

Related Rules & Decisions for Scoring Area

6-6. Scoring in Stroke Play

■ a. Recording Scores

After each hole the [marker](#) should check the score with the [competitor](#) and record it. On completion of the round the [marker](#) must sign the score card and hand it to the [competitor](#). If more than one [marker](#) records the scores, each must sign for the part for which he is responsible.

■ b. Signing and Returning Score Card

After completion of the round, the [competitor](#) should check his score for each hole and settle any doubtful points with the [Committee](#). He must ensure that the [marker](#) or [markers](#) have signed the score card, sign the score card himself and return it to the [Committee](#) as soon as possible.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 6-6b: Disqualification.

■ c. Alteration of Score Card

No alteration may be made on a score card after the [competitor](#) has returned it to the [Committee](#).

■ d. Wrong Score for Hole

The [competitor](#) is responsible for the correctness of the score recorded for each hole on his score card. If he returns a score for any hole lower than actually taken, **he is disqualified**. If he returns a score for any hole higher than actually taken, the score as returned stands.

Note 1: The [Committee](#) is responsible for the addition of scores and application of the handicap recorded on the score card — see [Rule 33-5](#).

Note 2: In [four-ball](#) stroke play, see also [Rule 31-4](#) and [-7a](#).

33-5. Score Card

In stroke play, the [Committee](#) must provide each [competitor](#) with a score card containing the date and the [competitor's](#) name or, in [foursomes](#) or [four-ball](#) stroke play, the [competitors'](#) names.

In stroke play, the [Committee](#) is responsible for the addition of scores and the application of the handicap recorded on the score card.

In [four-ball](#) stroke play, the [Committee](#) is responsible for recording the better-ball score for each hole and in the process applying the handicaps recorded on the score card, and adding the better-ball scores.

In bogey, par and Stableford competitions, the [Committee](#) is responsible for applying the handicap recorded on the score card and determining the result of each hole and the overall result or points total.

Note: The [Committee](#) may request that each [competitor](#) record the date and his name on his score card.

Q. In a stroke-play competition, a lone competitor had no marker. No member of the Committee was present to appoint one. So the competitor played with two players playing a friendly game, and one of them served as his marker. Should the Committee accept the card?

A. Yes. Since the Committee failed to provide a marker, the Committee should give retrospective authority to the player who acted as the competitor's marker.

6-6a/2 Competitor Plays Several Holes without Marker

Q. A plays three holes by himself while his marker, B, rests. B then resumes play and marks A's scores for the holes he (A) played alone as well as his scores for the remainder of the holes. Should A's card be accepted?

A. No. A should have insisted on B accompanying him or have discontinued play and reported to the Committee. Since A was not accompanied by a marker for three holes, he did not have an acceptable score.

6-6a/3 Hole Scores Entered in Wrong Boxes; Marker Corrects Error by Altering Hole Numbers on Card

Q. In stroke play, a marker recorded some of the competitor's hole scores in the wrong boxes. He altered the hole numbers on the card to correct the error. Should the card be accepted?

A. Yes.

6-6a/4 Marker Refuses to Sign Competitor's Card After Dispute Resolved in Favor of Competitor

Q. In stroke play, B, who was A's fellow-competitor and marker, refused to sign A's score card on the ground that A had played outside the teeing ground at the 15th hole. A claimed that he played from within the teeing ground. The Committee decided in favor of A. Despite the Committee's decision, B continued to refuse to sign A's card. Should B be penalized?

A. No. A marker is not obliged to sign a card he believes to be incorrect, notwithstanding the determination of the Committee. However, the marker must report the facts and authenticate those scores which he considers correct. The Committee should accept certification of A's score at the 15th hole by anyone who witnessed the play of the hole. If no witness is available, the Committee should accept A's score without certification.

6-6a/5 Marker Attests Wrong Score Knowingly But Competitor Unaware Score Wrong

Q. In stroke play, a competitor returned a wrong score because his score card did not include a penalty he had incurred. The competitor was unaware that he had incurred the penalty. The competitor's marker (a fellow-competitor) was aware of the penalty but nevertheless signed the card. The facts were discovered before the result of the competition was officially announced.

The competitor is, of course, disqualified — Rule 6-6d. Is the marker also subject to disqualification?

