

# R & A RULES OF GOLF 2012 – 2015

## Key changes with effect from January 2012

-----

### Non-Qualifying Scores

CONGU has agreed that in Ireland Non-Qualifying Scores achieved in competitions, such as Society Golf, which have been played over a *Measured Course* to which Unions have allotted a Standard Scratch Score and where *Competition Play Conditions* exist must be returned to the player's Home Club for immediate consideration by the Handicap Committee in accordance with the provisions of Clause 23B with the exception of category 1 golfers. Competition Play Conditions cover competitions over 18 holes played under the Rules of Golf from designated Tees on a measured course.

CONGU Regulation 8.12 states that it is the player's responsibility to his/her Home Club:

- a) All Qualifying and Non-Qualifying Scores,
- b) All scores which equal or better Standard Scratch Score from Society Golf played over a course which the Union has allotted a SSS together with notification of the SSS.

### Exceptional Qualifying Scores (ESR)

An additional formula for the reduction of handicaps has been introduced called "Exceptional Scoring Reduction". In brief, where a player with a score of -4 Nett Differential submits a similar or better score within a given number of returns an additional handicap will be imposed. This will be a feature of the computer system.

### Seeing Ball; Searching for ball

Rule 12-1 is amended as follows;

- a) NO PENALTY – A player moves his ball, when searching for it anywhere on the course, when it may be covered by sand.
- b) ONE STROKE PENALTY – A player moves his ball in a hazard, when searching for it, when it is believed to be covered by loose impediments.

### **Ball in Hazard; Prohibited Actions**

Exception 2 to Rule 13-4 is amended to **permit** a player to smooth sand or soil in a hazard at any time, including **before playing** from that hazard, provided it is for the sole purpose of **caring for the course** and Rule 13-2 is not breached.

### **Playing from Wrong Place; Stroke Play**

Note 3 in Rule 20-7 is amended so that if a player is to be penalised for playing from a wrong place, in most cases the penalty will be limited to **TWO STROKES**, even if another Rule has been breached prior to his/her making the stroke.

### **Prize Limits/Money**

In brief – “an amateur golfer must not accept a prize or prize voucher of **RETAIL VALUE** in excess of £500”.

### **Use of Prize Vouchers**

In brief – “a voucher may be credited to a **CLUB ACCOUNT** and be used for items such as **BAR BILL, CLUB SUBSCRIPTION, ENTRY FEES** and other **GOODS and SERVICES** at the Club”. (a range of conditions apply).

### **Hole in One Prizes**

Hole in One Prizes are only excluded from general prize limit while playing a round of golf.

-----