

# Rules of Handicapping

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# Workshop Content

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Welcome to the WHS
- 3) Fundamentals in Handicapping
- 4) Handicap Formula
- 5) Club Handicap Committee Responsibilities
- 6) Competition Committee Responsibilities
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# Welcome to the World Handicap System

A stylized, light gray world map is visible in the background of the slide. The map uses simple outlines for continents and includes some darker gray shaded regions, possibly representing specific countries or areas of interest. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.

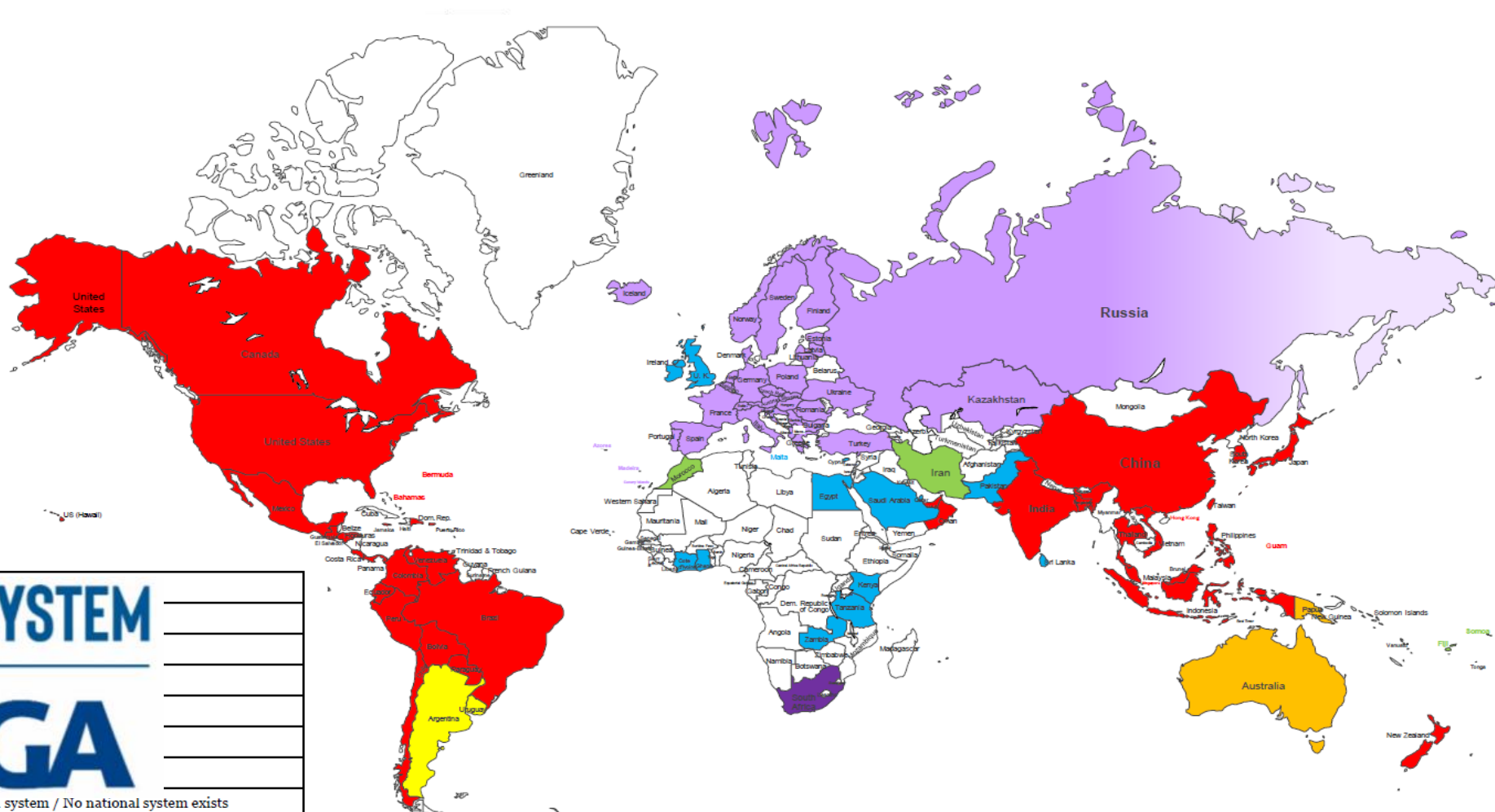
# Six Systems to one



**WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM**



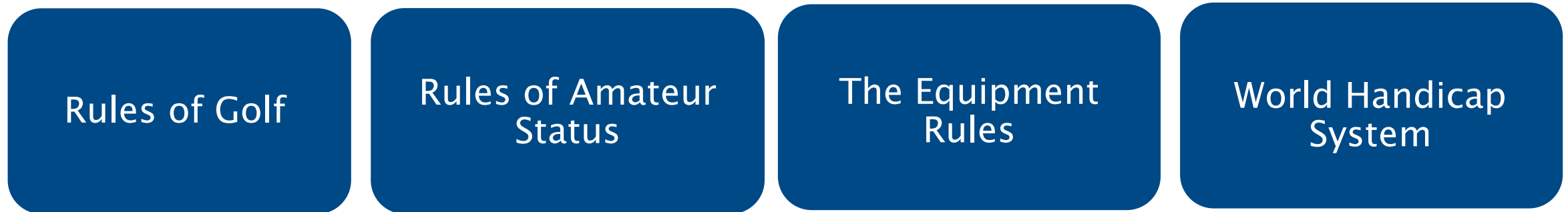
	Country uses own system / No national system exists
	Unknown (as yet)



# Governance

There will be one World Handicap System to be consistent with other Governance functions.

