



GUIDELINES

Penalty Scores, Hole Not Played, Abandoned Competitions, FAQs

Penalty Scores (including No Score Returned)

Penalty scores are applicable for two reasons:

1. A player has indicated their intention to return a score (by registering an intent to submit a Competition or General Play score and then commencing play) and then not submitting that score.
2. A score is returned after commencing a round where:
 - a. Few or no scores are entered,
 - b. A player persistently fails to return an appropriate score,
 - c. Handicap manipulation is suspected.

The Committee then needs to determine whether the reason for non-submission is valid – examples might be, but not restricted to:

- i. Illness or injury to the player
- ii. Insufficient Light
- iii. Emergency
- iv. Dangerous Weather Conditions (e.g. Thunder & Lightning), but see later section on Abandoned Competitions.

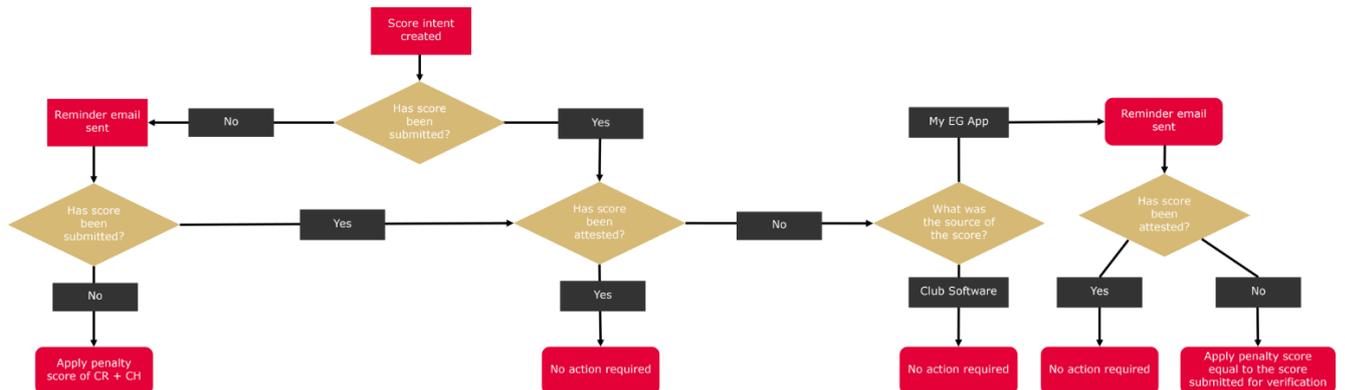
Invalid reasons might be, as examples but not restricted to:

- i. Inclement weather,
- ii. Play too slow,
- iii. Not playing well enough.

In all situations below it is assumed that an 18 hole round is being considered. For 9-hole rounds, all holes must be commenced and have an indication of the score for each hole.

Regardless of the validity of the situation, whenever a player indicates that they will return a score and commence play, a score must be submitted whenever the minimum number of holes have been commenced and completed (10 holes for an 18 hole round, all 9 holes for a 9-hole round).

Whenever a score is not submitted, a penalty score will be applied through the automated Penalty Score application process.



Following the application of this score it is up to the committee if they wish to edit or delete the applied score based on its determination of the validity of the score.

- For subsequent and persistent offenders**, a committee is recommended to consider disciplinary measures which could include (but not restricted to) the *withdrawal or adjustment* of their Handicap Index for a period of time and/or prevention of score submission in Competitions and/or General Play for a period of time. The suggested timeframe is 2-4 weeks.

