

## How to Post Scores for Holes Not Played and/or Unfinished Holes

The USGA Rules of Handicapping, effective January 2024, established rules for a minimum number of holes to be played for a score to be acceptable and what to do for holes not played or holes not completed.

### Minimum Number of Holes Played for a Score to be Acceptable – Rule 2.2

**Rule 2.2a: For an 18-hole Score** – a minimum of 10 holes must be played

**Rule 2.2b: For a 9-hole Score** – Must play all 9 holes. The 9 holes played must have a current Course Rating and Slope Rating.

### When a Hole is Not Played - Rule 3.2

May only post if the round has been played over at least the minimum number of holes required for either a 9-hole or 18-hole score. See above.

Scores must be posted hole by hole with the holes not played being designated as prescribed by the Authorized Association. The posting tool used (mobile app or physical kiosk) should provide this information. The system will calculate a 9-hole or 18-hole *Score Differential* using the player's *expected score* for the holes not played.

### When a Hole is Started but Player Does Not Hole Out - Rule 3.3

When a player starts a hole but does not hole out for a valid reason, the player must record either their most likely score or net double bogey (double bogey + any handicap strokes received on that hole), whichever is lower, as appropriate for the situation and depending on the format of play.

**The most likely score is the sum of:**

- **# of strokes already taken +**
- **# of strokes most likely needed to finish +**
- **any penalty strokes incurred during play**

Most likely scores should be determined on any hole in accordance with the following guidelines:

Position of the Ball	Strokes to be Added
If the ball lies on the putting green, and is no more than 5 feet (1.5 meters) from the hole:	Add one additional stroke.
If the ball lies between 5 feet (1.5 meters) and 20 yards (20 meters) from the hole:	Add 2 or 3 additional strokes, depending on the position of the ball, the difficulty of the green and ability of the player.
If the ball lies more than 20 yards (20 meters) from the hole:	Add 3 or 4 additional strokes, depending on the position of the ball, the difficulty of the green and ability of the player.

**See Diagrams on the following page.**

**DIAGRAM 3.3: MOST LIKELY SCORE WHEN A HOLE IS STARTED BUT PLAYER DOES NOT HOLE OUT**

▼ If the ball lies on the putting green, no more than 5 feet (1.5 metres) from the hole.



▼ If the ball lies between 5 feet (1.5 metres) and 20 yards (20 metres) from the hole.



▼ If the ball lies more than 20 yards (20 metres) from the hole.



**Example 1: Sue and Karla are partners in a four-ball match play competition.** On a hole on which neither player receives a handicap stroke, **Sue lays 2, 4 feet from the hole. Karla lays 2, 25 feet from the hole.** Karla holes her putt for a 3. Sue then picks up on the hole, because she cannot better her partner's score. For Sue's **most likely score**, she would record a "X-3" on the scorecard.

**Example 2: Alice and Barbara are playing a match.** On a hole on which neither player receives a handicap stroke, **Alice has holed out in 4; Barbara has a 30-foot putt for a 4** so she picks up her ball. For Barbara's **most likely score**, she would record "X-6" on the scorecard. Since she does not receive a handicap stroke, the most she can record for handicap purposes is a net double bogey.

**Example 3: Ann and Becky are playing a match.** On a hole where Ann receives a handicap stroke and Becky does not. Ann is one foot from the hole, lying 4 (net 3 with her handicap stroke). Becky is 10 feet from the hole, lying 3. Becky misses her putt and is now lying 4. Becky concedes Ann's putt because she cannot better Ann's score. Ann wins the hole with her net score of 4, but both players record an X-5 on their cards because that is their **most likely score**.