## Governance Structure



The World Handicap System will be comprised of the Rules of Handicapping and the Course Rating System.

# Hierarchy

<b>The USGA and The R&amp;A</b>	<b>Are joint governing authorities and are responsible for authorizing use of the World Handicap System.</b>
<b>National Associations</b>	<b>Have the exclusive rights to implement and administer the World Handicap System within its jurisdiction, including the issuance of a Handicap Index.</b>
<b>Allied Golf Associations</b>	<b>Are affiliated to its National Association and comprised of golf clubs and/or golfers within a defined area.</b>
<b>Golf Club/Handicap Committee</b>	<b>Is affiliated to its AGA and is responsible for ensuring the Handicaps of its members are administered in accordance with the requirements of the Rules of Handicapping.</b>
<b>Player</b>	<b>Attempts to make the best score possible at each hole and submits scores for handicap purposes as soon as possible after the round is completed.</b>

# Home Club

To ensure that a player has only ***one Handicap Index***, and to easily identify the golf club or AGA with authority should issues arise, a player should have one Home Club.

A Home Club is determined by:

- the player;
- and is typically determined by where the player submits the most scores or demonstrates regularity of play.





# Fundamentals of Handicapping

The background of the slide is a dark gray color. It features a series of thin, light gray, wavy lines that flow across the frame, creating a sense of movement. Interspersed among these lines are several irregular, shaded regions in a slightly lighter gray tone, adding depth and texture to the overall design.



# Course Rating System

The USGA Course Rating System now becomes the course rating system for the world.

The Course Rating System addresses the portability of handicaps by adjusting a player's Handicap Index according to the relative difficulty of the golf course being played.



# What is a Course Rating?

- A Course Rating is the evaluation of the playing difficulty of a course for scratch golfers under normal course and weather conditions;
- expressed as the number of strokes taken to one decimal place;
- based on yardage;
- and other obstacles to the extent that they affect the scoring difficulty of the scratch player.



# What is a Bogey Rating?

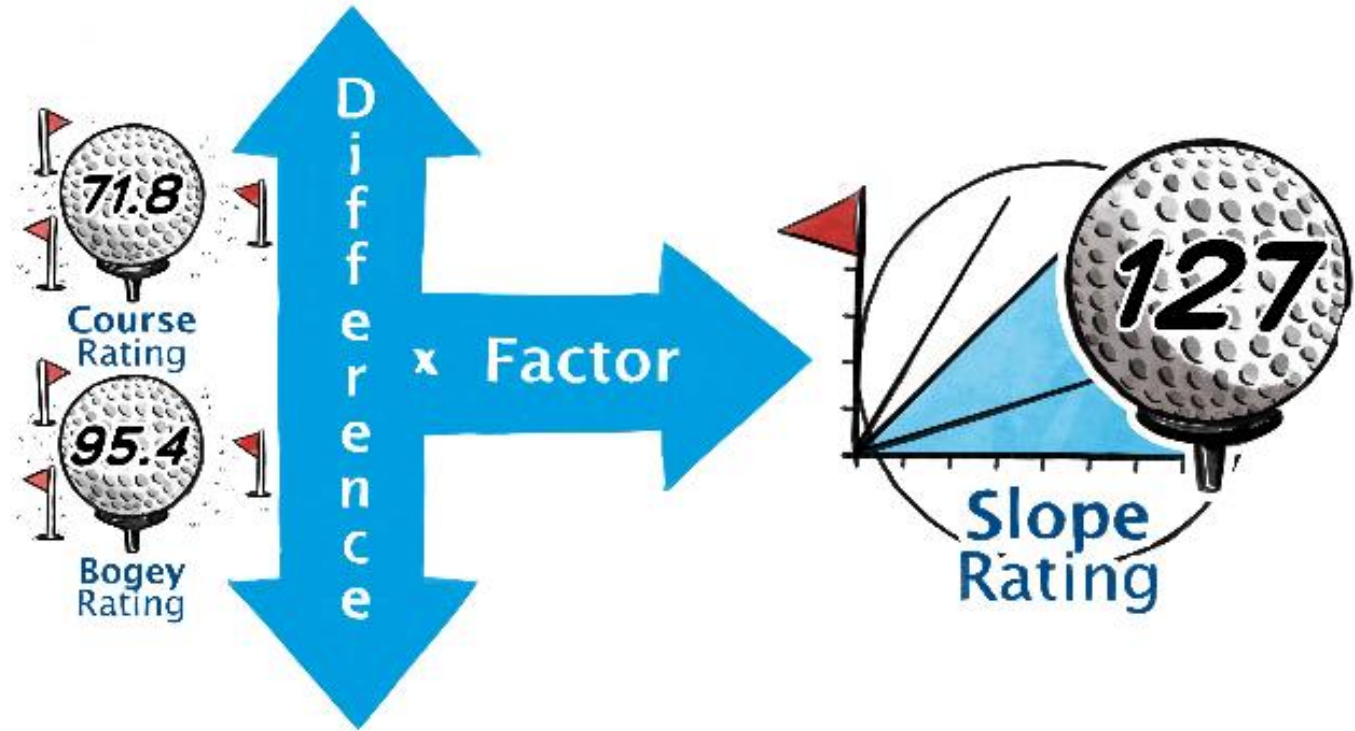
- A Bogey Rating is the evaluation of the playing difficulty of a course for bogey golfers under normal course and weather conditions.



