

Handicap Secretary report – 6 November 2023

Summary

- *Processed 57 new members in 2023. Compares with 41 in 2022.*
- *Carried out a review of Winter Golf in early 2023 and reduced handicap index for six members.*
- *Reviewed new handicap awards on a rolling three month basis. We applied handicap index reductions to two members.*
- *Report on prize distribution completed and circulated in early 2023.*
- *To date we have had 156 scores not returned. This compares to 163 in 2022.*
- *Under General Play we had 30 members who received penalty scores from Golf Ireland for unsatisfied score intents.*
- *The annual review for 2023 is currently underway and must be submitted to Golf Ireland by 30th November 2023. Any changes to a player's handicap index must be complete by 15th December 2023.*

Introduction

The following are the main issues addressed by the Handicap Committee in 2023:

- Allocation of new handicaps
- The annual review of handicaps.
- Three month rolling review of all new handicaps allocated.
- Review of winter golf scores.
- Monitoring 'Non returns' of score cards.
- Monitoring General Play scores.
- Prize distribution review.

The purpose of this presentation is to provide members with details of the work carried out by the handicap committee in 2023.

New Handicaps processed in 2023

- We processed 57 Handicaps for new members this year. This compares with 41 new members in 2022.
- According to Golf Ireland Clubhouse records we took on 142 new members this year.
- 71 members never previously held a Handicap Index.
- 25 were previous Kilcock members who re-joined.
- 46 members transferred from other clubs.
- Of the 71 new members this year 33 members still have to submit cards for handicap.

Current Handicap Breakdown

- 644 members have a WHS Handicap Index. This compares with 609 in 2022. The breakdown of the handicap indices is set out in the table below.

HI	Number	%
0.0 to 9.9	64	10%
10.0 to 19.9	266	41%
20.0 to 29.9	249	39%
30.0 to .9.9	62	10%
40.0 to 54.0	3	0%
Total	644	100%

Handicap first awards and continuous assessment of existing members.

- We carry out a three month rolling review of all newly awarded handicaps to ensure we have not been overly generous when awarding an initial handicap.
- Because of our conservative approach to awarding a handicap index we find most new members handicap index has increased since the initial awards.

- We have had to take very little action on new members who were performing better than their initial handicap. We only reduced the handicap index for two new members in 2023.
- In relation to existing members we reduced the handicap index for three players.

Winter Review

- In April we reviewed 108 scores in total. After filtering down the list we reviewed 19 members' handicap index.
- We reduced the handicap index for six members.

Non Return of Score in Competition

- Non returns are collated weekly and reviewed by the Handicap Committee.
- In accordance with Golf Ireland guidelines we now contact a member who has not returned a score in competition.
- Since we introduced the new system we have seen non returns cut by more than 50%.
- This year we have had 156 members who did not return a score in competition. This compares to 163 in the same period in 2022.
- 93 members provided explanations to the Handicap Committee and no further action was taken.
- 53 members failed to provide an explanation and we applied a penalty score to their record.
- Where a member is a persistent offender the Handicap Committee have the discretion to apply disciplinary sanctions. This year we have not had any members requiring this action.
- The following are the reasons why it is necessary to return all cards in competition:
 - It is a competition rule.
 - Can affect the Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC) on the competition day.
 - It may not reflect the player's true handicap index.
 - It causes problems for the Competition Committee when trying to close competitions.

General Play

- We currently monitor players who have registered intent to submit a General Play score but fail to do so.
- Currently Golf Ireland will contact a player with an unsatisfied score intent. The player is asked to contact the club Handicap Secretary if he has a valid excuse for not returning a score. If he fails to do so Golf Ireland automatically applies a penalty score to his record.
- IN 2023 we had 30 members who had a penalty score applied by Golf Ireland.
- Persistent offenders will be treated to the same process as non-returns.

Annual Review

- The annual review for 2023 is currently being worked on and this must be submitted to Golf Ireland before 30th November 2023.
- The Handicap Committee will notify any member whose handicap is affected as following the annual review. This will allow members to appeal any change to their handicap index before the change is implemented.
- All changes must be implemented by 15th December 2023.
- We look at all members under the following headings based on reports generated on Golf Ireland Club House software:
 - Handicap Review Report which indicates scores low or high outside the expected scores for that member.
 - Change to Handicap since 1 January 2023
 - Competition versus General Play Score Differentials
 - 9 Hole versus 18 Hole Score Differentials
 - Soft or Hard Cap in place.
 - Last Played to Handicap (Bear in mind latest stats indicate a player will play to his handicap 25% of the time).
 - Other areas such as performance in team or club match play competitions and local knowledge of individual players.

WHS Review and Prize Distribution

- There has been a perception amongst some members that members with high handicaps are winning a disproportionate number of prizes when compared to low handicappers.
- In March the Handicap and Competition Secretaries carried out a review of prize distribution across different Handicap Index bands. This followed on from an earlier report completed in August 2022.
- Our overall conclusion is that prizes are fairly evenly distributed across the handicap bands. And if anything it favours lower handicap players up to 20 Handicap Index.
- Over 65% of players won at least one prize during the year.
- I do not intend to list all the conclusions from the report. Just to say that the report was circulated in April 2023 to all members via our newsletter. The report is also available on the Kilcock Golf Club website.
- If any members have questions or issues with their Handicap Index you can discuss with me, the Handicap Secretary or any members of the Handicap Committee.

Conclusion

Finally I would like to thank the Handicap Committee Mick Cronin, Mick Kenny, Des O'Loughlin and Peter O'Toole for their support and input during the year. In

addition we have received great support from Greg, Johnny and Sean in the Pro Shop who act a first point of contact.

I would also like to thank Captain Ken O'Brien and the men's committee for their support during the year. I look forward to working with incoming Captain Pat Fitzmaurice and wish him the best in his role in 2024.

Jamie Ryan

Handicap Secretary

1 November 2023