



ENGLISH GOLF UNION

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Stableford/Nett Double Bogey Adjustment

The purpose of the Stableford Adjustment is to place a limit on the maximum score that can be recorded at any hole in order to make handicaps more representative of a player's potential ability. **This control is for handicap purposes only.** It has been introduced to lessen the impact of the occasional 'bad' score on a player's Stroke Play return and to reduce the incidence of 'No Returns' that can, on occasions, represent an undesirable proportion of the competition entry. It also allows a player who does not complete a hole, for any reason, to continue to record a score for handicap purposes, thus sustaining his golfing interest and at the same time providing useful handicap information. It is important that competitors are made aware of the intent of this clause and encouraged to take advantage of it.

The Stableford Adjustment should be applied to **all** Stroke Play *Qualifying Scores* irrespective of whether they are made at the *Home Club* or at another club. See Clause 8.10(a).

- 19.1 Scores returned in Stroke Play *Qualifying Competitions*, whether or not all 18 holes have been completed, must be adjusted to the *Nett Differential* that would have applied if the competition had been a *Stableford Qualifying Competition*. No points shall be recorded on a hole where there is no score. A *Union*, at its discretion, may exempt specific events from the provisions of this Clause.
- 19.2 This adjustment is for handicap purposes only and, notwithstanding the provisions of sub-clause 23.2, reductions of less than one stroke shall be made under this clause.

Appendix C sets out a short alternative procedure and supplementary recommendation for calculating Stableford point score reductions authorised by this clause.

Appendix C

1. The purpose of applying a Stableford point calculation under Clause 19 handicap reductions is to reduce the impact of an extremely bad score(s) on a hole(s) in Stroke Play *Qualifying Competitions* that are not truly representative of a player's golfing ability.
2. If a player applies the course stroke index relevant to his handicap and scores a nett Par on each hole in a *Stableford Qualifying Competition* he will have a score equal to the Par of the course. If the Par is less than the *Standard Scratch Score* he will have recorded a nett score below his handicap by the difference between Par and the *Standard Scratch Score*. If Par is more than the *Standard Scratch Score* the reverse applies. It is by applying this principle that point scores in a *Stableford Qualifying Competition* are converted into *Nett Differentials*.

3. Any hole in a Stableford *Qualifying Competition* upon which a player records no score and accordingly is not awarded any points indicates that the player would, if the hole had been completed, have scored not less than a nett double bogey.

For example, on a Par 4 hole a player who scores no Stableford points would, if he had completed the hole, have taken 6 or more strokes if the index did not provide a stroke on that hole, 7 strokes or more if he had received a stroke or 8 strokes or more if he had received two strokes.

4. By applying these principles it is possible to convert a Stroke Play score into the *Nett Differential*, which would have applied if the same scores had been recorded in a Stableford competition **without calculating the points on each hole**. Further it is not necessary to make an adjustment when the Par and *Standard Scratch Score* are not the same. It is also possible to calculate a *Nett Differential* in a Stroke Play event when one or more holes have not been completed.

These adjustments are achieved as follows:

(a) **All holes completed**

The player's *Nett Differential* is reduced by the number of strokes he has scored on any hole in excess of nett double bogey. Except for plus handicap players, only scores of 6 or more can be reduced on Par 3 holes, 7 or more on Par 4's and 8 or more on Par 5's. An examination of the scores on the Par 3 holes will usually identify no adjustment on those holes and thereafter only scores of 7 or more require examination (8 or more if the player's handicap is more than 18). If a reduction is appropriate the Adjusted Gross Score is entered in column 14 of the Player Handicap Record of Appendix I and other numbers appropriately adjusted.

(b) **Holes with no score recorded**

The assessment is made as in (a) above by reducing all scores to nett double bogey. A gross score that would result in a nett double bogey is entered at holes where no score is recorded. The scores are totalled and the player's handicap applied. Scores are then entered in the Player Handicap Record of Appendix I commencing at column 14.

5. Clubs are reminded that Stableford adjustments under Clause 19 are made for handicap adjustment and record purposes only.