

## USGA DEFINITIONS USGA Handicap Book

**GROSS SCORE** — a “gross score” is the number of actual strokes plus any penalty strokes taken by a player to complete a hole.

**NET SCORE** — is a player’s score after handicap strokes have been subtracted from the player’s gross score.

**ADJUSTED GROSS SCORE** — is a player’s gross score adjusted under USGA Handicap System procedures for *Net Double Bogey*, unfinished holes, conceded strokes, holes not played or not played under the Rules of Golf.

**NET DOUBLE BOGEY** — a score equal to par of a hole plus two strokes and any handicap strokes applied on that hole (pops) — a net double bogey is a player’s maximum hole score for *handicap purposes* (formerly ESC).

**MOST LIKELY SCORE** — the score a player records for *handicap purposes* for a hole that is started but where a player does not hole out or is conceded a stroke. (see Table 3.3 below) The hole score when recorded on the scorecard should be preceded by an “X”.

*Most Likely Score on a hole not completed cannot exceed Net Double Bogey*

**HOLES NOT PLAYED or NOT PLAYED UNDER THE RULES OF GOLF** — the score the player records for *handicap purposes* for a hole that is not played or not played under the rules of golf must be par plus any handicap strokes the player is entitled to receive on that hole. The hole score when recorded on the scorecard should be preceded by an “X”.

**MINIMUM NUMBER OF HOLES PLAYED** — for scores to be acceptable for *handicap purposes*, a minimum of 7 holes must be played to post a 9-hole score. A minimum of 14 holes must be played to post an 18-hole score. If you play more than 9 but fewer than 14 holes, you would post the 9-hole score.

**Table 3.3 – MOST LIKELY SCORE WHEN A HOLE IS STARTED BUT PLAYER DOES NOT HOLE OUT**

Strokes to be Added	Position of Ball
Add <b>1</b> stroke	If a ball lies on the putting green, no more than 5 feet from the hole.
Add <b>2</b> or <b>3</b> strokes depending on the position of the ball, difficulty of the green and ability of the player.	If the ball lies between 5 feet and 20 yards from the hole.
Add <b>3</b> or <b>4</b> strokes depending on the position of the ball, difficulty of the green and ability of the player.	If the ball lies more than 20 yards from the hole.