

## **EQUITABLE STROKE CONTROL (ESC)**

All scores for handicap purposes, including *tournament scores*, are subject to the application of *Equitable Stroke Control (ESC)*. This mandatory procedure reduces high hole scores for handicap purposes in order to make handicaps more representative of a player's potential ability.

A handicap determined from scores to which **ESC** has not been applied may not be termed a **Handicap Index**.

**ESC** is used when a player's actual or *most likely score* exceeds a maximum number, based on the table to the right, for the player's *Course Handicap* from the tees played.

<b>Course Handicap</b>	<b>Maximum Score Posted on any Hole</b>
9 or less	Double Bogey
10-19	7 Strokes
20-29	8 Strokes
30-39	9 Strokes
40 or more	10 Strokes

## **COURSE HANDICAP**

A "*Course Handicap*" is the USGA's mark that indicates the number of handicap strokes a player receives from a specific set of tees at the course being played to adjust the player's scoring ability to the level of scratch or zero-handicap golf. For a player with a plus *Course Handicap*, it is the number of handicap strokes a player gives to adjust the player's scoring ability to the level of scratch or zero-handicap golf. A *Course Handicap* is determined by applying the player's *Handicap Index* to a *Course Handicap Table* or *Course Handicap Formula*. A player's *Course Handicap* is expressed as a whole number. The result of any conditions of the competition, *handicap allowance*, or competition from a different *USGA Course Rating* that changes a *Course Handicap* is considered to be the *Course Handicap*.

## **GUIDELINES FOR SCORING INCOMPLETE HOLES:**

If you start a hole, but do not complete the hole record the score you most likely would have made if the hole had been completed. **DO NOT EXCEED THE ESC LIMIT.** If you skip a hole or do not play a hole, record the score of Par plus any handicap strokes (POPS) received on the hole. If any of the above are applicable, signify with an "X" and the score for the hole. In most forms of stroke play, once a hole is "X"d out, you are **not** eligible for prize money.

## **ASSIGNMENT OF STROKES (POPS):**

### **HANDICAP 01-18:**

Take strokes (pops) equal to your handicap, beginning with the #1 handicap stroke hole on the scorecard.

### **HANDICAP 19-36:**

Subtract 18 from your handicap. You are allowed two strokes (pops) per hole on however many strokes left over. **EXAMPLE:** Handicap of 22:  $22 - 18 = 4$ . Take 2 strokes (pops) on the #1 handicap through #4 handicap holes. Take one stroke (pop) on all other holes.

### **HANDICAP 37 - +:**

Subtract 36 from your handicap. You are allowed three strokes (pops) per hole on however many strokes left over (calculated and distributed on holes as described above). Take two strokes (pops) on all other holes.

To determine your net score on a hole, subtract these "pops" from your gross score for that hole. **EXAMPLE:** You have an 8 on the #1 handicap hole, but you are entitled to three pops; therefore, your net score for that hole will be 5.