# What is Slope Rating?

To calculate a Slope Rating for any set of tees, we need two values:

- Course Rating
- Bogey Rating



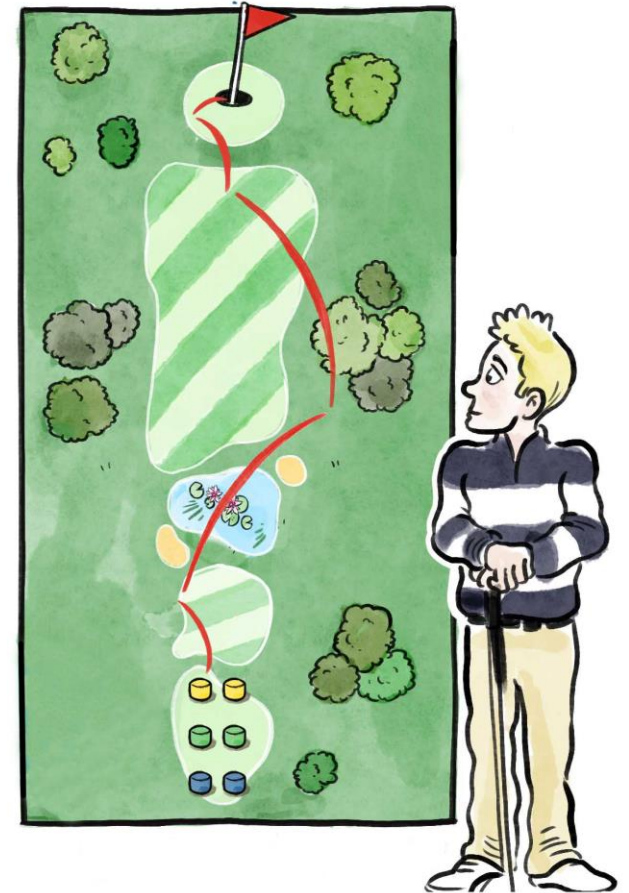
It is the combination of these values that allow us to calculate the Slope Rating for a set of tees.



# Ratings for an Unrated Set of Tees (combinations)

When a tee has not been rated, the following protocol can be used:

- Locate the nearest set of rated tees for the appropriate gender.
- Determine the measured difference between the set of tees being played and the rated set of tees.
- For differences <100 yards, there is no adjustment necessary and scores can be returned or posted as usual.
- For differences from 100 to 300 yards, a table value can be used to determine a short-term Course Rating and Slope Rating.



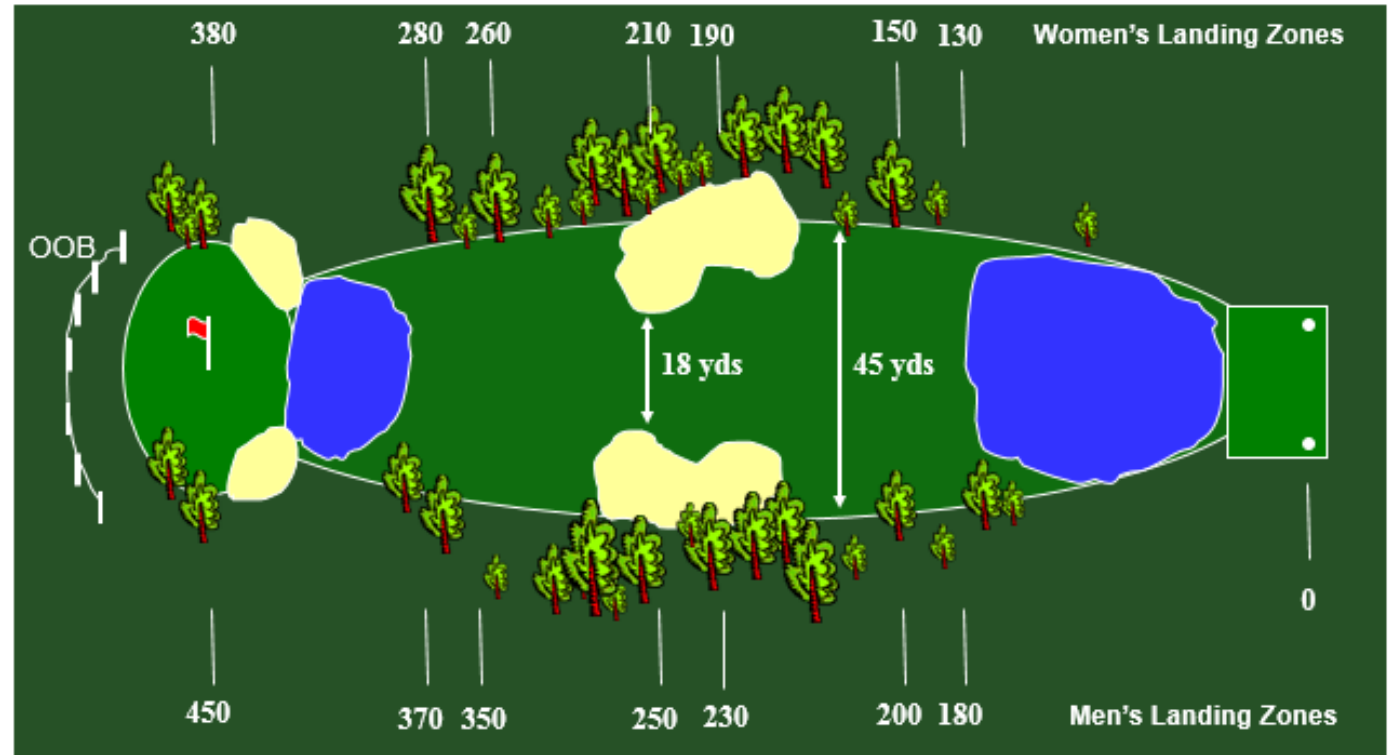
# Temporary Yardage Changes/Unrated Tees

