will retain the ability to perform handicap reviews in exceptional circumstances.



## Versus Par & Stableford

Players must record all scores as they would in singles strokeplay and their gross strokeplay scores should be submitted to the handicap system for use when adjusting. Scratched holes can be recorded as a double bogey.

### How are adjustments calculated?

#### 1. *Competition Scratch Score*

The Competition Scratch Score is a procedure employed on the day of the competition to judge the influence of course and weather conditions on the scoring ability of the field and regulate adjustments to handicaps accordingly. At the closing of a competition by an administrator, the handicap system will automatically calculate the CSS for the competition.

#### 2. *Nett Differential*

This is the difference between a player's nett score in a competition and the competition scratch score. This value is what decides if a player has a positive or negative handicap adjustment applied for the competition. Nett Differential is equal to Nett Score minus CSS.

#### 3. *Buffer Zone*

A Buffer Zone is the tolerance above the calculated Competition Scratch Score allowed in a nett score return before an increase in handicap is applied. Players who have a nett differential within the buffer zone will have no handicap adjustment applied since the system will decide that they have performed close enough to their handicap for it to be considered correct. The day one buffer zone will be 0 to +2 nett differential.

#### 4. *Adjustments*

Players who have a nett differential of -1 or lower in a competition, meaning they beat the CSS, will have a handicap adjustment applied equal to  $0.1 * \text{their nett differential}$ . This is also described as a handicap cut.

Players who have a positive nett differential and are also outside the buffer zone will have a handicap adjustment of -0.1 applied, also described as 0.1 back.

### When will the system come into effect?

To facilitate clubs transitioning to the new system, the proposed start date of the new system will be Monday April 11<sup>th</sup> 2016. Handicaps in the old system will be frozen on March 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 and no cuts will be applied under the old system after that date.

On the start date, all members will have a new system handicap equal to their handicap from the old system on March 1<sup>st</sup> 2016. Players who are due shots back from the 2015 system will still receive them and they will be included in the new system handicap that is created for the member.