

Back to basics

The RCGA Handicap Manual contains all there is to know about handicapping, which is generally more than the average golfer really needs to know. The core elements of handicapping that fall in the “need to know” category are the elements the RCGA most often fields questions about.

ESC Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) is the downward adjustment of individual hole scores for handicap purposes in order to make handicaps more representative of a player’s potential scoring ability. ESC sets a maximum number that a player can post on any hole depending on the player’s Course Handicap.

MISCONCEPTION 1 When posting a nine-hole score, nine-hole ESC should be used.

FACT If a player has a Handicap Factor, 18-hole ESC should be used to adjust a nine-hole score. Only when a player has a 9-Hole Factor (N) do they adjust a nine-hole score using nine-hole ESC.

MISCONCEPTION 2 When posting a Tournament Score (T), the score should not be adjusted for ESC.

FACT All scores, including Tournament Scores (T) must be adjusted for ESC.

MISCONCEPTION 3 Match play scores cannot be entered for handicap purposes and definitely not as Tournament Scores (T).

FACT Match play scores must be entered for handicap purposes, including match play Tournament Scores (T). If a stroke is conceded, the player must record his or her most likely score for that hole. The most likely score consists of the number of strokes already taken plus, in the player’s best judgment, the number of strokes that the player would need to complete the hole from that position more than half the time. There is no limit to the number of unfinished holes a player may have in a round.

If the match ends before the 18th hole and a player does not play the remainder of holes, their score for those holes for handicap purposes shall be par plus any handicap strokes the player is entitled to receive on the hole. If 13 or more holes are played, the player shall post an 18-hole score. If seven to 12 holes are played, the player shall post a nine-hole score.

MISCONCEPTION 4 Nine-hole scores cannot be posted for handicap purposes.

FACT Nine-hole scores must be posted for handicap purposes. To be acceptable for handicap purposes, nine-hole scores must meet the following conditions:

- (i) The course must have a nine-hole RCGA Course Rating and RCGA Slope Rating;
- (ii) At least seven holes must be played.

There is no restriction on the number of nine-hole scores posted to a player’s record. Even if a player plays a majority of nine-hole rounds, he or she can still maintain an RCGA Handicap Factor because nine-hole scores are combined in the chronological order they are posted to create an 18-hole score. The combining of nine-hole scores may be any combination of nines, i.e., a front nine middle tee score combined with a front nine back tee score.

A nine-hole score waiting to be combined will be retained within a player’s scoring record until it is older than the oldest 18-hole score in that record. When nine-hole scores are combined and posted, the RCGA Course Rating is the sum of the two nine-hole Course Ratings and the RCGA Slope Rating is the average of the two Slope Ratings.

MISCONCEPTION 5 Scores shot while playing “preferred lies” cannot be posted for handicap purposes.

FACT Scores made when the Local Rule “preferred lies” (winter rules) is used shall be posted for handicap purposes unless the committee determines that conditions are so poor that such scores should not be posted.

“Preferred lies (winter rules)” is a Local Rule that may be adopted by the committee when adverse conditions are so general throughout a course that improving the lie of the ball in a specified way would promote fair play or help protect the course. When a committee adopts a Local Rule for “preferred lies,” it should be in detail and should be interpreted by the committee, as there is no established code for “preferred lies”. Without a detailed Local Rule, it is meaningless for a committee to post a notice merely saying “preferred lies” or “winter rules today”.

—by Matt MacKay, RCGA Handicapping & Course Rating Coordinator

[TV GUIDE]



2006 CN Canadian Women’s Open TV broadcast schedule Rogers Sportsnet
 Thursday, August 10
 2–5:00pm
 Friday, August 11
 2–5:00pm
 Saturday, August 12
 3–6:00pm
 Sunday, August 13
 4–7:00pm

2006 Canadian Open TV broadcast schedule
 Thursday, September 7
 1–6:00pm (TSN)
 Friday, September 8
 1–6:00pm (TSN)
 Saturday, September 9
 1–3:00pm (TSN)
 3–6:00pm (CTV/ESPN)
 Sunday, September 10
 1–3:00pm (TSN)
 3–6:00pm (CTV/ESPN)

All times are EDT and subject to change.