Men's Rating Adjustment			Women's Rating Adjustment		
Yards	Change to <i>Course Rating</i>	Change to <i>Slope Rating</i>	Yards	Change to <i>Course Rating</i>	Change to <i>Slope Rating</i>
100 to 120	0.5	1	100 to 116	0.6	1
121 to 142	0.6	1	117 to 134	0.7	1
143 to 164	0.7	2	135 to 152	0.8	2
165 to 186	0.8	2	153 to 170	0.9	2
187 to 208	0.9	2	171 to 188	1.0	2
209 to 230	1.0	2	189 to 206	1.1	2
231 to 252	1.1	3	207 to 224	1.2	2
253 to 274	1.2	3	225 to 242	1.3	3
275 to 300	1.3	3	243 to 260	1.4	3
Please contact the SCGA for any adjustment greater than 300 yards			261 to 278	1.5	3
			279 to 300	1.6	3

# Temporary or Permanent Modification of Courses

**The club must notify the SCGA when changes are made to the course.**

**Permanent changes to the course require the SCGA to review the current Course Rating and Slope Rating and to determine whether a re-rating is necessary.**





# Importance of Par

SCGA will use par from the most ***commonly played*** set of tees and apply that value to all tees for that gender. This likely matches scorecard values.

Par	Men	Women
3	Up to 260 yards	Up to 220 yards
4	240 to 490 yards	200 to 420 yards
5	450 to 710 yards	370 to 600 yards
6	670 yards and up	570 yards and up

# Stroke Index

It is recommended allocating odd strokes on the front and even strokes on the back.

Specific strokes will be allocated using three-hole clusters, with the #1 and #2 stroke holes in the middle cluster.

Hole Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Front 9									
Sample Table	1 1	1 5	3	7	1 7	1	9	1 3	5
Hole Number	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Back 9									
Sample Table	1 2	4	1 6	8	2	1 8	6	1 0	1 4

# Stroke Index Allocation

**Certain procedures should also be considered to accommodate both stroke play and match play formats, including:**

Spreading stroke index allocations evenly over 18 holes gives the best chance of strokes being received by a player prior to a match ending.

Applying the second lowest stroke index hole (3 or 4) on each nine in either the 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> triad, unless the lowest stroke index hole has been allocated in that same triad.

If possible, avoid consecutive low stroke indexes (6 or less) on consecutive holes.

Stroke index allocations for strokes 19-36 and 37-54 simply repeat the order

# Purpose of the World Handicap System

The WHS includes the Rules of Handicapping and the Course Rating System. Its purpose is to enable as many golfers as possible the opportunity to:

- Obtain and maintain a Handicap Index;
- Use their Handicap Index on any golf course around the world; and
- Compete, or play recreationally, with anyone else on a fair basis.



# How to Use the Rule Book

**The “Rules of Handicapping” will consist of Definitions and seven Rules:**

**Rule 1 – Purpose and Authorization; Obtaining a Handicap Index**

**Rule 2 – Scores Acceptable for Handicap Purposes**

**Rule 3 – Adjustment of Hole Scores**

**Rule 4 – Submitting a Score**

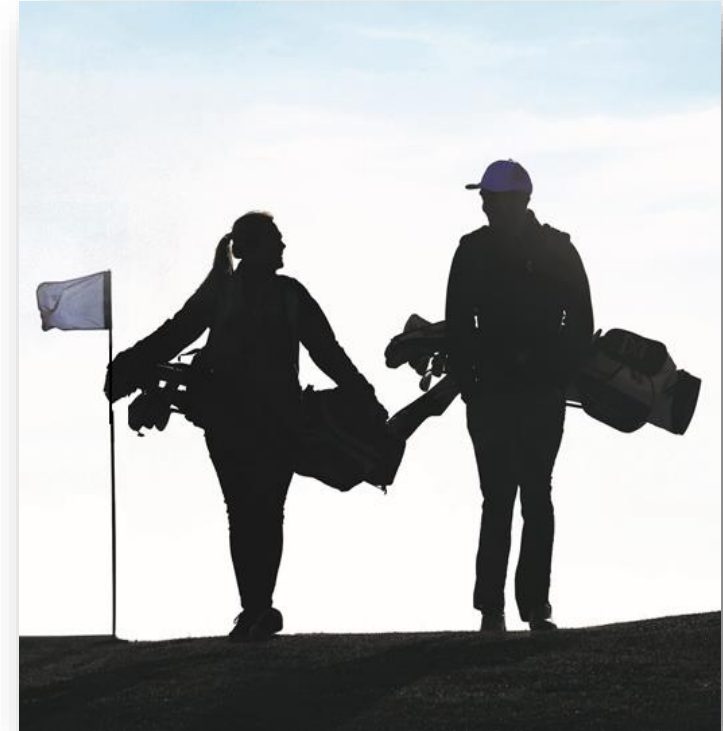
**Rule 5 – Handicap Index Calculation**

**Rule 6 – Course Handicap and Playing Handicap Calculation**

**Rule 7 – Committee Actions**

**There will also be seven Appendices, which will contain further details and more information.**

**Refer to the “Rules of Handicapping” whenever a question arises about the World Handicap System.**



# Key Definitions



## LOW HANDICAP INDEX

The lowest Handicap Index achieved by a player within the last 12 months.



