

# When NOT to post a score

*Believe it or not, there are times when it's OK to not record a round*

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In the last issue of *FORE Magazine*, we looked at what types of scores must be posted for handicap purposes. This time, we will look at situations when scores are not to be recorded to the player's score file. In section 5-1f of *The USGA Handicap System* it defines scores which are not acceptable for posting.

**SITUATION 1**  
**Inactive seasons**

If a golfer plays in an area which is observing an inactive season, the score will not be acceptable for posting.

Be careful when traveling in the winter and playing rounds of golf. Even though there might not be snow on the ground in March in Minnesota (who are we kidding), the Minnesota Golf Association would still be observing their inactive season during that time. So any rounds played in Minnesota during March would not be entered into the player's scoring record.

**SITUATION 2**  
**Unplayed holes**

Scores are not to be posted when a majority of the holes are not played in accordance with the principles of *The Rules of Golf* (except for preferred lies). Once the player exceeds more than five holes not played or not played under the principles of *The Rules* during an 18-hole round, the score is not to be posted.

When the player completes less than seven holes on a rated set of nine holes, the score is not to be recorded for handicap purposes. As an example, if you begin a shotgun event on the 17th hole and play holes 17, 18, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, and then are called in because of rain, you would not be able to post the score. Since you did not complete seven holes on a rated set of nine holes, the scores cannot be posted.

**SITUATION 3**  
**Limited clubs**

If during a competition the committee in charge of the competition has limited the players

to a certain number of clubs below the maximum of 14 clubs or if the committee has restricted the types of clubs to be used during the competition, those scores are not acceptable for handicap purposes.

**SITUATION 4**  
**No USGA rating**

When traveling, especially outside of the United States, be sure to determine if the course has both a USGA Course and Slope rating. If those figures are not available, the score cannot be entered into the player's score file.

**SITUATION 5**  
**Very short course**

If a round is played on a course which measures less than 3,000 yards for 18 holes or 1,500 yards for nine holes, the score is not to be returned for handicap purposes.

**SITUATION 6**  
**Illegal equipment**

During the round of golf, if the player uses non-conforming golf balls, golf clubs or tees, the score can't be posted. In addition, if the player uses an artificial device or piece of unusual equipment during the execution of a stroke, scores will not be permitted for handicap purposes.

**SITUATION 7**  
**Distance+ device**

With respect to distance measuring devices, scores will not be acceptable if the measuring device gives additional information other than distance. If the device offers wind speed, elevation, etc., even if those features are in the off position, scores will not be accepted for handicap posting purposes.

Keep in mind that if a player uses any of the above situations as a way to manipu-

late their handicap index, the player's handicap committee has the right to modify the index to an appropriate number.

As always, if you have a question for the Handicap Department, e-mail [handicap@scga.org](mailto:handicap@scga.org).

**January/February correction:** In example 2 under Holes Not Played or Not Played Under *The Rules*, the correct score the player should post is 5. The hole was normally a par 5 but was shortened to a par 4 for maintenance. Since the player had a course handicap of 5 and the hole was the No. 10 handicap hole, the player would post par (5) plus any handicap strokes (0).



**Did you know that if your distance measuring device gives additional information other than yardage, such as wind speed or elevation, your score is unacceptable for handicap posting purposes?**