



Kinsale Golf Club

Men's Handicap Policy

Introduction

The ongoing adjustment of Members 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 system. This requires players to act with integrity by following the Rules of Handicapping and to refrain from using these rules to gain an unfair advantage. Specifically this requires that a player attempts to make the best score possible on each hole (WHS Rule 1).

It is each members responsibility to make themselves aware of the requirements of the WHS.

Golf Ireland issue guidance and advice to Clubs to assist them in the process of implementing the WHS. Clubs are advised that this process should 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.

Common situations can be summarised as follows:

- a) Players may use the system to increase their Handicap Index by not playing to the best of their ability.
- b) Some players may be improving faster than is reflected in the Handicap Index changes performed by the system
- c) Other Players may be declining in ability at a rate that is not reflected in the systems adjustments.
- d) Some may not have a Handicap Index that reflects their true ability as they play few singles competitions, concentrating instead on Society Golf and associated team golf such as fourballs, three-person teams etc.

Annual Review

The Annual Review is a very important element in the handicapping process and is used to adjust players Handicap Index taking into account, inter alia, the situations set out above. It is recommended that the review is carried out between September and December. This review takes into account a players performance in all forms of golf in the previous period. Specifically the Handicap Committee will look at how often a player features in the prizes in all competitions during the year. The committee are also cognizant of any disparities between General Play and Competition Play a member may have.

N.B. The Handicap Committee conduct additional regular reviews throughout the year (e.g. When emerging from a period of Winter Golf) and can process Handicap Index adjustments at any time.

General Play Adjustments

Players are reminded of their obligations to return details of all prize winning scores in non-qualifying competitions. This includes Classics and Society competitions (including those held in Farrangalway and not organised by Kinsale G. C.). Failure to do so will result in a General Play Adjustment as decided by the Handicap Committee.

Club Championships

The Handicap Committee will review the winners of the Club Championship Singles, Fourball and Foursomes. It is likely that such a review will result in an adjustment of the players Handicap Index e.g. 1 stroke cut.

Men's Winter Golf

Kinsale G.C. enjoys a high participation rate during the winter period. In addition to singles competitions we also have a very well supported Winter League competition. To facilitate the Committee in implementing this onerous golf schedule we use a truncated version of the Handicap Master computer system.

Official handicaps will be frozen on the inception of winter golf (circa November) and will be reinstated when 'qualifying competitions' resume in the subsequent spring.

For Winter Golf the computer system will use a players Handicap Index. The Handicap Index will be reduced to reflect shortened courses e.g. 13/18s of Handicap Index for 13 hole competitions, 14/18s of Handicap Index for 14 hole competitions, etc.

To promote the widest possible distribution of prize winners in the winter period the following approach to Handicap Index adjustments will apply:

- a) Handicap adjustments will be based on finishing position in the competition and the value of the prize associated as follows:

No. Prizes Issued	Finishing Position								
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th
	Cut	Cut	Cut	Cut	Cut	Cut	Cut	Cut	Cut
1	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0.4	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0	0	0	0	0
5	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0	0	0	0
6	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0	0	0
7	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
8	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0
9	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2

b) All Handicaps adjustments will be applied to the players full Winter Handicap Index.

c) In team competitions e.g. Scrambles, 2 Man Team, Fourball etc each member of the winning team(s) will each be cut as above.

d) Any player, playing in the Winter League **ONLY** and returns a score that equals or exceeds any prize winning score in that days competition will have his playing handicap reduced as above.

e) During the winter period, playing handicap adjustments will be applied on a weekly basis. These adjustments are temporary and will only apply for the duration of winter golf.

f) Players with undeveloped playing handicaps wishing to play in the Winter League will be subject to a handicap adjustment as follows:

- Initial handicap index allocated frozen at the start of winter golf, divided by qualifying rounds for handicap required (20), multiplied by the qualifying rounds played.
- A player with an initial handicap index allocated of 10.7 and has 15 qualifying rounds played would work out as $10.7 / 20 \times 15 = 8.0$, thus he would get a winter playing index of 8.
- A player with an initial handicap index allocated of 10.7 and has 18 qualifying rounds played would work out as $10.7 / 20 \times 18 = 9.6$, thus he would get a winter playing index of 10.

g) A player with an undeveloped handicap playing in the winter league with the above handicap adjustments will be entitled to win first prize in any of the competitions of the day played over the winter season (if entered). On the resumption of summer golf they will revert back to **Men's Competition Rules of Entry.**

Appeals Process

A Member who is not satisfied with a decision of the Handicap Committee can request a review of the decision. This appeal, in the first instance, must be in writing and submitted to the Handicap Secretary.

The Handicap Committee will review the decision. They may affirm, modify or nullify its original decision.

If the Member is not satisfied with the outcome of the review, they may appeal in writing (setting out the basis of the appeal) to Secretary of the Men's Committee.

The Club Captain, in consultation with the Vice-Captain and Secretary, will appoint an Appeals Officer. The Appeals Officer's decision will be binding on all parties.

Men's Committee

October 2025.