

Question and Answer for New Handicapping System

- Q1. **Why will the handicaps of most players increase on 1 July?**
A1. Because we have removed the 15% reduction to the average of the 10 best scores out of 20, to provide a Full handicap
- Q2. **Why do we reduce handicaps for Better-ball?**
A2. Playing with a partner enables a player to be more aggressive than they would when competing in a Singles competition. Worldwide, $\frac{3}{4}$ of handicap is a fairly normal adjustment for Better-Ball. This principle was previously embodied in the 85% adjustment
- Q3. **What happens to my two-overs and three-overs in Better-ball?**
A3. A player is entitled, for handicap purposes, to card two- and three-overs as if they were playing a Singles competition. For example a 24-handicap player plays off 18 in Better-ball competitions. While they have no double strokes during the competition, they are still entitled to six three-overs, just as they are currently
- Q4. **Why has the bi-monthly run changed to a single run?**
A4. To limit the upward movement of handicaps when in all likelihood the handicap will reduce again as soon as the player starts playing to their median handicap
- Q5. **Why have handicap increases been limited to one stroke per month?**
A5. Statistics have shown that a given player has a median handicap and this limits the upward movement away from the median handicap
- Q6. **What is the purpose of Dynamic Rating?**
A6. To recognize the effect that course set-up and climate have on the average scores of participants by minimizing the upward movement of handicaps due to difficult conditions
- Q7. **Must a club distinguish between AM and PM fields for Dynamic Rating?**
A7. No, but it is preferable that they do so, especially under coastal conditions where there is usually a great difference in wind speed from morning to afternoon
- Q8. **What rating do I use when entering my score?**
A8. The rating that is entered with your score on the day is the same rating that you enter currently. The computer system will calculate the Dynamic Rating after 72 hours and apply it to all scores for the day
- Q9. **Will upward changes of Rating affect my handicap?**
A9. No, until the next monthly handicap run or an interim revision happens due to a good net score

- Q10 What if I use my Full handicap instead of a Better-ball allowance?**
A10 Technically, this is playing off a higher handicap, which results in disqualification. For the first month, clubs should treat this as an error, correct the handicap and recalculate the result. Thereafter, once players are used to the new system, disqualification should be imposed for further transgressions
- Q11 Why can my handicap change in the middle of a month?**
A11 Any time that a player records a net score 3 or less than Par of the course, an automatic handicap recalculation will be done. This may result in a reduction of handicap but will not grant an increase
- Q12 What happens if I neglect to enter a score?**
A12 Players are allowed 72 hours to enter a score; thereafter a penalty score will be entered on the player's behalf. This penalty is the lower of your 20 most recent scores or the equivalent of 6 under Par net. A handicap recalculation will also be done once the penalty is applied
- Q13 Can I provide the correct score to the club once a penalty has been allocated?**
A13 No, the purpose of the penalty score is an incentive for players to enter their scores promptly
- Q14 What happens to away scores?**
A14 Away scores must be entered the same way as currently using the standard course rating applicable. When a Dynamic Rating is available, it will be forwarded to your home club and an automatic adjustment of the rating will be done
- Q15 What if I cannot enter an away score at the away club?**
A15 Every effort should be made to enter these scores at the club where you have played. If it is not possible to do so, then the score should be conveyed to your home club within 72 hours of play, failing which a penalty score will probably be applied on your behalf
- Q16 Why has the penalty score been changed?**
A16 Previously it was left to clubs to decide on the extent of a penalty score. The new system sets a standard method of applying a penalty score so that there is consistency across all clubs in South Africa
- Q17 Can committees over-ride the standard system?**
A17 Yes, under specific circumstances or when they believe that handicap integrity has been violated
- Q18 Can a handicap committee remove a player's handicap?**
A18 Yes, if they believe, and can demonstrate, that gross manipulation of the handicap system has occurred

- Q19 What happens to visiting overseas players in local competitions?**
A19 They are treated as if their handicap is equivalent to the new Full handicap and will play off either the Full handicap or the $\frac{3}{4}$ allowance, depending on the type of competition
- Q20 Why are we not handicapping on Medal rounds as do the UK and Australia?**
A20 We in South Africa predominantly play Better-ball rather than individual medal competitions and our handicap system has to reflect this.
- Q21 How does the new system deal with handicap manipulation?**
A21 No system can deal with such behavioural matters, however revised guidelines have been provided for handicap committees. It is also the responsibility of players to bring to the attention of handicapping committees any deliberate misstatement of scores, however distasteful this may seem. Peer review is an essential element of a correctly functioning handicap system
- Q22 Will further changes be made to the new handicap system?**
A22 Depending on the performance and scoring results achieved under the new system, it may be necessary to make small changes to the detailed operation of the system. These changes will remain consistent with the basic principles of the new system

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