



## **CONGU changes 2016 - final decisions** **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

All Changes take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016

1. **Manual** - It was agreed that a shorter booklet containing the principal changes would be produced to be used as an addendum to the existing Manual. This revision would be limited to 2016-2017. The Manual still to be produced electronically including the CSS tables.
2. **Calendar year to be adopted** – 1 Jan to 31 Dec.
3. **Initial Handicaps** - to be allocated in line with Annual Handicap Review formula/algorithm.
4. **Handicap Category Boundaries** – It was agreed that no change would be made to the existing handicap category boundaries. However a new `Club Handicap` will be introduced for clubs who wish to allocate a handicap higher than 28/36 for use in club run events. This handicap will only be valid at the player's home club and cannot be used in opens etc.
5. **Preferred Lies** - Each National Union to have discretion to adopt a preferred lie period within their jurisdiction. England Golf will remain as 1<sup>st</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> April, preferred lies outside this period must be authorised by your County Union/Association.
6. **CSS Calculation for men** - to include Cat. 4 players in the same manner as Ladies CSS calculation.
7. **Qualifying Nine Hole Scores.**
  - a. A score returned better than, or within, BZ will have 18 points added to create an 18 hole score.
  - b. A score returned outside BZ will be doubled
  - c. 9-Hole Scores will be included in the ESR process.
8. **Continuous handicap Review** – Introduction of a process to flag players with 7 consecutive 0.1 handicap increases so that Handicap Committees can review and apply an immediate handicap increase if required.
9. **4BBB Handicap allowance** to be increased from  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 90%.
10. **Competition Status**
  - a. Re-allocation of `c` status handicap will require scorecards for 54 holes, in any permutation of 9 and 18-hole scores.
  - b. All Unions/Associations to use `c` Competition Handicap Status from 1 Jan 2016.
  - c. Reactivation of `c` status Handicap after handicap lost – if a player with a `c` Competition Handicap leaves club membership but re-joins within a period of 12 months his handicap will be re-instated as `c`.
11. **Supplementary Scores**
  - a. May be returned at all GB&I clubs of which a player is a member.
  - b. Acceptable over 9-holes (Handicap Categories 2 and above).
  - c. Unlimited for handicaps 28/36 to 54
12. **Exceptional Scoring Reductions (ESRs)**
  - a. Table has been amended to reduce severity of reductions.
  - b. ESRs will only be applied based on a pair of exceptional scores (ES).  
Eg. ES1 + ES2 = ERS1, ES3 + ES4 = ESR2

Further detail will be added to the England Golf Website as soon as possible, Please continue to check <http://www.Englandgolf.org/page.aspx?sitesectionid=563&sitesectiontitle=Handicapping>