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FEDERAÇÃO PORTUGUESA DE GOLFE

DECISIONS ON THE EGA HANDICAP SYSTEM 2016-2019 PORTUGAL

1. HANDICAP CONDITIONS

1.1 Do *handicap conditions* prevail when golf carts/buggies are permitted?
The Rules of Golf do not prohibit the use of golf carts/buggies. Therefore the use of a golf cart/buggy in itself will not cancel the status of handicapping conditions.
If the conditions of a competition prohibit the use of golf carts/buggies and because of the breach of those conditions the player is disqualified, the score will still be acceptable for handicapping purposes.

1.2 Do *handicap conditions* prevail when distance-measuring devices are permitted?
The Rules of Golf prohibit the use of distance-measuring devices unless they are allowed by a Local Rule (see Note to Rule 14-3), for distance measuring purposes. However, even without such a Local Rule, *handicap conditions* are considered satisfied when distance-measuring devices are used during *qualifying competitions* or *EDS*s. Thus, if the player was disqualified because of a breach of Rule 14-3 for using a distance-measuring device when not permitted, the score will still be acceptable for handicapping purposes (see Clause 3.6.2 c.).

1.3 Do *handicap conditions* prevail when greens staff carry out maintenance work during a *qualifying round*?
When this occurs and the competition/*handicap committee* has not taken any action such as suspending or cancelling the round, the scores are considered as returned under *handicap conditions* and will be acceptable for handicapping purposes.

1.4 Do *handicap conditions* prevail when artificially surfaced tees or putting greens are in use?
Artificially surfaced tees and putting greens are acceptable under the Rules of Golf provided the proper provisions have been made in a Local Rule to declare them not to be immovable obstructions but to be integral parts of the course. The *USGA* Course and Slope Rating Committee has confirmed that artificial turf may be rated under the *USGA* Course Rating System. When both these conditions have been fulfilled and providing that the artificial tees and putting greens are located in positions that comply with the measurement of the relevant hole, scores returned from *qualifying rounds* played from artificially surfaced tees or putting greens are considered *qualifying scores* returned under *handicap conditions*.

1.5 Do *handicap conditions* prevail when the use of fairway mats to protect the course is obligatory?
Yes, a club may run a *qualifying competition* under such conditions provided:

- their use is obligatory and restricted to the conditions set by the *FPG* for the *Period for Preferred Lies* (see *EGA Handicap System* – Appendix P 4.2);
- all other *handicap conditions* prevail;
- a Local Rule for the use of fairway mats has been set out in the Conditions of the Competition.

The suggested wording is:
"A ball that comes to rest on a closely mown area through the green must be lifted, placed and played from an Astroturf or similar type of mat. The mat must be placed as near as possible to where the ball originally lay not nearer the hole. The ball may be cleaned when lifted under this Local Rule. If a ball when placed rolls from the mat it may be replaced without penalty. If it still fails to remain on the mat, the mat must be moved to the nearest spot not nearer the hole where the ball, when placed on it, will remain at rest. There is no penalty should the ball move or be moved after being placed on the mat and before making a stroke, including when addressing the ball or taking a practice swing. Should a tee peg be used to secure the mat the ball must not be placed on the tee".
The purpose of this decision is to help promote *qualifying competitions* whenever possible during the *Period for Preferred Lies*.

1.6 Do *handicap conditions* prevail in extended competitions with eclectic or aggregate awards?
If, from a series of scores, special prizes are awarded for the best eclectic score or the best net or gross aggregate of a prescribed number of scores, each individual score in the series is:

- a *qualifying score* provided each score is returned under *handicap conditions* in a *qualifying competition*.
- a non-*qualifying score* if it was returned solely for the purpose of eclectic, net or gross aggregate awards.

1.7 Is a competition a *qualifying competition* when players are allowed to start play on different holes?
Competitions in which competitors are authorised to start play on different holes, such as a two-tee or shotgun start, are *qualifying competition*s provided all other *handicap conditions* prevail. The same considerations apply to *EDSs*.

2. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE HANDICAP COMMITTEE AND THE PLAYER

2.1 Should a *handicap committee* adjust a handicap retrospectively such as for a player who has taken his card away with him after a *qualifying competition* or where an away score is returned when other scores have been entered subsequently?
Yes, the scores are *qualifying scores* so they must be considered for handicapping purposes. Any subsequent *CBA*, if applicable, must not be recalculated.