What to post as a Penalty Score. (When posting manually)

Reason	Post
Valid Reason	The score should be entered, ensuring that any holes not started (in the situation where the round is incomplete) are identified as such. If the score cannot be determined, a Penalty Score where the Gross Score is equal to the Course Rating + Course Handicap must be posted.
Invalid reason	A score equivalent to the current Handicap Index (i.e. Gross Score = Course Rating + Course Handicap)
Attempt to maintain low Handicap Index	A Gross Score equal to the highest Gross Score in the last 20 scores. <i>If this appears to be part of a pattern of handicap manipulation, then consider the additional penalty actions as discussed above.</i>
Attempt to build a Handicap Index	A Gross Score equal to the lowest Gross Score in the last 20 scores



As part of the new process two new reports have been added to the WHS platform to support clubs in reviewing penalty scores.

Penalty Scores Submitted

This report will allow clubs to select a date range to search for applied scores.

By clicking on the Adj Gross score (highlighted in blue) the score can be edited.

PENALTY SCORES SUBMITTED

Played From Mon 1/11/2021

To Fri 31/12/2021

Club Test Club

Gender Both Men Women

[PREVIEW](#) [VIEW IN EXCEL](#) [EXPORT PDF](#)

PLAY DATE	PENALTY DATE	MEM NO.	NAME	VENUE	ADJ GROSS	SUBMITTED VIA MY ENGLAND GOLF APP	ORIGINAL SCORE SUBMITTED	ATTESTER
02/12/2021	06/12/2021	1017078362	David Hayes	Woodhall Spa	63	Yes	No	

Heading Key -

Play Date – Date Round Played

Penalty Date – Date Penalty Score has been allocated

Mem.No – Players Membership Number

Name – Players Name

Venue – Course Played

Adj Gross - Score that has been allocated to the round.

Submitted Via MY England Golf App – If the score was submitted by app = Yes, if submitted by Club software = No

Original Score Submitted – If the player had submitted the score for attestation, it will be used as the penalty score.

Attester – The name of the attester will only be shown if the score was submitted for attestation but not completed.



Penalty Score by Player

This will allow clubs to see all penalty scores allocated to members during a time frame, this will show as a total number of score submitted in the range.

PENALTY SCORES BY PLAYER

Played From

To

Club

Gender Both Men Women

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MEMBER NUMBER	NAME	PENALTY SCORES IN RANGE
1016633687	Bilbo Baggins	3
1015970749	David Dawson	3
1017078362	David Hayes	1
1016667405	Mick Sturbs	3
1016385901	Paul Maxfield	1

By clicking on the number of scores. More information on the scores will be supplied.

PENALTY SCORES

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David Hayes - [1017078362](#)

PLAY DATE	PENALTY DATE	VENUE	ADJ GROSS	SUBMITTED VIA MY ENGLAND GOLF APP	ORIGINAL SCORE SUBMITTED	ATTESTER
02/12/2021	06/12/2021	Woodhall Spa	63	Yes	No	

Heading Key -

Play Date – Date Round Played

Penalty Date – Date Penalty Score has been allocated

Mem.No – Players Membership Number

Name – Players Name

Venue – Course Played

Adj Gross - Score that has been allocated to the round.



Submitted Via MY England Golf App – If the score was submitted by app = Yes, if submitted by Club software = No

Original Score Submitted – If the player had submitted the score for attestation it will be used as the penalty score.

Attester – The name of the attester will only be shown if the score was submitted for attestation but not completed.

Hole Not Played

A 'Hole Not Played' is only to be used in an unavoidable circumstance. It is not a 'choice' available to the player – a player may not just 'decide to walk in'. Circumstances where a 'Hole Not Played' can be used justifiably would be:

1. Hole(s) is closed by the Committee due to:
 - a. work on the hole(s),
 - b. hours of available light.

2. A player may have to discontinue play due to:
 - a. Becoming ill, or injured,
 - b. Called off the course for an emergency.

In such circumstances a player can justifiably return a 'Not Started' for those holes still to be played (or not played in the case of 1 above). The returned scorecard should be completed taking account of scores on holes completed and designating those not played as 'Not Started'. If the score is not immediately available, see below regarding non-submission of scores.

Abandoned Competitions

Typically, these occur when inclement weather hits the course during play rendering the course unplayable, or too dangerous to play (e.g. Thunder and Lightning) and the Committee suspends play.

