



## **KINSALE GOLF CLUB**

### **Policy for Managing Handicaps**

**1<sup>st</sup> December 2017**

#### **Introduction**

The ongoing adjustment of Players handicaps, increase or decrease, is governed by the CONGU Unified Handicapping System (UHS), CONGU. The system is objective based, linking scores to handicap. It is based on players fulfilling their responsibilities under the UHS, ie, trying at all times to make the best score possible on the day. The Golfing Union Of Ireland (GUI) also issue guidance and advise to Clubs to assist them in this process. Clubs are constantly advised that adjustments must not be carried out in an arbitrary manner and for this reason a clear policy framework should be put in place to guide the Handicap Committee in undertaking its functions. The common situations facing the Handicap Committee can be summarised as follows:

Players may use the system to increase their handicap by not playing to the best of their ability.

Some players may play infrequently and have little opportunity to improve and reduce their handicap.

Some players may be improving faster than the handicap changes performed by the system, whereas others may be declining in ability at a rate that is not reflected in the systems adjustments.

Players may play few singles competitions, concentrating on Society golf, and team golf such as fourballs, three man teams etc.

#### **Annual Review**

This is a very important element in the handicapping process and should be used to adjust players handicaps, taking account of the situations set out above. It is recommended that the review is carried out between end of October and end of December each year. Arbitrary adjustments should not be carried out. Currently a table is prepared of the number of times players feature in the prizes, identifying the number of times with "cuts" and without "cuts". It includes all competitions throughout the year including winter competitions over 14 holes.

At annual review, Players in the prizes for non counting competitions (see note under General Play adjustments below) mainly team competitions) should have their handicaps adjusted as follows:

In prizes 3 times	cut of 0.5 stroke
In prizes 4 times	cut of 1 strokes
In prizes 5 plus times	cut of 1.5 strokes

### **General Play Adjustments**

**Players are reminded of their obligation (under Clause 4.5(b) of the CONGU Unified Handicapping System) to return details of prize-winning scores in non-qualifying away competitions. This includes Classics and Society competitions (including those held in Farrangalway and not organized by Kinsale GC).**

The Handicap Committee may adjust a player's handicap if there is compelling evidence that his exact handicap does not reflect his current playing ability. As with the Annual Review, arbitrary adjustments should not be undertaken.

A player who features in the prizes for both counting and non counting competitions, on three occasions within a four weeks, may have his handicap adjusted by 1 stroke, in addition to any adjustments which would have been applied under CONGU.

### **Exceptional Scoring Reduction (ESR).**

This mechanism should be triggered when a player returns two low qualifying scores with a nett differential of -4 in a calendar year. This automatically attracts an adjustment to the player's handicap under UHS tables, but the Handicap Committee should also consider an ESR by reviewing the player's overall performance and ability.

### **Club Championships**

Winners of the Club Championship Singles, Four-balls and Foursomes will each be cut one stroke.

### **Winter Competitions**

Kinsale Golf Club wishes to devise a system which promotes a wider distribution of prize winners of its competitions over the winter period. The club has a very active playing membership and it is important that anything done does not discourage this. It must also be recognised that it is inevitable that those who play more frequently may feature more often in the prizes.

The Handicap Master computer system will be used through the winter, with members full handicaps applying, using the reduced course that is, 14 / 18 of handicap for 14 hole competitions and 13 / 18 for 13 hole competitions. Handicap reductions will be made to the full handicap.

Official handicaps will be frozen on the 1<sup>st</sup> November and re-instated when qualifying competitions resume in 2018. Any reductions made to a member's handicap through the winter will not be applied to the official handicap.

The Handicap Secretary can make a reduction to a member's official handicap through the General Play adjustment where it is deemed necessary.

There will be no “Turkey“ cuts as per previous years.

**Appeals process**

A Member who is not satisfied with a decision of the Handicap Committee can request a review of the decision. The Handicap Committee will review the decision and may affirm, modify or nullify its decision.

If the Member is not satisfied with the outcome of the review, he may seek an appeal by setting out the basis thereof, in writing, to the Secretary, Men’s Committee.

The Club Captain, in consultation with the Vice Captain and Secretary, will appoint a Member (Appeals Officer) to carry out the appeal. His decision will be binding on all parties and will be final.

**Revised Policy effective from November 2017**