

## Nine-hole scores: do I have to post?

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One question many golfers routinely ask is when and how to post if they play less than 18 holes. Most golfers know that if they complete at least 13 holes, they are required to post their 18-hole score if the round meets the definition of “acceptable” according to the *USGA Handicap System Manual*.

If they’ve completed 13 or more holes, on the unfinished holes golfers take par plus any handicap strokes to which they’re entitled (e.g., if their course handicap is 6 and they’re playing a par-4 hole that is the No. 5 handicap hole, they would post a 5; if it was the No. 7 handicap hole, they would post 4).

But what happens if they play less than 13 holes? When the USGA mandates that ALL acceptable scores be posted for handicap

purposes, this includes nine-hole scores when seven or more holes are played, or when seven to 12 holes are played. There must be at least seven holes completed on a rated set of nine-holes for a score to be posted.

When golfers play at least seven holes but less than nine, they use the procedure above for the unfinished holes to come up with a nine-hole score. When they play 10-12 holes, they simply post their nine-hole score.

When a nine-hole score is posted it will be combined with another nine-hole score posted in the same manner. This means all home nine-hole scores will be combined with other nine-hole home scores and all away nine-hole scores will be combined with other nine-hole away games. Once combined, scores will show in the player’s 18-hole Handicap Index file and be identified with the letter C for game type, signifying a combined score. An 18 hole score created by the combination of two nine-hole scores will

display the date of the second nine-hole score posted.

In January 2008, the SCGA will no longer issue a nine-hole Handicap Index to its members. This will alleviate the need for golfers to post scores to both their nine-hole Handicap Index file and the 18-hole Handicap Index file as required by the USGA.

Posted nine-hole scores will still be viewable by the golfer but a Handicap Index will not be calculated. If players wish to participate in a nine-hole competition, they will need to halve their 18 hole Handicap Indexes, round to the nearest tenth decimal, and enter that number into the Slope chart for the nine-hole rating to determine the Course Handicap.

**IT'S TIME TO RENEW FOR 2008**  
*Please check with your SCGA club's membership or handicap chairperson to make sure you're renewed for next year.*



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