In situations where players cannot go back out on the course after a suspension (which is likely to be the majority of situations) then the Rules of Handicapping allow that all rounds where at least 10 holes have been commenced should be submitted for handicapping (along with those completed rounds, of course). Any rounds with fewer than 10 holes commenced must be discarded.

It is likely that players will not wait their turn to input their scores to the computer, so the Committee will need to ensure that scores are entered probably by manually entering the non-submitted scores. Holes not started must be identified as such when entered and any holes not completed (likely to be the

hole at which players were brought off the course) must be entered as a Not Completed hole.

It is also likely that some players will not return cards under such circumstances and, whilst not correct, it is not thought appropriate to penalise them (unless, of course, the Committee believe manipulation is taking place). Any scores which can be identified should be entered, but Penalty Scores for those not found should not be submitted.

FAQs

1. A player forgets to submit their card after a round.
 - a. If a competition, the player is disqualified. If the score is identifiable, it should be entered. If no score can be found (and assuming this is not a persistent offender) a penalty score with a Gross Score equal to the Course Rating + Course Handicap.
2. A player walks off the course after 9 holes due to slow play but submits their card.
 - a. If a competition round, the player is disqualified. As fewer than 10 holes have been commenced, the card is not acceptable for handicapping. The score may be removed from the computer, but if not, the score will be identified as not acceptable for handicapping on their handicap record. Consider submitting a Penalty Score.
3. A player walks off the course due to bad weather, even though the course remains playable, and submits their card.
 - a. If a competition, the player is disqualified. Their score is entered ensuring the holes not played are identified as not started. See 'Invalid Reasons' above for non-submission or incomplete cards. If the player is a persistent offender, consider the posting of a Penalty Score (see options above).
4. For the fourth time in a short period of time, a golfer with a 1.0 Handicap Index has failed to complete their round and submitted their score with a number of holes Not Started (more than 10 holes are complete).
 - a. The score as submitted should be left in the player's record. A Penalty Score with a Gross Score equal to their highest score of their last 20 submissions should also be posted. Also consider withdrawing the players handicap for a period of time due to persistent abuse of the system.
5. A player completes 14 holes and walks in due to slow play and/or not playing well.
 - a. The score should be submitted along with an indication of Not Started for the holes not commenced. If this is not the first time that this has happened for the player, consider a Penalty Score as

defined under Second and Subsequent offences under Invalid Reasons for Non-Submission or Incomplete Card section above.

