

Dear Club Managers

Reminder: Daily Course Setup Notification

This is a reminder from GolfRSA about the importance of correctly setting up your courses in accordance with the relevant sections of the World Handicap System™ (WHS™) Rules of Handicapping (RoH). For your convenience, we've included the key section below for your reference.

You can also view these sections of the WHS Rules of Handicapping on the following websites:

www.golfrsa.com or www.handicaps.co.za

The information below is extracted from Rule 2.1 (Acceptability of Scores) of the WHS RoH, which outlines the requirements for acceptable handicap scores. **Point 4** specifically addresses the necessary course setup standards.

2.1 Acceptability of Scores

A score is deemed acceptable for handicap purposes if the round has been played:

1. In an authorized format of play (see Rule 2.1a), over at least the minimum number of holes required for either a 9-hole or an 18-hole score to be acceptable (see Rule 2.2).
2. In the company of at least one other person, who may also act as a marker (subject to satisfying any other requirements of the Rules of Golf).
3. By the Rules of Golf (see Rule 2.1b).
4. On a golf course with a current Course Rating™ and Slope Rating™, where the length and normal playing difficulty are maintained consistently (see Appendix G).
5. On a golf course during its active season.

Additionally, the player's score must always be certified according to the RoH (See Rule 4.4). If any of the above conditions are not met, the score will not be accepted for handicap purposes.

Please keep in mind that it would be ideal if the tees are moved by the same amount across all tee sets (e.g., Yellow, White, Blue, Red, etc.). For example, if the White Course markers are moved forward by 8 meters, it would be helpful if the other markers are adjusted similarly. This can help ensure fair play, especially for golfers competing across different tee setups.

We kindly ask all Club Managers to ensure that your courses are set up in full compliance with the rules. If one or more of your courses are set up outside of these standards, please inform your members that handicap scores cannot be entered for that course on that day.

For your convenience, sections e. and f. from Appendix G are included below for easy reference.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Kind regards,



Sally Greasley
Chairperson: Handicap and Course Rating Sub-Committee

e. Course Rating and Slope Rating

The *Course Rating* and *Slope Rating* is the evaluation of the playing difficulty of the course for the *scratch player* and the *bogey player* under normal playing conditions. The effective playing length is determined from the measurement of each hole, adjusted for the impact of roll, wind, elevation changes, altitude, dog-legs and forced lay ups. In addition to the effective playing length, there are 10 obstacle factors evaluated on each hole for both the *scratch player* and the *bogey player*. These are: topography; fairway; green target; recoverability and rough; bunkers; crossing obstacles; lateral obstacles; trees; green surface and psychology. The Course Rating System uses table values, adjustments and formulas to calculate ratings.

The *Course Rating* is calculated from the effective playing length and obstacle factors for 9 or 18 designated holes. The *Course Rating* is expressed in strokes to one decimal point and represents the *expected score* for a *scratch player*. The *Bogey Rating* represents the *expected score* for a *bogey player*. The difference between the *Course Rating* and the *Bogey Rating* is used in the determination of the *Slope Rating*. A *golf course* of standard relative difficulty has a *Slope Rating* of 113.

The front of a teeing area, as defined in the *Rules of Golf*, should not be placed more than 10 yards (10 metres) in front of, or behind, the relevant permanent distance marker on each hole. Over an 18-hole round, a *golf course* should not be shortened (or lengthened) by more than 100 yards (100 metres) from its measured length, to ensure accurate application of the *Course Rating* and *Slope Rating* in the calculation of players' *Score Differentials*. The equivalent value for a 9-hole round is 50 yards (50 metres).

f. Modification of Courses

(i) Temporary Changes

The *Handicap Committee* must notify the *Authorized Association* when temporary changes are being made to the *golf course* that may affect the *Course Rating*. The *Authorized Association* will determine whether scores made under such conditions are acceptable for handicap purposes, and whether the *Course Rating* and *Slope Rating* should be modified temporarily.

Where a temporary *Course Rating* and *Slope Rating* has been issued, this information must be made available to players prior to the commencement of their round.