

Guidance Notes and Procedures - Hole Not played, Penalty Scores and Abandoned Competitions

1. Hole Not Played

A 'Hole Not Played' is only to be used in an unavoidable circumstance. It is not a 'choice' available for the player - a player may not just 'decide to walk in'.

Circumstances where a 'Hole Not Played' may be justifiably used would be:

- Hole(s) is closed by the Committee due to:
 - a. work on the hole(s),
 - b. hours of available light.
- A player may have to discontinue play due to:
 - a. becoming ill, or injured,
 - b. being called off the course for an emergency.

In such circumstances, or similar, it is acceptable for a player to submit a "not started" for those holes still to be played (or missed out). The returned scorecard should be processed using the actual scores achieved on the holes completed, but designating those not played as "not started". This process will correctly allocate the required score for handicapping.

2. Penalty Scores

Penalty scores are applicable for two reasons:

- A player has indicated their intention to return a score (by registering intent to submit a Competition or General Play score) and then commencing play; but then does not submit that score by whatever means the club prescribes.
- A score is returned after commencing a round where:
 - No hole scores are entered, or the score is incomplete.
 - A player persistently fails to return an appropriate score.
 - Handicap manipulation is suspected.

Regardless of the validity of the situation, whenever a player indicates that they will return a score and commences play, a score must be submitted; regardless of whether the minimum number of holes have been commenced and completed (10 holes for an 18-hole round, or all 9 holes for a 9-hole round): i.e., all score intents must be satisfied.

If there is a valid reason for the non-submissions or incomplete card which can be determined, then this score should be submitted. If the score cannot be determined, a "penalty score" will be posted where the Gross Score is equal to the Course Rating™ + Course Handicap™. However, the score should not be designated as a Penalty Score on entry. The WHS Committee will make a monthly check to ensure scores are being submitted where appropriate.

Whenever a score is not submitted, or is incomplete, the WHS Committee may contact the player, so that the validity of the “non-return” or incomplete round may be determined. This includes deleted score intents, i.e., where a player removes their intention to score from an App.

Any player giving an invalid reason, persistently deleting score intents or considered to be manipulating their handicap will be contacted and asked to explain. If the player fails to respond and give an explanation, they will be invited in for interview to explain further. Any penalty and/or disciplinary action resulting from these discussions will be taken on merit as recommended by England Golf.

3. Abandoned Competitions

Abandoned rounds (competition or general play) usually occur when play is stopped for dangerous or extreme weather conditions, and it is not possible for play to resume. These rounds do not result in Penalty Scores because the reason for suspending play is valid.

Players who have completed their round will submit their score as usual. Players who have completed at least 10 holes will have their score scaled-up automatically to 18 holes by the WHS™ platform, provided that the ‘not played’ holes are correctly identified.

Any players who have completed less than 10 holes do not have a score. Under no circumstances should any holes not started be allocated a zero, which would result in a net double bogey for handicap.

Players may incur a Penalty Score if play is suspended but they fail to resume play when instructed to do so. This is an invalid reason for not completing the round, and should be dealt with according to the guidance above.