2.2 Can a *handicap committee*, before the commencement of play, declare a round to be "reduction-only"?
No. There are only two situations where handicap adjustments can be reduction-only: a round where application of the *CBA* calculation determines a value of -2/RO, and when a round already underway is cancelled by the Committee (Clause 3.6.2 a). In the latter situation, handicap adjustments are calculated on the basis that the *CBA*, if applicable, is 0.

2.3 Can a *handicap committee* reduce a handicap in order to enable a player to enter a competition, or for any other reason not directly associated with playing ability?
No. This is completely against the spirit of handicapping and could also deprive another player of a place in the competition.

2.4 May players be required to enter their own scores into a computer?
Usually score cards have to be returned to the committee in charge of the competition who will then enter the scores into the computer. However, if the *handicap committee* requires players to enter their own scores (including *EDSs*) into the computer of the club, players must do so and then return their scorecard to the *handicap committee* for verification purposes as soon as practicable. Other arrangements to allow *handicap committee* verification of any *EDS* are acceptable, provided that the *handicap committee* is satisfied that the correct score was recorded.

2.5 May a committee impose a penalty under the Rules of Golf for failure to enter a score into a computer?
Players may be required by a condition of the competition to assist the *handicap committee* in several ways such as:

- provide the score total and apply the correct handicap;
- enter the Stableford points total on the card;
- on completion of the round, enter the hole-by-hole scores into a computer.

However, a *handicap committee* may not impose a Rule of Golf penalty when a player fails to comply with any of the above conditions.
The Rules of Golf are very specific as to what the player's and any committee's obligations are with respect to score cards. Conditions of the Competition cannot change these requirements. No penalty under the Rules of Golf can be imposed provided the player complies with Rule 6-6. However, the *handicap committee* would be justified to consider disciplinary action such as suspension of the handicap (see Section 3.13) or exclusion from the next competition(s).

2.6 How to proceed in relation to players that are affiliated in Portugal and are also affiliated in another *national association*?
A player must have only one *EGA Handicap* at a time. For players affiliated in Portugal, who are also affiliated in another *national association* abroad, while the player is under the Portuguese jurisdiction the Portuguese *handicap authority* applies, through the *home club* in Portugal (*EGA Handicap System*, Appendix P 1.2.4).

2.6.1 How should a *handicap committee* perform the initial registration of the handicap in Portugal?
Regarding the initial registration of the handicap, the following applies:

a. If the player does not have a handicap, the procedures set out under Clause 2.5 of the Appendix P of the *EGA Handicap System*, for obtaining a handicap, apply;
b. If the player has a handicap allotted by another *national association* he needs to submit his playing record, for scrutiny, and subsequent allotment of the *EGA Handicap* and registration on the software system, in Portugal.

The formulas for conversion of non-EGA handicaps, under Decision 4.2, apply.
For handicap allotment purposes, consideration should be given to the player's previous playing history (see Guidance Note: "Allotment of Handicap" under Section 3.11 of the *EGA Handicap System*), and under the provisions of Clause 3.16, the *handicap committee* can adjust the player's *EGA Handicap* as it considers appropriate.

For the allocation or reinstatement of an *EGA Handicap* of *handicap category* 1 ratification by the HCRC of the *FPG* is required.

2.6.2 How to rectify the handicap of a player who is found to have different handicaps maintained at two *EGA* home clubs simultaneously?
A player must have only one *EGA Handicap* at a time. To rectify the situation, the player has to decide which club will perform a *handicap review*. The *handicap committee* and/or *national association* will then use the lower handicap and all available scores. Until this matter is resolved, the player's handicap is suspended.

2.6.3 How to update the handicap of players who are affiliated in Portugal and are also affiliated in another *national association* abroad?
Each time the player returns to Portuguese jurisdiction, the player needs to submit his playing record from abroad to the *home club* in Portugal, for scrutiny, and registration of the update on the *EGA Handicap* record.

a. When the player is also affiliated in another country with *EGA Handicap*, the player must also select the club responsible for performing the *handicap review*, at the end of the year. Generally, this should be the club at which the player has returned most *qualifying scores*.
b. When the player is also affiliated in another country with non-EGA handicap (see Decision 4.2), the *handicap committee* must apply the handicap movement (increase or decrease) calculated from the non-EGA handicap record, regarding the handicap evolution during the period under that jurisdiction.

Qualifying scores from abroad are counted for the purpose of the number of *qualifying scores* returned per year (see *EGA Handicap System* - Appendix P 2.6.2).
For the update of an *EGA Handicap* of *handicap category* 1 ratification by the HCRC of the *FPG* is required.
The player must take the data related to the period of handicap management in Portugal, *qualifying scores* and *EGA Handicap* evolution, to inform the other *national association*.