## HARD AND SOFT CAP

A reduction or limit on the increase of a player's Handicap Index over a rolling 12-month period, measured against the player's Low Handicap Index within that period of time.



## PLAYING CONDITIONS CALCULATION

A procedure used to evaluate if course and/or weather conditions on the day of play deviate from normal playing conditions to the extent that they have a significant impact on players' performance.



## EXCEPTIONAL SCORE REDUCTION

A score differential which is at least 7.0 strokes better than the player's Handicap Index at the time the round was played (see Rule 5.9).



## NET DOUBLE BOGEY

The maximum score for a hole for handicap purposes, which is the sum of:

- The Par of the hole,
- Any handicap strokes applied on that hole, and
- An additional two strokes



## NET PAR

Net Par is the new term for Par Plus used when a hole is not played.

# Course Handicap

A Course Handicap will be the number of strokes a player receives to play down to the *Par* of the tees being played. The formula is:

*Course Handicap =*

*(Handicap Index x Slope Rating / 113) + (Course Rating – PAR)*





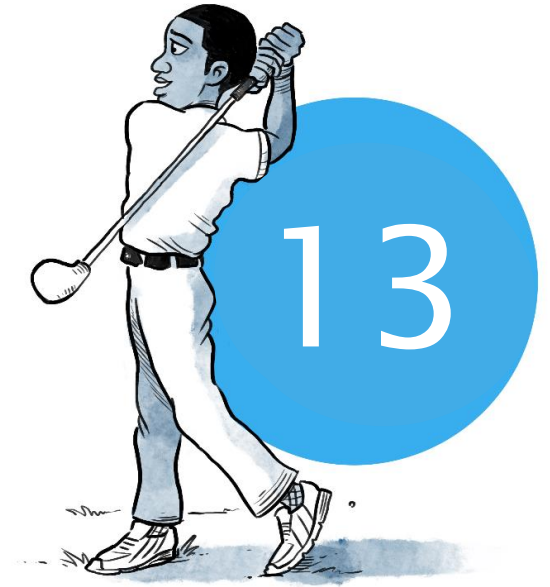
# Playing Handicap

When *handicap allowances* are used in various formats of play, *Course Handicaps* are adjusted to make the competition equitable.

The adjusted Course Handicap will be referred to as a **Playing Handicap**.

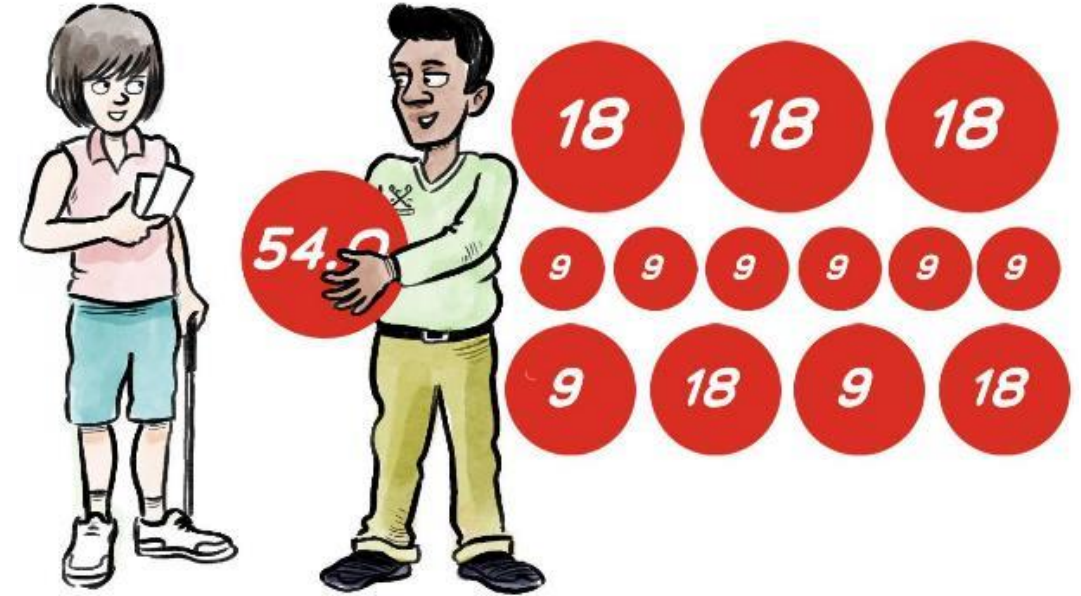
$$\text{Playing Handicap} = \text{Course Handicap} \times \text{Handicap Allowance}$$

If different tees are in use (by different genders), a player's Playing Handicap is adjusted by the difference in Par.



