



# GETTING A HANDICAP





# INTRODUCTION

Getting your first golf handicap is an exciting step in your golfing journey. It shows that you are moving beyond practice and casual play and becoming ready to take part in the competitive side of golf. At Nenagh Golf Club, a handicap is an important milestone for every golfer. It allows you to measure your progress, compare your performance fairly with other players, and start entering club competitions. This guide explains why a handicap matters and sets out the simple steps you need to follow to get one.

## WHY A HANDICAP MATTERS?

A golf handicap is your official measure of playing ability. It is designed to make the game fair, so players of different standards can compete on equal terms. Without handicaps, competitions would mostly reward only the strongest golfers. With handicaps, every player - beginner to experienced - has a realistic chance.

A handicap is also one of the best ways to measure your improvement. As you practice and your scores get better, your handicap will usually come down, showing that your game is progressing. It gives you a target to work towards and helps make golf even more enjoyable.

Most importantly at Nenagh Golf Club, having a handicap allows you to take part fully in club golf. Once a golfer has a handicap, they can enter club competitions, return official scores, and become more involved in club life. Getting your first handicap is a big achievement and something to be proud of.

## THE TWO WAYS TO QUALIFY FOR YOUR FIRST HANDICAP

At Nenagh, you can get your first handicap by submitting either:

- Option A: **3 x 18-hole scorecards**, or
- Option B: **6 x 9-hole scorecards** made up of **3 front nines and 3 back nines**

Both options follow the same principles: the scores must be genuine, the cards must be completed properly, and they must be verified by a marker who already holds an official Golf Ireland handicap.

### STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS

#### Step 1: Play your qualifying rounds

Choose one of the two options.

**Option A:** Play **three separate 18-hole rounds**.

**Option B:** Play **six separate 9-hole rounds**, including:

- **3 x Front 9** (holes 1–9), and
- **3 x Back 9** (holes 10–18)

These rounds should be played properly and seriously, following the Rules of Golf as best you can.

### **Step 2: Complete the scorecard correctly**

For each round, fill out a scorecard clearly and neatly. Make sure it includes:

- Your name
- The date
- Hole-by-hole scores

### **Step 3: Get each card signed**

Every card must be **signed by a player who has a Golf Ireland handicap**. This confirms that the round was played properly and that the score is correct.

### **Step 4: Submit your scorecards**

Once you have all of your cards completed and signed, submit them to the club by placing them in the ‘New Handicaps’ box in the Men’s and Women’s lobbies. Submit all three cards together along with a ‘New Handicap’ form which can be found in the office.

### **Step 5: Handicap Secretary reviews the cards**

The **Handicap Secretary** will look at your submitted cards and decide on the appropriate starting handicap based on the scores returned.

### **Step 6: Start playing in competitions**

Once your handicap has been allocated, you can then **play in club competitions** and begin your competitive golf journey.

### SUMMARY

Your first handicap is the beginning of an exciting new stage in golf. It gives you the chance to challenge yourself, improve your game, and take part in the life of the club in a new way. Every golfer starts somewhere, and getting a handicap is one of the most important first steps.

If you are unsure about any part of the process, do not be afraid to ask a member of the Men's/Women's/Junior Committee, the club professional, or the Handicap Secretary for help. We look forward to seeing you develop your game and enjoy your golf at Nenagh Golf Club.

Handicap Secretary: [handicaps@nenaghgolfclub.ie](mailto:handicaps@nenaghgolfclub.ie)

For more information on handicaps visit the below website:

(<https://www.golfireland.ie/whs-for-beginners>)





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