3. QUALIFYING SCORES

3.1 A player plays a *qualifying round* under the jurisdiction of another *national association* (which is not the player's handicapping authority). How should this score be applied for handicapping purposes?
The player has to provide his *home club* with the following information:

- evidence that it was a *qualifying score* (e.g., a copy of conditions of competition or a list of official scores);

- name of the club at which the round was played, and information about the *national association* for that club;
- a score card with the hole-by-hole scores;
- Par and *handicap stroke index* of each hole played;
- *USGA Course Rating* and *Slope Rating* values of the course (tees) played (the latter is essential for *handicap review*);
- *EGA Playing Handicap Differential* for players in *handicap category* 6 (in *EGA* countries);
- *CBA* (or equivalent) of the competition round, if applicable.

This information enables the player's *handicap committee* to establish the correct *playing handicap* and to use the away score for handicapping purposes by converting the score into Stableford points according to *EGA Handicap System* requirements. If applicable, the *CBA* calculation must be applied before any handicap adjustment.

3.2 A player plays a *qualifying round* under the jurisdiction of another *national association* which has not adopted the *EGA Handicap System* (and which is not the player's handicapping authority). How should this score be applied for handicapping purposes?

In addition to the information required as defined in 3.1 above, the following will need to be taken into account:

CONGU:

When no *Course Rating* is available use SSS (Standard Scratch Score); when no *Slope Rating* is available use 124.
The *playing handicap* calculation (see Clause 3.9) will be adjusted accordingly and scores returned from rounds played under the jurisdiction of CONGU are then converted into Stableford points according to the requirements of the *EGA Handicap System*.
The difference "SSS – CSS" must be applied to the players' Stableford score as the *CBA* adjustment, if applicable.

Example 1:
IF COURSE RATING AND SLOPE RATING ARE AVAILABLE
A player with an *EGA Handicap* of 3.5 plays a competition run by a club under the jurisdiction of CONGU. The course has a SSS of 73, a *Course Rating* of 72.6, a *Slope Rating* of 137 and the Par is 71. The CSS was 74.

The *EGA Playing Handicap* (PH) is calculated as follows:

$$PH = EGA\ Handicap * \frac{SR}{113} + (CR - PAR) = 3.5 * \frac{137}{113} + (72.6 - 71) = 5.84 \approx \mathbf{6}$$

The Stableford points are calculated using the *EGA Playing Handicap*:

HOLE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
PAR	5	4	4	3	4	3	5	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	3	4	3	5	71
S.I.	17	13	9	5	3	15	7	11	1	8	18	4	14	6	12	2	16	10	
GROSS	**4**	**4**	**6**	**4**	**5**	**3**	**4**	**4**	**6**	**4**	**4**	**5**	**3**	**5**	**3**	**5**	**5**	**5**	**79**
EGA STROKES RECEIVED	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	
STABLEFORD POINTS	**3**	**2**	**0**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**3**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**0**	**2**	**34**

The *CBA* is calculated using the formula:

$$CBA = SSS - CSS = 73 - 74 = \mathbf{-1}$$

The player's *EGA Handicap* is not modified as his score is inside the adjusted *buffer zone* 34-35 (*CBA* -1).

Example 2:
IF ONLY STANDARD SCRATCH SCORE IS AVAILABLE

A player with an *EGA Handicap* of 3.5 plays a competition run by a club under the jurisdiction of CONGU. The course has a SSS 73 and the Par is 71. The CSS was 74.

The *EGA Playing Handicap* (PH) is calculated as follows:

$$PH = EGA\ Handicap * \frac{124}{113} + (SSS - PAR) = 3.5 * \frac{124}{113} + (73 - 71) = 5.84 \approx \mathbf{6}$$

The Stableford points are calculated using the *EGA Playing Handicap*:

HOLE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
PAR	5	4	4	3	4	3	5	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	3	4	3	5	71
S.I.	17	13	9	5	3	15	7	11	1	8	18	4	14	6	12	2	16	10	
GROSS	**4**	**4**	**6**	**4**	**5**	**3**	**4**	**4**	**6**	**4**	**4**	**5**	**3**	**5**	**3**	**5**	**5**	**5**	**79**
EGA STROKES RECEIVED	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	
STABLEFORD POINTS	**3**	**2**	**0**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**3**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**0**	**2**	**34**

The *CBA* is calculated using the formula:

$$CBA = SSS - CSS = 73 - 74 = \mathbf{-1}$$

The player's *EGA Handicap* is not modified as his score is inside the adjusted *buffer zone* 34-35 (*CBA* -1).

