

# R & A RULES OF GOLF 2012 – 2015

## Key changes with effect from January 2012

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### 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.

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## DUNMURRY GOLF CLUB

### Application of Rules of Golf and Local Rules

#### Annual Handicap Review and Audit;

The Annual Handicap Review has been completed and details are published on the Notice Board.

Audit of 2011 handicap system has prompted observation of a number of players failing to submit scores having entered qualifying competitions. In some cases there are repeated failures by the same players. It has been noted that failure to submit scores has an impact on the CSS of the qualifying competition(s) in question and in turn impacts any related handicap adjustments effective on other players. This practice must cease. This problem is worsened by those players walking off the course mid-round. Players not completing rounds should enter scores for those holes completed and therefore ensure that CSS is measured on the full number of entrants. Rather than publish names of those to whom the observation relates M&H will notify players directly.

A number of examples of incorrect application of the rules has been reported to, and observed by, M&H Committee during last season, e.g.

**8th and 9th holes – water hazard** ; the open drain and lake are indicated in the local rules on the score card and marked with yellow stakes ( Rule 26.1(b) applies). A number of players have been noted incorrectly interpreting the drain as a lateral water hazard! Players must ensure that the correct rule for a water hazard is used.

In a bunker, ball in hole made by a burrowing animal. Rule 25 applies.

Relief from a staked tree. Rule 24.2(b) applies.

Members can obtain a copy of the revised R&A Rules of Golf effective from January 2012 – 2015 by calling at the Club office.