A. Yes. The Committee should disqualify the marker under Rule 33-7.

6-6a/6 Requirement That Alteration on Score Card Be Initialed

Q. May a Committee require that alterations made on score cards be initialed?

A. No. Nothing is laid down in the Rules of Golf as to how alterations should be made on a score card.

6-6a/7 Duplicate Card Returned When Original Lost

Q. At the end of a round in stroke play, A discovered that he had lost B's card. A duplicate card was prepared, signed by both A and B and returned promptly. Should it be accepted?

A. Yes.

6-6b/1 Competitor and Marker Sign Score Card in Wrong Places

There is no penalty if a marker signs the competitor's score card in the space provided for the competitor's signature, and the competitor then signs in the space provided for the marker's signature.

6-6b/2 Competitor Records Initials in Space Reserved for Signature

Q. Instead of recording his usual signature on his score card, a competitor records his initials. Has the competitor met the requirements of Rule 6-6b?

A. Yes.

6-6b/4 Score Cards Not Returned Promptly Due to Committee Failure to Advise Competitors Where to Return Cards

It is a duty of the Committee to inform competitors where and to whom to return their score cards. If the Committee fails to do so, and as a result some competitors delay in returning cards, a penalty of disqualification under Rule 6-6b or any other Rule would not be justified.

6-6b/5 Marker Not Appointed by Committee Signs Cards

Q. In stroke play, A and B were appointed by the Committee as markers for one another. During the round, C joined them as a spectator; from that point, C marked the cards of both A and B, signed them at the end of the round and returned them to A and B. A and B checked their respective cards, signed them and returned them to the Committee. Before the competition closed, the Committee became aware that A had not signed B's card and vice versa. What is the ruling?

A. Since C had not been appointed as a marker by the Committee and there were no exceptional circumstances, A and B should be disqualified under Rule 6-6b.

6-6b/6 Marker Disappears with Competitor's Score Card

Q. In a stroke-play event, competitors were instructed to return their score cards at the scoreboard. Unbeknownst to a competitor, his marker leaves the course hastily at the end

of the round and does not report to the scoreboard. He takes the competitor's score card with him. What should the Committee do?

A. The Committee should make every effort to reach the marker. If unsuccessful, the Committee should accept certification of the score by someone else who witnessed the round, perhaps the marker's caddie or the competitor's caddie. If no one other than the marker witnessed the round, the score should be accepted without attestation by a marker.

6-6b/7 Score Corrected by Competitor after Marker Leaves Area in Which Card Returned

Q. A marker signed a competitor's score card, gave it to the competitor and left the area. The competitor discovered an error in his score for the 14th hole; the marker had recorded a 5 when, in fact, the competitor had scored 4. Without consulting the Committee, the competitor corrected the card, signed it and handed it in to the Committee. Later, the Committee heard what had happened, interviewed the competitor and his marker and established that the competitor did, in fact, score 4 at the 14th hole. Was the competitor in breach of Rule 6-6b and thus disqualified?

A. Yes. When the competitor altered the score card, he invalidated the attestation of his score by the marker. Therefore, he effectively returned a score card which was not signed by the marker.

If the competitor had informed the Committee, before returning his card, that he was correcting the error; he would not have been subject to penalty.

6-6c/1 When Score Card Considered Returned

Q. Rule 6-6c prohibits alterations to the score card "after the competitor has returned it to the Committee." When is a score card considered returned?

A. This is a matter for the Committee to decide and it will vary depending on the nature of the competition. The Committee should designate a "scoring area" where competitors are to return their score cards (e.g., in a tent, a trailer, the golf shop, by the scoreboard, etc.). When it has done so, Rule 6-6c should be interpreted in such a way that a competitor within the "scoring area" is considered to be in the process of returning his score card. Alterations may be made on the score card even if the competitor has handed the score card to a member of the Committee. He is considered to have returned his score card when he has left the scoring area.

Alternatively, the Committee may require a competitor to return his score card by placing it in a box and thus consider it returned when it is dropped into the box, even if he has not left the scoring area.

6-6d/1 No Score Entered for One Hole but Total Correct

Q. In stroke play, A returned his score card. The Committee discovered that no score had been entered for the 17th hole; however, A's total score for the round as recorded on the card by A or his marker was correct. What is the ruling?

A. A should be disqualified for a breach of Rule 6-6d.