

# Returning of Qualifying Scores

## (Competition and Supplementary Scores)

Whilst the COVID-19 situation persists, the R&A has made a number of adjustments as to what is permissible under the Rules of Golf in respect of returning scores (specifically Rule 3.3b). In particular:

*The Club Committees has agreed to allow methods of scoring in stroke play that do not strictly comply with Rule 3.3b, or do not comply with the normal methods used under Rule 3.3b. For example:*

- *Players may enter their own hole scores on the scorecard (it is not necessary for a marker to do it)*
- *It is not necessary to have a marker physically certify the player's hole scores, but some form of verbal certification should take place*
- *Completed scorecard to be deposited through the slot in the desk in the lobby near the PSI terminal.*

In addition, the R&A has confirmed that the above approaches are also acceptable for Handicapping purposes.

Whilst recognising the adjustments allowed by the R&A and wishing to enable the safe submission of qualifying scores, CONGU® would like to maintain a level of integrity within the Unified Handicapping System and make the following recommendations:

- The Committee should be satisfied that their approach to the safe receipt of scores allows them to identify the player(s) who have certified the score submitted.
- They should also be satisfied that the handicap that the player has used for their score is identifiable.

As allowed by the R&A, scores can be submitted in a variety of ways:

### 1) Physical Scorecards

- a. The Committee has determined that the use of physical scorecards is still appropriate, however it needs to be satisfied that the players in the group (who verbally agree the scores) are identifiable. It may be that all players are recorded on a start sheet (which may be paper or electronic), but CONGU® recommends that the player records the name of one of the other players to provide the Committee a contact name, should it be required. Note that this is a strong recommendation – a player cannot be disqualified for failing to do this. Any persistent disregard will be handled via the club disciplinary approach (in the same way that a persistent ignoring of the requirement to enter a score onto the computer would be).
  - i. Subsequent to the round, all scores will be entered into the club computer system by the Pro Shop – from a submitted card.

These rules adopted by the club are provided to reintroduce handicap qualifying golf in a safe manner whilst maintaining the integrity of the Handicapping System as far as possible. They will continue to be applicable in GB&I for as long as the R&A advice is in force. Any changes to the R&A advice will result in these recommendations being reviewed and re-published as required.

Please note that these rules are in addition to the Guidance Document published on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 (and updated on 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020) which provide the allowable changes to the Rules of Golf when submitting qualifying scores. Additionally, regardless of the type of scorecard used, the relaxation of the regulations for scorecards does not affect the requirement to pre-register for any qualifying round **on the day**. Entry on a tee booking sheet does not in itself satisfy this requirement.

#### **Extracted from a framework for Playing Golf – Agreed by R & A and PGA - 29 June 2020**

- If competitive stroke play is played, a method of scoring needs to be used that does not require any handling or exchanging of scorecards
- Committees may choose to allow methods of scoring in stroke play that do not strictly comply with Rule 3.3b, or do not comply with the normal methods used under Rule 3.3b. For example
- Players may enter their own hole scores on the scorecard (it is not necessary for a marker to do it)
- It is not necessary to have a marker physically certify the player's hole scores, but some form of verbal certification should take place
- It is not necessary to physically return a scorecard to the Committee provided the Committee can accept the scores in another way
- As provided in the Rules of Golf, scorecards can be electronic, which could include emailing or texting scores to the Committee.
  
- Further Guidance on this has now been provided by CONGU.

□ <https://www.congu.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Return-of-Qualifying-Scores.pdf>