# Minimum Scores to Obtain a Handicap Index

- **54 holes** made up of any combination of 9- or 18-hole rounds.
- No time limit on completing the submission of these scores.

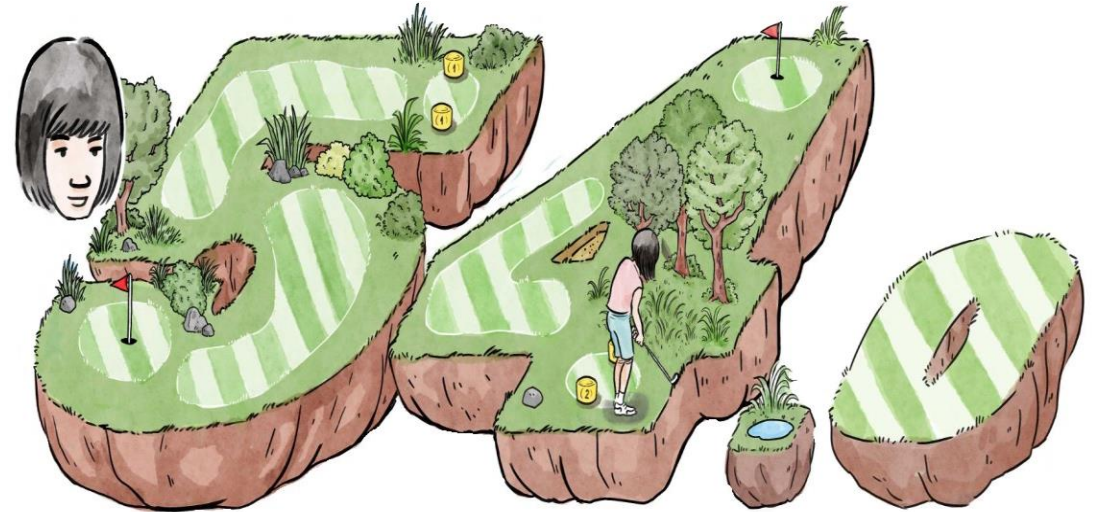


# Maximum Handicap Index

The maximum Handicap Index that can be allocated to a golfer is **54.0**.

This speaks to two key principles of the World Handicap System:

- To be as inclusive and accessible as possible.
- To make it as easy as possible for golfers to obtain and maintain a Handicap Index.



# Maximum Score for Handicap Purposes

**Net Double Bogey**

**A player's maximum hole score for handicap purposes, ensuring bad holes don't impact a player's handicap too severely.**



# Maximum Score for Handicap Purposes

Net double bogey

=

Par

+

2

+/-

Handicap strokes received  
or given on a hole

A player with a Course Handicap of 11 receives one stroke on the first 11 allocated stroke holes. On a par-4 with a **stroke index** of 6, the player's **net double bogey** score is calculated as follows:

Par		Two Strokes (Double Bogey)		Stroke(s) Received	=	Max
4	+	2	+	1		7

# Application of Net Double Bogey Adjustment

Sunnyside Golf Club

Bronze Tees Course Rating: 72.1

Slope Rating: 122

Name of Player: *Janet Smith*

Course Handicap: 18

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	
Par	4	4	5	4	3	5	4	5	3	37	
S.I.	7	13	3	9	15	1	11	5	17		
Score	5	5	6	5	4	6	5	6	4	46	

Hole	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Par	4	4	3	5	4	3	5	4	4	36	73
S.I.	8	12	18	4	10	16	2	6	14		
Score	5	5	4	6	5	4	7	8	5	49	95

# Application of Net Double Bogey Adjustment

Sunnyside Golf Club

Bronze Tees Course Rating: 72.1

Slope Rating: 122

Name of Player: Janet Smith

Course Handicap: 18

~~Playing Handicap 15~~

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	
Par	4	4	5	4	3	5	4	5	3	37	
S.I.	7	13	3	9	15	1	11	5	17		
Score	5	5	6	5	4	6	5	6	4	46	

Hole	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Par	4	4	3	5	4	3	5	4	4	36	73
S.I.	8	12	18	4	10	6	2	16	14		
Score	5	5	4	6	5	4	7	8	5	49	95

Score for *Competition* = 95

Score for *Handicap Purposes* = 94

→ 94

7 = Net double bogey adjustment of -1



# Guidelines for Most Likely Score

When a player starts, but does not complete a hole, the score recorded for handicap purposes is the ***Most Likely Score*** using the following guidelines:

Position of the ball:	Strokes to be added:
On the putting green within 5 feet of the hole	Add 1 additional stroke
Between 5 feet and 20 yards from the hole	Add 2 or 3 additional strokes, <i>depending on the position of the ball, the difficulty of the green and the ability of the player</i>
Beyond 20 yards from the hole	Add 3 or 4 additional strokes, <i>depending on the position of the ball, the difficulty of the green and the ability of the player</i>

# Hole Not Played

When a player does not play a hole, the score recorded for handicap purposes is *net par*.

For example:

A hole being declared out of play by the Committee for maintenance or renovation purposes.



# Acceptability of Scores

- Scores from an authorized format of play which meets all the provisions set out within the *Rules of Handicapping* (see Rule 2).
- Scores in both match and stroke play; multi-ball or team competitions. This includes any time a player picks up before completing a hole.
- Scores on all courses with a current Course Rating and Slope Rating made during an active season, both at home and away.



