



National Handicap System

Discussion & Demonstration Meeting

09/01/2016

Abbeyleix Manor Hotel

NEC Handicap Sub Committee

- Helen McMorrow, Hon. Registrar (Lakeside)
- Michael Murphy, Hon. Secretary (Old County)
- Liam Sherry (St. Bridget's)
- Niall Reynolds (Clare Road)
- Mark Keohane (Rocklodge)
- Keith Redmond (Lucan)



Sub Committee Goals

1. To produce a recommendation for a handicap system that is transparent, reflective of playing ability and allows Pitch and Putt players to compete on a fair and equitable basis
2. To produce a recommendation for a handicap system that is easy to use, increases member engagement with the PPUI and reduces workload on administrators at every level



Handicaps – Areas for Improvement

Visibility

- Modern technology

Consistency

- All adjustments made based on a single, performance based calculation

Accuracy

- Adjustments based on scores posted rather than prizes won

Logistics

- All records and communications maintained in a central system



Recommendation

- Online, computerized handicap system
- Fully integrated with current PPUI systems (registration & website)
- Data open and available
- Use Standard Scratch Scores to evaluate performance
- Continuous Improvement



Why Standard Scratch Scores?

- Par is a poor measurement of performance
 - Weather
 - Course condition
- Prizes don't necessarily mean handicaps are wrong
 - Field breakdown
 - Performance of other players
 - The configuration of the competition



Standard Scratch Scores

SSS

- A course specific score that reflects the score that a 0 handicap player would achieve on the course in ideal playing conditions

CSS

- A competition specific scratch score that reflects the difficulty of the conditions under which the competition was played, relative to the SSS for the course. This is calculated by the system at all times.



CSS Calculation

Four Parameters

- Percentage of players who get within 2 of SSS or better per round
- Percentage of the field in Grade 1
- Percentage of the field in Grade 2
- Percentage of the field in Grade 3

SSS Adjustment Lookup

- Find the adjustment value for the parameter combination
- $CSS = SSS \pm$ the adjustment for the four parameters



SSS and Course Management

Who creates the SSS for a course?

- The club who owns the course

Can this be changed?

- Yes, once per season. Changes will be verified and approved by the NEC Handicap System Sub Committee.

How many courses can a club have?

- Up to 3
- Championship courses
- Winter courses



Competition Management

Competition Setup

- Full season calendar can be created in advance if you wish

Day of Competition

- Totally the organisers decision what they do
- No requirement for technology on site

Returning Scores

- Needs to be completed by the end of the next handicap period (minimum of 7 days to return scores)



Competition Management

Which scores need to be recorded?

- Only the entrants counting gross score in the event

How do we deal with No Returns?

- The system does not deal with NRs except to record them

What about team events?

- No impact on the system, these will be monitored separately

Different scoring types

- Convert to strokeplay scores



Competition Management

Which Competitions?

- Every singles strokeplay competition, including stableford and v-par events, is valid and clubs will be asked to run all singles strokeplay competitions within the system where practical.
- Regularly running singles strokeplay competitions outside of the system will require notification to the PPUI Handicap System Sub Committee and agreement of the committee.
- A competition offers a member a means to have their handicap adjusted to match their ability
- Availability of opportunities to gain handicap adjustments will incentivise members to play



Competition Management

Open Strokeplay Events

- The PPUI Handicap System Sub Committee highly recommends that should the handicap system come into use, all clubs consider hosting at least one Open singles strokeplay event per season.

Qualifiers, Championships, Scratch Cups

- All of these events can and should be managed within the handicap system

Member Entry

- PPUI Registration Number



Competition Management

County Boards and other Governing Bodies

- Accounts will have access to all member venues for competitions
- No difference to club competition management
- Users can be members of club and parent teams

Seasons

- The handicap season will run from the start of the nearest handicap period to March 1st every year. This will dictate the exact end date of the last season.



Handicap Types

Real Handicap

- Unlimited handicap that is correct to 1 decimal place and is impacted by adjustments

Playing Handicap

- The handicap used by players during competition player. A whole number value of the players real handicap when entering a competition.

Handicap Period

- A players real handicap will apply for a single handicap period

Rounding

- Real handicaps are rounded up from .5 to decide playing handicap



Handicap Periods

What is a Handicap Period?

