

9-Hole Competitions – Clause 22

Do you want a new way to play competitive golf without the burden of playing 18 holes?

Nine-hole competitions are now being run by golf clubs across the country as a great way to play competitive golf in less time, allowing golfers the opportunity to maintain a competition status handicap from only three 9-hole rounds!

What is a 9-hole competition? 9-hole competitions are always run in a stableford format over a designated 9-hole course that has been agreed by the golf club and provided a course rating by Scottish Golf.

Who can play in 9-hole competitions? 9-hole competitions may appeal more to golfers who aren't able to play 18 holes due to time restraints or ability, but these competitions have proved attractive and are open to golfers of all handicap categories.

How does it work? Once a designated 9-hole course has been agreed and an SSS has been assigned, competitions can then be run, although they must be conducted in a stableford format. Initially, 18 stableford points are added to the golfers' points tally over the 9 holes and then measured against the 9-hole SSS and buffer zone of the player. If after the 18 points have been added the total score is above the players' buffer zone then the points accumulated over the 9 holes are simply doubled and the necessary handicap adjustments are made. Only the SSS is used as a CSS is not calculated for 9-hole competitions.

Can I use it for handicap? Yes – based on the points that you score, this will be measured against the SSS for handicap purposes. Similar to stableford over 18 holes, the buffer zones will vary between handicap categories. You can also gain a handicap through 9-hole competitions, but this would require a total of 54 holes.

Golf clubs can gain a 9-hole SSS over a designated course by completing the 9hole application form from Scottish Golf and returning it to courserating@scottishgolf.org.