# Acceptability of Scores

- Scores made under the *Rules of Golf* and *The Modified Rules of Golf for Players With Disabilities*.
- When accompanied by at least one other person.
- When a player follows a Model Local Rule even if the Committee has not adopted it.
  - For example – Alternative option to stroke and distance or preferred lies.



# GOLF'S NEW RULES: STROKE AND DISTANCE

A new Local Rule will provide an alternative to stroke-and-distance relief for a ball that is lost outside a penalty area or out of bounds. This new Local Rule will be available beginning January 1, 2019.

## BALL OUT OF BOUNDS



## LOST BALL



If the Local Rule is in effect, you can still take stroke-and-distance relief, but you will now have the following additional option that comes with a penalty of two strokes:

**A** **DETERMINE SPOT** where your ball went out of bounds (left diagram) or is likely to be lost (right diagram).

**B** **FIND NEAREST FAIRWAY EDGE** no closer to the hole.

**C** **DROP YOUR BALL IN SHADED AREA** as defined on one side by a line from the hole through point A and on the other side by a line from the hole through point B, and not nearer the hole. The relief area is extended on both sides by two club-lengths.

This Local Rule is not intended for higher levels of play, such as professional or elite amateur level competitions.



# Unacceptable Scores

A score is not acceptable for handicap purposes and must not be posted if a player has been disqualified from a competition for a breach of the *Rules of Golf* that might have provided the player with a **significant advantage**; e.g. using a non-conforming club.

## Other examples:

- Foursomes (also known as Alternate Shot)
- Scrambles
- When being coached



# Treatment of 9-Hole Scores – Combining

Combine two 9-hole scores to create an 18-hole *score differential*.

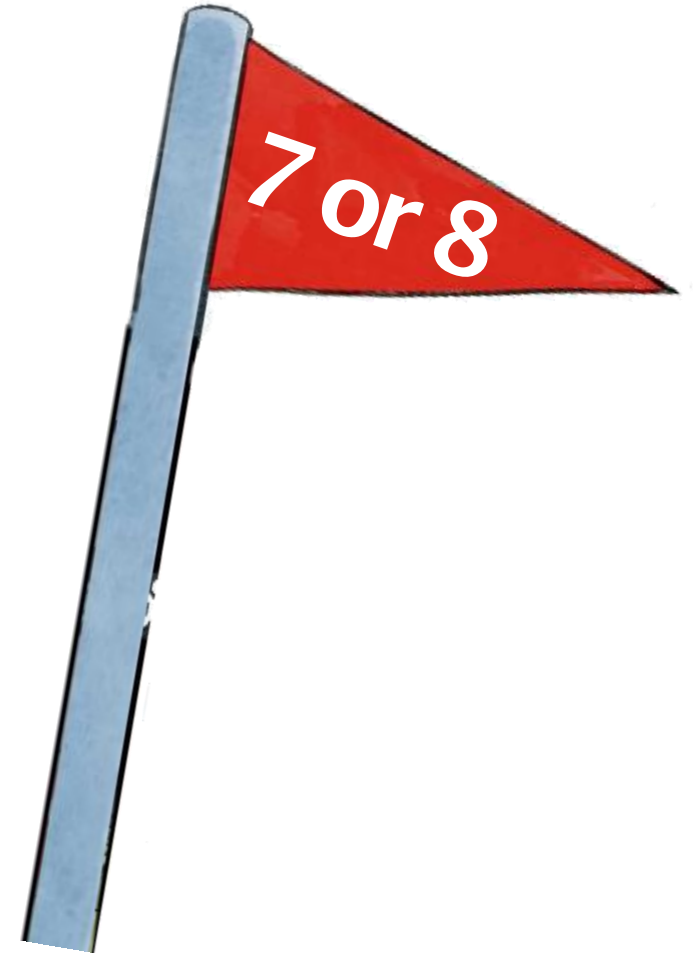
If a player plays 7-**13** holes, then the 9-hole score will be posted and then combined with next 9-hole score.

$$\begin{array}{c} 9 + 9 = \\ 18N \end{array}$$



# Fewer than 9 Holes Played

- For a 9-hole score to be acceptable for handicap purposes, a minimum of 7 holes must be played.
- If a player plays 7 or 8 holes, a 9-hole score will be determined by adding a score of Net Par for the remaining hole(s).
- This 9-hole score will then be combined with another 9-hole score to produce an 18-hole score differential.



# Handicap Formula

# Handicap Index Calculation

There are **five significant changes** to the Handicap Index calculation coming in 2020:

1) The **minimum** number of scores required.

3

2) The **number** of **differentials** used.

8 of 20

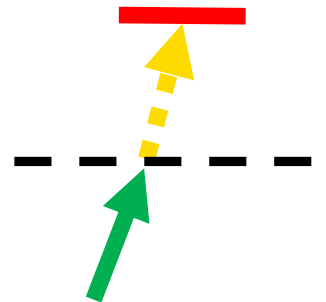
3) A Playing Conditions Calculation.



4) An Exceptional Score Reduction that considers all scores.



5) The **addition** of a Soft Cap and Hard Cap to limit upward movement.



