

RULE
3

Adjustment of Hole Scores

Principle of the Rule:

A score for handicap purposes should not be overly influenced by one or two bad hole scores that are not reflective of a player's demonstrated ability. In addition, incomplete scores and/or scores where a player did not hole out on every hole can provide reasonable evidence of the player's ability and can be used for handicap purposes.

Rule 3 covers the circumstances where scores may be acceptable and how these hole scores should be adjusted.

3.1 Maximum Hole Score for Handicap Purposes

3.1a Before a Handicap Index Has Been Established

For a player submitting their first scores to obtain an initial *Handicap Index*, the maximum score for each hole played is limited to *par* + 5 strokes (see Diagram 3.1a).

DIAGRAM 3.1a: APPLYING MAXIMUM HOLE SCORE WHEN HANDICAP INDEX NOT ESTABLISHED

Name: *John Smith* Handicap: *Not Established* Date: *01/07/20*

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Par	4	3	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	35
Score	6	7	6	5	7	12	6	7	7	63

← Gross score

← Adjusted gross score for handicap purposes

10
 ↑
 Maximum Hole Score = Par + 5

3.1b After a Handicap Index Has Been Established

For a player with an established *Handicap Index*, the maximum score for each hole played is limited to a *net double bogey*, calculated as follows:

$$\text{Par of the hole} + 2 \text{ strokes} + \text{Any handicap stroke(s) that the player receives on that hole}^*$$

(*or minus any handicap stroke(s) that a plus handicap player gives back on that hole.)

(See Diagram 3.1b.)

- A *net double bogey* is equal to the lowest score on a hole for which the player would achieve zero Stableford points.
- There is no limit to the number of holes in a round where a *net double bogey* adjustment may be applied.
- If, in the Terms of the Competition (see Rule 7.2a) or the *handicap allowances*, there are any restrictions on the number of strokes received, this restricted *Playing Handicap* should only be used for the purpose of the competition, for example to determine the:
 - Finishing positions and prize winners, and
 - Number of strokes given or received for different formats of play.

The player's full, unrestricted *Course Handicap* should be used for all applications of *net double bogey* adjustments. For this procedure the *Course Handicap* is rounded to the nearest whole number (see Rule 6.1a/b).

- Where a *Course Handicap* is calculated at more than 54 and a player receives 4 or more strokes on a hole, the maximum hole score is *par* + 5 for handicap purposes.
- Adjusting a hole score to a *net double bogey* can be done either:
 - Automatically, when hole-by-hole score entry is used, or
 - By the player, when submitting an *adjusted gross score* for the round.

Rule 3

DIAGRAM 3.1b: CALCULATION AND APPLICATION OF NET DOUBLE BOGEY ADJUSTMENT FOR MAXIMUM HOLE SCORE

Name: *Jane Smith* Handicap: *16* Date: *12/09/20*

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out
Par	4	4	4	3	4	5	3	4	4	35
Stroke Index	7 ✓	13 ✓	3 ✓	15 ✓	11 ✓	1 ✓	17	5 ✓	9 ✓	
Score	5	5	6	4	5	5	3	5	5	43

✓ = Stroke received

Hole	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	TOTAL
Par	3	4	5	3	4	5	3	4	4	35	70
Stroke Index	18	12 ✓	4 ✓	14 ✓	8 ✓	2 ✓	16 ✓	6 ✓	10 ✓		
Score	3	4	6	4	5	5	3	9	6	45	88

Gross score

Gross hole score

Net double bogey

Adjusted gross score for handicap purposes