- Week long period that starts Monday morning and ends on Sunday night
- Members have a handicap for every period
- Competitions cannot span two periods
- PPUI administrators close the completed period every Monday

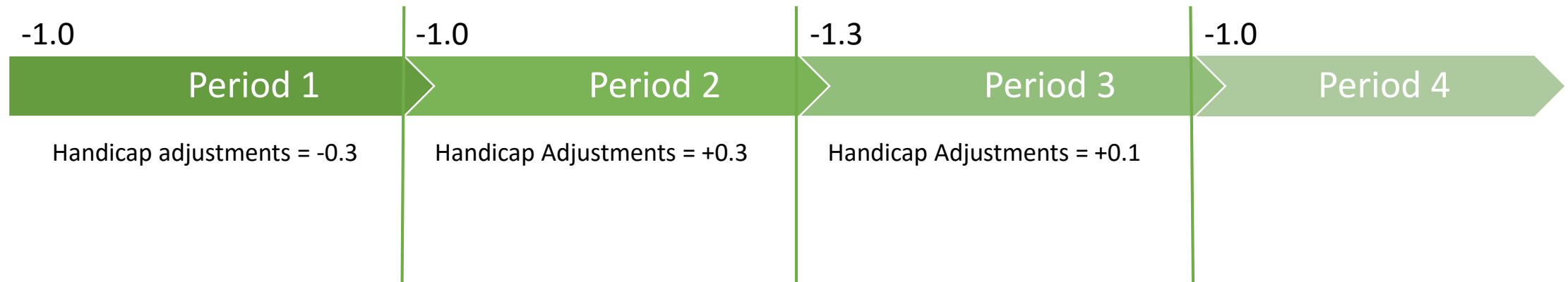
Why Handicap Periods?

- Removes the need for competition returns to be submitted on the day of play
- Players know their handicap is fixed every Monday for a week



Handicap Periods

- Member Handicap never changes during a period
- Competitions in a period need to be returned and closed by the end of the **next** period
- Handicap adjustments don't impact your handicap until after the **next** period



Handicap Adjustment

CSS Buffer

- Ensures players who perform close to their current handicap to remain at that handicap

In the Buffer

- Nett score between CSS and $\text{CSS} + (2 * \text{Number of Rounds})$
- No adjustment to handicap

Above the Buffer

- Nett score higher than $\text{CSS} + (2 * \text{Number of Rounds})$
- 0.1 added to Real Handicap

Below the Buffer

- Nett score lower than CSS
- 0.1 reduction in Real Handicap per shot lower than CSS



Handicap Adjustment

How much can a member handicap be adjusted?

- Maximum decrease of -0.1 per competition
- No maximum increase per competition
- Your adjustment for a handicap period is the sum of all competition adjustments in that period
- No other limits at this time

Don't we need limits?!

- Penalise the majority
- Handicap the handicap system
- Trust and spirit of the game



Handicap Reviews

Ongoing Process

- Internal reporting available to System Administrators
- Handicap Review tools available for System Administrators

Exceptional Scoring

- Active monitoring with the system of non standard scoring
- Potential for review at all times



Entry Requirements

Minimum cards returned per season

- All members will be required to return 10 scores (18 holes) per season to maintain their handicap
- Handicaps will be reactivated upon submission of the 10th score of the season when deactivated

Minimum cards per competition

- Entrants must submit the required number of cards to compete in an event in order to have their handicap adjusted by their entry



Gents, Ladies, Juveniles

Different SSS per group?

- Same SSS for all players

Everybody has a useful handicap

- All members, including juveniles, can hold a full handicap
- Ladies and Gents can compete equitably in Nett events
- Mixed teams can compete equitably in Nett events



New Members

Provisional handicaps

- On day one, any member registered since 01/01/2014 will have a handicap in the new system equal to their last handicap from the old system
- New members to the new system will be given a handicap of -6 as this is the mid point of the negative handicap range.
- The provisional handicap value will change as the handicap system matures



System Requirements

- Basic computer literacy
- Access to the internet at some point before the closing date for submission of each competition
- Mobile ready – difficult to use for management but excellent for data access



Resources Available

- handicapsystemsUPPORT@ppui.ie
- Video Training
- Training Day
- Online Training and Assistance