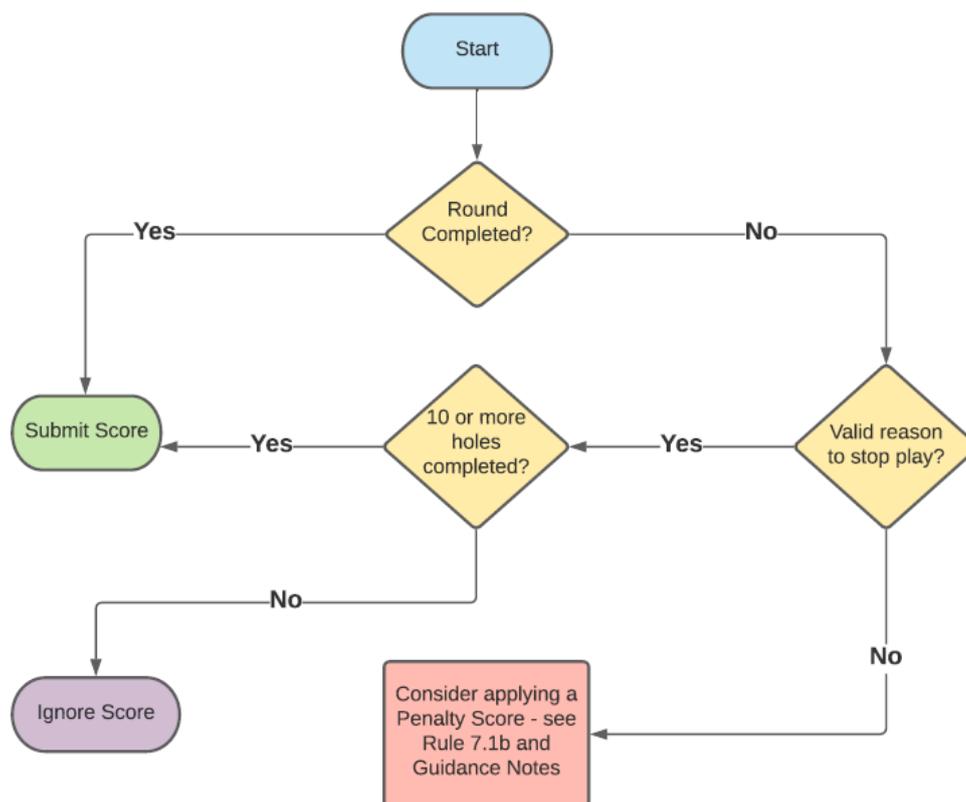
6. If a player plays 5 holes and has an NR on the 5th hole and walks in what do we do?
 - a. If a competition, the player is disqualified. If the player has submitted their scores to the computer, as there are fewer than 10 holes commenced, it is not an acceptable score and should be removed from the Competition and their Handicap Record if it has been uploaded to the WHS platform.
7. Is it only permissible to enter a Not Started score after hole 10?
 - a. No, the score should be recorded accurately and reflect what actually happened. Note: currently some ISVs do not fully support this, but will do so in the near future.
8. If a player NRs on a hole, say the 13th, then shows NR for the rest of the round (as used to be the case) but we have no way of knowing if the player continued to play or not; what do we do? Do we, or the player, enter NR for each hole thereafter into the system?
 - a. Further investigation would be required if there is any doubt as to what happened. If the facts cannot be identified, it would be reasonable to assume that the player has completed the round and each incomplete hole designated a NR (so that a Net Double Bogey is used in determining the Adjusted Gross Score). If this is a persistent offender, consider a low Penalty Score in addition to the returned score.
9. We try and encourage players to continue playing after an NR on a hole, but it appears the marking of cards is inconsistent. I would like to know for certain what the rules and expectations are around marking a card. I know that if a player NRs they can sometimes just knock the ball around to the 18th, but may not hole out and therefore keep recording NR: I would like to know if we have the power to do anything about this?
 - a. If this is a persistent offender, consider disciplinary procedures on the grounds that the player is effectively building a handicap by his actions. As the score is an NR, the player is disqualified, but the Rules of Handicapping state players have a responsibility to make the best score possible at each hole and ensure all acceptable scores are submitted for handicap purposes. The player is clearly in breach of the Rules in this situation.
10. We had a player NR on the 13th on Saturday. We know he continued to play, and even apparently parred a few holes; but his card was marked on the system as NR for 13-18. Clearly this is a fabrication and could be seen as handicap manipulation. What is the process to deal with this?
 - a. If the actual scores on the holes can be determined, those should be substituted in the return. If it is a persistent offender, consider a Penalty Score – if it is believed that the player is trying to build a

handicap, a Penalty Score equal to the lowest score of the last 20 returns should be added.

Additional Support

What to post?

To provide further guidance the following flowchart cover the process for returning both partial and completed rounds for handicapping purposes.



Valid reasons for a round not being completed include, but not limited to, fading light, emergency, dangerous weather conditions, injury or illness or a hole being declared out of play by the committee for maintenance.

Invalid reasons for a round not being completed include but not limited to, poor performance or slow play.

Process for Score Submission

This flowchart shows how scores are processed overnight by WHS. Players/Clubs are to ensure that Holes Not Started are clearly marked and distinguished from Holes Not Completed when entering scores – see rule 3.2 and 3.3 and the guidance notes.