USGA:
The *playing handicap* will be calculated (see Clause 3.9) and scores returned from rounds played under the jurisdiction of the *USGA* are converted into Stableford points according to the requirements of the *EGA Handicap System*. If no adjustment for playing conditions exists, apply *CBA* = 0.

Example:
A player with an *EGA Handicap* of 3.5 plays a competition run by a club under the jurisdiction of *USGA*. The course has a *Course Rating* of 72.6, a *Slope Rating* of 137 and the Par is 71.
The *EGA Playing Handicap* (PH) is calculated as follows:

$$PH = EGA\ Handicap * \frac{SR}{113} + (CR - PAR) = 3.5 * \frac{137}{113} + (72.6 - 71) = 5.84 \approx \mathbf{6}$$

The Stableford points are calculated using the *EGA Playing Handicap*:

HOLE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
PAR	5	4	4	3	4	3	5	4	4	3	4	5	4	4	3	4	3	5	71
S.I.	17	13	9	5	3	15	7	11	1	8	18	4	14	6	12	2	16	10	
GROSS	**4**	**4**	**6**	**4**	**5**	**3**	**4**	**4**	**6**	**4**	**4**	**5**	**3**	**5**	**3**	**5**	**5**	**5**	**79**
EGA STROKES RECEIVED	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	
STABLEFORD POINTS	**3**	**2**	**0**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**3**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**0**	**2**	**34**

The player's *EGA Handicap* is increased by 0.1 as his score is outside the *buffer zone* (35-36).

Other countries
Countries using handicapping systems other than CONGU and *USGA* which use the *USGA* Course Rating System: see *USGA.*
Scores from rounds played in other countries are not acceptable for handicapping purposes.

3.3 How will a score returned in a competition where handicap limits apply, but where the player's handicap exceeds the limit, be treated for handicapping purposes?
The score is a *qualifying score* provided the *handicap conditions* are satisfied. The competition result is calculated using the *EGA Handicap* limits imposed by the conditions of competition. However, for handicapping purposes, the Stableford score for each player is calculated using the *playing handicap* based on the *EGA Handicap.*

Example:
A player with an *EGA Handicap* of 28.2 plays a competition where the *EGA Handicap* limit is 24.0. The course has a *Course Rating* of 71.2, a *Slope Rating* of 129 and the Par is 72.

The *EGA Playing Handicap* (PH) for the competition is calculated as follows:

$$PH = EGA\ Handicap * \frac{SR}{113} + (CR - PAR) = 24.0 * \frac{129}{113} + (71.2 - 72) = 26.6 \approx \mathbf{27}$$

The *EGA Playing Handicap* (PH) for handicapping is calculated as follows:

$$PH = EGA\ Handicap * \frac{SR}{113} + (CR - PAR) = 28.2 * \frac{129}{113} + (71.2 - 72) = 31.4 \approx \mathbf{31}$$

3.4 How should scores returned in stroke play competitions where handicaps do not apply be used for handicapping purposes?
Even if handicaps do not apply for the competition results, the scores played in such rounds are *qualifying scores* provided the *handicap conditions* are satisfied. The Stableford score for each player is calculated using the *playing handicap* based on the *EGA handicap*.

3.5 May an *EDS* 9-hole score, returned when 18 holes have been played, be accepted for handicapping purposes?
Yes, provided that the player had previously registered the 9-hole *EDS* as required. The provision that a 9-hole score may not be part of an 18-hole score is intended to prevent the player from choosing the better of the two 9-hole scores. This decision may appear to be against the spirit and intent of allowing 9-hole scores, but it would not be appropriate or practicable to interfere with the way players plan to spend their time.

3.6 What is the status of a player's score when the Committee allowed him to play in a competition for which he did not satisfy the entry requirements?
If a player returns a score after playing in a competition which he was allowed to enter by the Committee even though he did not meet the eligibility provisions, the score is a *qualifying score*.

4. EGA HANDICAP AND EGA PLAYING HANDICAP

4.1 How should the *playing handicap* of players from outside the jurisdiction of the *EGA Handicap System* be applied when they participate in a competition played according to the *EGA Handicap System*?

In Portugal, the *EGA* recommendations for calculation of the *playing handicap* for non-EGA players are in place, as the base for the subsequent *handicap allowances*.

