



## What Do I Post for Handicap Purposes?

**During a round of golf a player may run into a situation where they pick up and do not finish a hole for a multitude of reasons (partner has already won the hole, conceded a putt, etc.). Or the golfer may come across a par 5 hole which has been shortened to a par 3 because the maintenance staff is working on the teeing area. Do you know how to correctly record those scores for handicap purposes?**

### Unfinished Holes or Conceded Strokes

If a player starts but does not complete a hole or is conceded a stroke, he shall record for handicap purposes what he most likely would have made. The most likely score consists of the number of strokes already taken plus, in player's best judgment, the number of strokes that he will need to complete the hole from that position more than half the time. The most likely score is not to exceed the player's maximum allowable under Equitable Stroke Control. However, there is no limit to the number of unfinished holes the player may have in a round, provided that failure to finish is not for the purpose of handicap manipulation.

**Example:** A golfer lies 3, 12 feet from the hole and is conceded the putt. For posting purposes, the golfer will record a score of 5 because in his best judgment he would have two putted from that position.

### Holes Not Played or Not Played Under The Rules of Golf

If a player does not play a hole or plays it other than under the principles of the Rules of Golf (except for preferred lies), his score for that hole for handicap purposes must be par plus any handicap strokes he is entitled to receive on the hole. In an 18 hole round once a golfer completes 13 holes they may post the remaining hole scores as par plus. In a 9 hole round, the golfer must complete 7 holes in order to post the score.

**Example 1:** A golfer has a course handicap of 10. They do not play the 18<sup>th</sup> hole on the course because of darkness. The 18<sup>th</sup> hole is a par 5 and is the number 1 handicap stroke hole on the scorecard. For handicap purposes, the golfer will post a score of 6 (par = 5 plus 1 stroke because his course handicap is a 10).

**Example 2:** A golfer comes to the 12<sup>th</sup> hole of the course which is normally a par 5 but has been shortened to a par 4 for maintenance purposes. The player's course handicap is a 5 and the hole is the number 10 allocated stroke hole on the scorecard. For handicap purposes, the golfer will post a score of 5 for handicap purposes (par = 5, plus 0 strokes because his course handicap is a 5).

**Please Note:** The above is for returning a score for handicap purposes only and is not affected by the number of strokes actually taken when a golfer plays the modified temporary hole. Unless otherwise noted by the Committee at the club, actual strokes still apply for games or competitions in which the player may be participating.