

DID YOU KNOW...

That the USGA mandates a maximum score that you can post on any hole for handicap purposes? The system is called Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) and the intent is to make your handicap more representative of your ability. In addition, ESC can help speed up your regular play if you pick up and move on once you've reached your ESC maximum on a hole. Note that ESC is applied to individual holes "*for handicap purposes.*" All scores for handicap purposes, including scores made in competition, are subject to the application of ESC. The USGA handicap manual states, "*A handicap determined from scores to which ESC has not been applied may not be termed a Handicap Index.*"

ESC is based on your Course Handicap--your Handicap Index adjusted for the Slope Rating of the tees you're playing, including "local" handicaps designated by an "L" on your handicap card.

- For a Course Handicap of 0 to 9 the maximum score on any hole is double bogey.
- For a Course Handicap of 10 to 19 the maximum score is 7.
- For a 20 to 29 it's 8.
- For a 30 to 39 it's 9
- For a 40+ it's 10.

ESC is applied on any hole, regardless of par. A 25 handicap can card an 8 whether on a par 3 or a par 5. You do not have to complete a hole (other than possibly a competition, depending on the rules of the competition). If you know you cannot make your ESC score on any hole, you may pick up at any time and card the ESC. ESC maximums for both 18 and 9-hole course handicaps are posted in the pro shop and they can also be found on the USGA website.

To illustrate how ESC works, let's use John, who is playing in a competition and has a Course Handicap of 14. John scores 9 and 8. 90 is his score for the competition, but when his score is posted for handicap purposes, ESC reduces each hole score to the applicable maximum of 7. In John's case $(9-7) + (8-7) = 3$ so his gross score is reduced by 3 to 87 for handicap purposes. Any score that has been reduced by ESC is an *Adjusted Gross Score*. Lake Kiowa's computer handicap system (both in the pro shop and online) will automatically apply ESC and reduce your score accordingly, but only if you post hole-by-hole scores. Our system also allows you to make a Quick Entry of an *Adjusted Gross Score*, but *it is the player's responsibility to apply the appropriate ESC based on the Course Handicap for the tees played*.

Remember that your handicap represents your potential ability and ESC is mandatory for determining your handicap. Only by posting your hole-by-hole score or your Adjusted Gross Score can you be assured that your Handicap Index truly reflects your potential ability and allows you to compete with other golfers on an equitable basis.