

Acceptability of Scores under the World Handicap System™

What makes a score acceptable for handicap purposes?

A score is acceptable for handicap purposes when it is played in an authorized format, in the presence of at least one other person, and under the Rules of Golf. It must also be played on a course with a Course Rating™ and Slope Rating® during its active season.

In the United States, commonly played authorized formats include: **Individual stroke play, Four-Ball stroke play, Individual match play, and Four-Ball match play.**

How many holes must be played for an acceptable score?

For an **18-hole score** to be acceptable for handicap purposes:

➔ At least 10 holes must be played

For a **9-hole score** to be acceptable for handicap purposes:

➔ All 9 holes must be played

In both cases, the holes played must include at least 9 holes with a corresponding 9-hole Course Rating and Slope Rating.

When are scores not acceptable for handicap purposes?

This illustration does not cover every situation. If you are unsure whether a score should be posted, check with the club's Handicap Committee or your local Allied Golf Association.



For more information or to learn more about the WHS,
visit usga.org/whs