

## Incorrect score in a par round

### **Score, par, incorrect score recorded**

#### **Question**

I recently heard of a situation where a player had a gross score recorded that was lower than their actual score for a hole in a par round. For example, a player who gets a stroke on a par 4 would get a + if they scored 4. If they got 4, but had less recorded as their score, they would still only get a +, but would have recorded an incorrect and lower score. Is there any penalty?

#### **Answer.**

No penalty.

It does however raise an interesting point.

Rule 3.3b refers to scoring in stroke play, which include pure stroke, stableford and par. In such competitions is your responsibility to record your gross score and it is up to the committee to calculate the stableford or par score and indeed Rule 3.3b(3) tells us what happens if you return an incorrect score.

(3) Wrong Score for a Hole. If the player returns a scorecard with a wrong score for any hole:

- Returned Score Higher Than Actual Score. The higher returned score for the hole stands.
- Returned Score Lower Than Actual Score or No Score Returned. The player is **disqualified**.

You might think from that rule that a player who recorded too low a gross score on a par round should be disqualified, at least from that hole.

**HOWEVER** Rule 21.3 applies specifically to Par rounds and the exception to Rule 21.3b(2) in particular deals with this situation.

**Exception – No Penalty If No Effect on Result of Hole:** If the player returns a scorecard with a hole score lower than the actual score but this does not affect whether the hole was won, lost or tied, there is no penalty under Rule 3.3b.

This is a perfectly sensible outcome as it doesn't have any affect on the outcome of the hole or the round.

*NOTE: This information is of a general nature and is not intended to cover every possible situation. If you are unsure of your situation please either check the Rules of Golf, or seek specific advice from a Rules Official.*

*If you have any questions about the Rules of Golf or how they apply at Royal Adelaide, I'm happy to do my best to answer them. Questions can be submitted to me [arnewman1949@icloud.com](mailto:arnewman1949@icloud.com)*

*All questions will be attempted to be answered in a manner that doesn't identify the asker, unless you indicate that you are happy to be identified.*

*Tony Newman*