

## KINSALE GOLF CLUB

### Policy for Managing Handicaps 1st November 2021

#### Introduction

The ongoing adjustment of Players handicaps, increase or decrease, is governed by the World Handicap System (WHS). The system is objective based, linking scores to handicap. It is based on players fulfilling their responsibilities under the WHS guidelines, i.e.

**Act with integrity by following the Rules of Handicapping and to refrain from using, or circumventing, the Rules of Handicapping for the purpose of gaining an unfair advantage, trying at all times to make the best score possible on the day and**

**Attempt to make the best score possible at each hole (Rule 1)**

Golf Ireland 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 index by not playing to the best of their ability. Some players may be improving faster than the handicap index 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 September and end of December each year. Review begins on Jan 1st of the calendar year. Arbitrary adjustments should not be carried out. Note that in the WHS platform a capping of the number of shots a player can get back in a year must be adhered to. 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 13 or 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:

Win in any team event - cut of 1 stroke

Featuring in prizes 3 times - cut of 1 stroke

**N.B – the handicap committee complete regular reviews throughout the year and can process the adjustments at any time.**

## **General Play Adjustments**

Players are reminded of their obligation 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 index if there is compelling evidence that his exact handicap index 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 four weeks, may have his handicap index adjusted by 1 stroke, in addition to any adjustments which would have been applied under WHS.

## **Club Championships**

Winners of the Club Championship Singles, Fourball 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 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 playing handicap index applying, using the reduced course that is, 14 / 18 of handicap P.I for 14-hole competitions and 13 / 18 for 13-hole competitions. 95% of same applies under WHS guidelines for singles competitions with other percentages applied for team events. Official handicaps will be frozen on the 1st November and re-instated when qualifying competitions resume in 2022. Handicap index reductions will be made to the handicap indices weekly during the winter to the full handicap index applying the adjustments outlined above for non-counting events. Any reductions made to a member's handicap index through the winter will not be applied to the official handicap index. The Handicap committee can make a reduction to a member's official handicap index where it is deemed appropriate once the winter period is at an end. A review of the winter period is done once winter golf has concluded.

## **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.