

Stroke Play Competitions: Stableford & Par/Bogey

As the format is singles stroke play, the stroke allowance is 95% of the Course Handicap. In addition, as both Stableford and Par/Bogey formats are scored against the Par of the course, rather than the Course Rating, the Playing Handicap calculation includes an adjustment to reflect the difference to 'play to handicap' between the mixed/multi-tee courses. (Rule 6.2b (ii)).

Number of points to 'play to handicap' for a given set of tees = $36 - (CR - Par)$:

For Norman this is $36 - (67.2 - 71) = 39.8$ rounded to 40

For Norma this is $36 - (72.0 - 71) = 35.0$ rounded to 35

The players playing to the lower points target receive the difference in the number of points. So Norma receives 5 additional strokes on her Playing Handicap, for competition purposes.

It is perhaps worth pointing out that with a 95% stroke allowance there may be players who receive fewer strokes for competition purposes (PH) than they do for handicap purposes (CH). This could range from a single stroke (integer Course Handicap of 11) to 3 or even 4 strokes fewer. As with Maximum Score, players should not pick up too soon in Stableford or Par/Bogey formats - they should play with reference to their **Course Handicaps** in such events and let the software deal with the competition outcome.

Stroke Play Competitions: Where More Than Two Tees Are Used

The previous examples are all based on two tees. Increasingly, clubs are running stroke play competitions that give players a choice over which set of tees they play from on any given day. The Course Rating or Par differences between all of the tees in play, depending on the format of play, will impact the calculation for the strokes received for a player that day. The following example highlights how strokes received can vary:

If the players were given the option of playing from the Yellow, White or Blue tees then the Playing Handicap adjustments would be calculated as follows:

Tee	Slope	CR	Par	Medal, Scratch, Maximum Score	Stableford, Par/Bogey	
				Difference in CR Adjustment (a)	Points to 'Play to Handicap' (b)	Stroke Adjustment
Yellow	118	69.4	69	0.0	36	0
White	125	71.1	70	1.7	35	+1
Blue	131	72.8	71	3.4	34	+2

(a) for Medal, Scratch and Maximum Score competitions the adjustment is the difference in CR compared to the lowest rated set of tees (the Yellow tees)

(b) for Stableford and Par/Bogey events the points to 'Play to Handicap' = $36 - (CR - Par)$ rounded to an integer and players receive additional strokes relative to the player requiring the highest number of points

The following week the Club adds the choice of playing from the Green tees, and as a consequence the Playing Handicap calculation for all players is affected:

Tee	Slope	CR	Par	Medal, Scratch, Maximum Score	Stableford, Par/Bogey	
				Difference in CR Adjustment (a)	Points to 'Play to Handicap' (b)	Stroke Adjustment
Green	113	68.2	69	0.0	37	0
Yellow	118	69.4	69	1.2	36	+1
White	125	71.1	70	2.9	35	+2
Blue	131	72.8	71	4.6	34	+3

(a) for Medal, Scratch and Maximum Score competitions the adjustment is the difference in CR compared to the lowest rated set of tees (the Green tees)

(b) for Stableford and Par/Bogey events the points to 'Play to Handicap' = 36 – (CR-Par) rounded to an integer and players receive additional strokes relative to the player requiring the highest number of points

B. 9-hole Singles Competitions

The following tees will be used in this section:

	Front 9 holes			Back 9 holes			18 Holes		
	CR	Slope	PAR	CR	Slope	PAR	CR	Slope	PAR
Men	36.2	144	36	36.9	138	36	73.1	141	72
Women	36.3	136	37	38.0	142	36	74.3	139	73

Colin has a Handicap Index of 22.0 and Colette has a Handicap Index of 20.4. Their 9-hole Course Handicaps for the Front 9 are 14 and 12 respectively.

Note: Playing Handicap calculations may use either the rounded integer CH, or the full value of the CH at machine precision, as determined by the appropriate National Association. The difference in Playing Handicap can be a stroke higher or lower. The examples that follow will use the rounded value of the Course Handicap.

Stroke Play Competitions: Medal; Gross Score (Scratch); Maximum Score

For a mixed/multi-tee competition an adjustment is made within the Playing Handicap calculation to account for any difference between the Pars of the tees being used (Rule 6.2b(i)). The adjustment is applied to the player playing from the set of tees with the higher Par:

Playing Handicap = (Course Handicap x handicap allowance) + Difference in Pars

Colin's Playing Handicap = (9-Hole Course Handicap x handicap allowance)
 = 14 x 95%
 = 13.3 rounded to 13 strokes

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Colette's Playing Handicap} &= (9\text{-Hole Course Handicap} \times \text{handicap allowance}) + (37 - 36) \\
&= (12 \times 95\%) + 1 \\
&= 12.4 \text{ rounded to 12 strokes}
\end{aligned}$$

Stroke Play Competitions: Stableford & Par/Bogey

As the calculation for the 9-hole Course Handicap has already included an adjustment for CR-Par, the Stableford points or Par/Bogey result for each player is directly comparable against that of every other player, regardless of the tees used. So for competition purposes the standard Playing Handicap calculation in Rule 6.2a is applicable:

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Colin's Playing Handicap} &= 9\text{-Hole Course Handicap} \times \text{handicap allowance} \\
&= 14 \times 95\% \\
&= 13.3 \text{ rounded to 13 strokes}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Colette's Playing Handicap} &= 12 \times 95\% \\
&= 11.4 \text{ rounded to 11 strokes}
\end{aligned}$$

C. Singles Matchplay Competitions

18-Hole Matchplay

	CR	Slope	PAR
Men	67.2	113	71
Women	72.0	129	71

Norman and Norma both have a Handicap Index of 15.0. Their Course Handicaps are 15 and 17 respectively.

For singles match play the stroke allowance is 100% of the Course Handicap. In addition, because the players are playing from tees with different Course Ratings, the competitor playing over the higher rated course receives the difference in the CR values added to the Course Handicap after the application of the stroke allowance.

In this case Norma receives an upward adjustment of 4.8 strokes (72.0 – 67.2) after the stroke allowance is applied (Rule 6.2b (i)).

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Norman's Playing Handicap} &= \text{Course Handicap} \\
&= 15
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Norma's Playing Handicap} &= \text{Course Handicap} + \text{Difference in CR} \\
&= 17 + 4.8 \\
&= 21.8 \text{ rounded to 22}
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore Norma receives 7 strokes for the match.