

Evidence from golf clubs indicates that a significant number of Members, due to increasing demands on their working and family life for example, are unable to play 18-hole Qualifying Competitions frequently enough to establish and maintain a handicap representative of their potential ability. Consequently, in response to the changing needs of the game and the Members of our Affiliated Clubs, Qualifying Competitions over nine holes continue to be offered within the UHS to provide additional opportunities for the return of Qualifying Scores. Nine-Hole Qualifying Competitions are proving to be particularly attractive to clubs and their Members in summer evenings and in the restricted daylight hours of winter weekends. They are also the means by which a greater number of senior golfers are making returns for handicap purposes. The format for Nine-Hole Qualifying Competitions is Stableford. A 'neutral' 18 points for the nine holes not played is added to the nine-hole Stableford score to determine whether players have played within, or better than, their Buffer Zones. For handicap purposes, when a player fails to return a score within their Buffer Zone the points accumulated over the nine holes played is doubled. This provides a more realistic indication of ability for handicap review than the former practice of adding 18 points to the outside of Buffer Zone scores. Whilst the UHS offers opportunities to play Nine-Hole Qualifying Competitions there is no desire to change the traditional way in which competitive golf is played over 18 holes.

Qualifying Competitions over Designated Nine-Hole Courses may be conducted by Affiliated Clubs for all Members, (i.e. both Home and Away players). The scores must be recorded as Qualifying Scores in the Player Handicap Records, subject to the following provisions:

22.1 The Designated Nine-Hole Course shall have a Standard Scratch Score issued by the Union and expressed as an 18-hole value. Standard Scratch Scores may be allocated for any number of tees over the Designated Nine-Hole Course.

22.2 Nine-Hole Qualifying Competitions **must be in Stableford format.**

22.3 A **Nine-Hole Competition Handicap Allowance must be calculated as follows:**

$$[\text{Exact Handicap} + \text{Nine-Hole SSS} - (\text{Nine-Hole Par} \times 2)] / 2$$

**For example, if the player has an Exact Handicap of 12.8 and the Nine-Hole SSS and Par are 69 and 34 respectively the Nine-Hole Competition Handicap Allowance is:**

$$[12.8 + 69 - (34 \times 2)] / 2 = [12.8 + 69 - 68] / 2 = 6.9 \text{ rounded to } 7.$$

Where the Nine-Hole Competition Handicap Allowances calculated for players differ from their Playing Handicaps, the Committee must make the players aware of their total stroke allowances for the competition. It is recommended that the Nine-Hole Competition Handicap Allowance is recorded on the player's scorecard alongside the player's Playing Handicap. (see also Note 1 below).

22.4 Handicap strokes must be taken according to the Stroke Index for the Designated Nine-Hole Course.

For example, in the nine holes to be played the stroke indices in hole-number sequence are as follows:

Hole No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
SI from 18 hole	14	10	4	16	2	8	6	12	18
SI for 9 hole	7	5	2	8	1	4	3	6	9

The player in the example outlined in Clause 22.3, in receipt of 7 strokes for the nine holes, would receive them at holes 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

22.5 Players in all Handicap Categories and those holding Club Handicaps may return scores for handicap purposes in Nine-Hole Qualifying Competitions.

22.6 Initially, eighteen Stableford points must be added to the result over Nine-Holes to obtain a Qualifying Score which is assessed against the nine-hole SSS and the player's nine-hole Buffer Zone for handicap purposes. Players returning Nett Differentials below the Standard Scratch Score shall have their Exact Handicaps reduced to the extent dictated by that Nett Differential. Players with Nett Differentials within the relevant Buffer Zone shall not have any adjustment to their Exact Handicaps. Players with Nett Differentials above the relevant Buffer Zone shall have their Exact Handicaps increased by 0.1.

22.7 For the purposes of the Handicap Record, and hence the Annual Review, the treatment of scores above the Buffer Zone is different. Players returning a Nett Differential above the relevant Buffer Zone shall have recorded a sum equal to double the number of actual points scored over the nine holes. Players returning a Nett Differential within or below the relevant Buffer Zone shall continue to have recorded the sum of the actual number of points scored over the nine holes plus the neutral eighteen points.

22.8 A Competition Scratch Score shall not be calculated. If a competition is abandoned for any valid reason players returning Nett Differentials below the Standard Scratch Score must have their Exact Handicaps reduced to the extent dictated by the Nett Differential. A Nett Differential of zero or above shall not result in a handicap increase. 22.9 The following Buffer Zones apply to Qualifying Scores over Nine-Holes:

Handicap Category	Buffer Zone (Stableford Points)
1	36
2 & 3	35 - 36
4,5, Club & Disability Handicaps	34 - 36

22.10 A Qualifying Competition over nine holes must not be part of an 18-hole Qualifying Competition.

**Note:** When playing in nine-hole Qualifying Competitions or submitting a nine-hole Supplementary Score at an Away Club of which he is a Member the player is responsible for verifying that his correct Exact Handicap is used in the calculation of the Competition Handicap Allowance under 22.3 above.



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