CONGU:
First, the handicap of a golfer holding a CONGU ® Exact Handicap is converted into an *EGA Handicap* as follows:

EGA HANDICAP = CONGU ® EXACT HANDICAP x 113 / 124

Then, the *playing handicap* for the competition is calculated as defined in Section 3.9 of the *EGA Handicap System*. (124 is the approximate average of course slopes in CONGU)

Example:
A player with a CONGU Exact Handicap of 15.6 plays a competition under the *EGA Handicap* jurisdiction.
The course has a *Course Rating* of 70.6, a *Slope Rating* of 119 and the Par is 71.
First, the CONGU Exact Handicap is converted into an *EGA Handicap* using the following formula:

$$EGA\ Handicap = \text{CONGU Exact Handicap} * \frac{113}{124} = 15.6 * \frac{113}{124} = 14.216 \approx \mathbf{14.2}$$

Then, his equivalent *EGA Handicap* of 14.2 is used in the *EGA Playing Handicap* (PH) formula:

$$PH = EGA\ Handicap * \frac{SR}{113} + (CR - PAR) = 14.2 * \frac{119}{113} + (70.6 - 71) = 14.553 \approx \mathbf{15}$$

His *EGA Playing Handicap* will be 15.

USGA:

First, the handicap of a golfer holding a *USGA* Index is converted into an *EGA Handicap* as follows:

EGA HANDICAP = USGA INDEX

Then, the *playing handicap* for the competition is calculated as defined in Section 3.9 of the *EGA Handicap System*.

Other countries:

Countries using handicapping systems other than CONGU and *USGA* which use the *USGA* Course Rating System: see *USGA.*

4.2 How may handicaps determined by handicapping systems other than the *EGA Handicap System* be converted into *EGA Handicaps*?

Handicaps from external systems are converted to an *EGA Handicap* once a player becomes affiliated in the FPG, and the *handicap authority* in Portugal applies, through the *home club* in Portugal. A copy of the player's handicap record should be obtained and retained by his new *home club* (See also Decision 2.6.1).

The following does not apply to players from outside the *EGA's* jurisdiction for single competitions (see Decision 4.1).

Conversion of a CONGU ® Exact Handicap into an *EGA Handicap*

Any conversion of handicaps from CONGU to *EGA* can only be approximate. As *Slope Rating* is not part of the CONGU ® Handicapping System, therefore they have to be Slope-adjusted as follows:

EGA HANDICAP = CONGU ® EXACT HANDICAP x 113 / 124

(124 is the approximate average of course slopes in CONGU)

Conversion of a USGA Index into an *EGA Handicap*

As USGA Indexes are based on Slope, no additional Slope conversion has to be done. Therefore the USGA Index will become the *EGA Handicap*.

EGA HANDICAP = USGA INDEX

Other countries:

Countries using handicapping systems other than CONGU and *USGA* which use the *USGA* Course Rating System: see *USGA.*

In all other cases, the player must return, as soon as possible, scores played under *handicap conditions*, in order for a new *EGA Handicap* to be allocated under the requirements of Clause 2.5 of the Appendix P of the *EGA Handicap System*.

4.3 How should a player ensure that his *playing handicap* on the score card is correct? May the Committee waive the penalty of DQ?

To satisfy Rule 6-2 and Rules of Golf Decision 6-2/1 the player is recommended to undertake the following actions, specifically when playing away:

1. write the *EGA Handicap* on the card if it does not appear in the printed section. Check the *playing handicap* with the *playing handicap table*, enter or adjust if required;
2. if the *EGA Handicap* is printed on the card, check the value and correct if required. Check the *playing handicap* with the *playing handicap table*, enter or adjust if required;
3. if no *playing handicap table* is readily available* check with the Committee when the *EGA Handicap* is missing or incorrectly recorded. Otherwise assume the computation is correct;
   * "Readily available" means displayed in the area where score cards are issued close to the starting tee or in the recording area.

The above routine does not absolve the player from his responsibility under Rule 6-2, but will normally take care of wrong *playing handicap* information for an individual player due to recent alterations to his *EGA Handicap* or other administrative errors.

However, when a system error has been made in computing the playing handicap(s) and no means of verification are available to the player(s), this is a Committee error that should warrant waiving the penalty of disqualification under Rule 33-7.

5. HANDICAP REVIEW

5.1 How must a *handicap committee* consider a recorded score played under the jurisdiction of CONGU for handicap review calculation purposes?

The CONGU Handicap System is not based on Slope. Therefore the value of 124, the approximate average of course slopes in CONGU, must be used if the relevant Slope Rating is not available.