# Number of Differentials Used

The following table will be used to determine the number of score differentials used in the Handicap Index calculation, as well as any additional adjustment:

Number of <i>score differentials</i> in <i>scoring record</i>	Score differential(s) to be used in calculation of <i>Handicap Index</i>	Adjustment to column 2 result
3	Lowest 1	-2.0
4	Lowest 1	-1.0
5	Lowest 1	0
6	Average of lowest 2	-1.0
7 or 8	Average of lowest 2	0
9 to 11	Average of lowest 3	0
12 to 14	Average of lowest 4	0
15 or 16	Average of lowest 5	0
17 or 18	Average of lowest 6	0
19	Average of lowest 7	0
20	Average of lowest 8	0

# Calculation of a Handicap Index

For 20 Scores:

- Average the lowest **8** of the most recent 20 Score Differentials
- round to the nearest tenth.

Your  
**Handicap  
Index** is  
based on:



# Calculation of a Score Differential

For an 18-hole Score, a Score Differential is calculated as follows:

Score Differential =

*(Adjusted Gross Score – Course Rating – **PCC**) x (113/Slope Rating)*

***PCC = Playing Conditions Calculation***



# Calculation of a Score Differential

A lower score may not always produce a lower Score Differential:

$$(95 - 71.5 - 0) \times 113 / 125 = 21.2$$

$$(97 - 73.8 - 0) \times 113 / 140 = 18.7 \leftarrow$$

$$(90 - 66.1 - 0) \times 113 / 105 = 25.7$$



# Sample 8 of 20 Calculation

Club	Handicap Index	Effective Date	Low H.I.
Wiggy Brook Golf Club	<b>11.4</b>	10/15/2018	<b>11.2</b>
New Jersey State Golf Assoc.			
Worms Glen Golf Course	<b>11.4</b>	10/15/2018	<b>11.2</b>
New Jersey State Golf Assoc.			

Revision Scores		Recent Scores		H.I. Hist	C.H. Calc	My Card
Used	T	Date	Score	CR/Slope		Diff.
	H	9/18	88	71.7/130		14.2
	H	9/18	92	71.7/130		17.6
*	C	9/18	84	69.4/127		13.0
	H	9/18	90	70.0/128		17.7
*	H	9/18	79	69.0/125		9.0
*	H	9/18	81	69.2/125		10.7
	C	8/18	87	70.1/134		14.3
*	H	8/18	85	71.7/130		11.6
*	H	8/18	83	70.0/128		11.5
	A	8/18	89	71.8/131		14.8
*	C	8/18	82	69.4/127		11.2
*	H	8/18	83	69.0/125		12.7
	C	8/18	96	70.8/131		21.7
	A	7/18	91	72.2/137		15.5
*	H	7/18	82	69.0/125		11.8
	A	7/18	89	69.6/127		17.3
	A	6/18	88	71.5/129		14.5
	C	6/18	87	70.9/132		13.8
	A	5/18	94	70.6/128		20.7
	H	5/18	86	69.0/125		15.4

Using 8 best differentials out of 20:

13.0

9.0

10.7

11.6

11.5

11.2

12.7

11.8

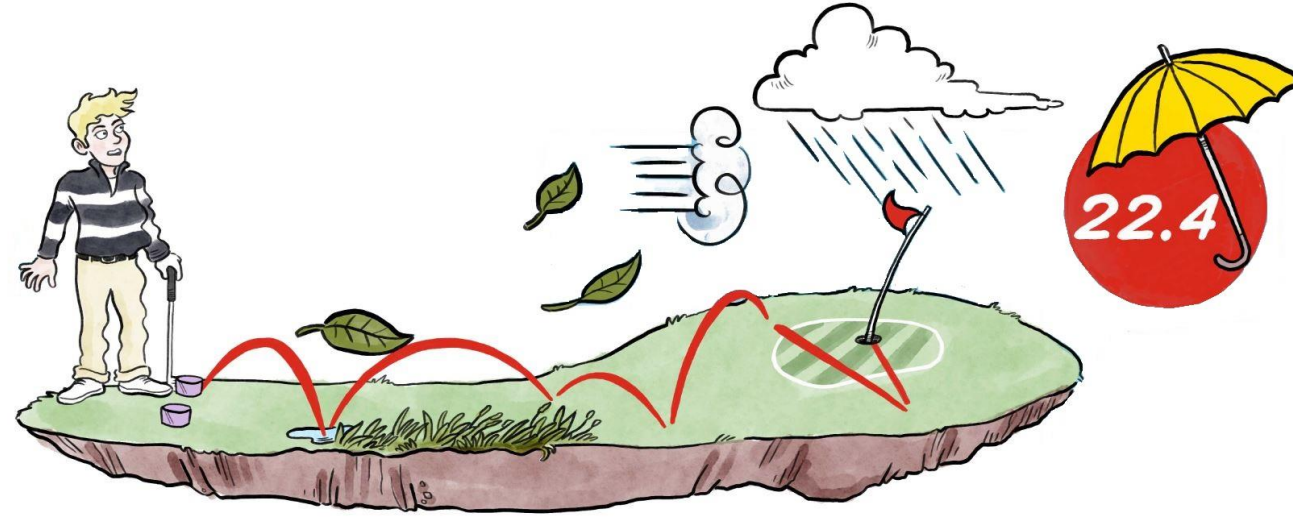
Handicap Index of **11.4**

# Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC)

When abnormal playing conditions cause scores to be unusually high or low on a given day, a Playing Conditions Calculation will adjust Score Differentials to better reflect the player's actual performance.

The 'PCC' will be simple and conservative in nature and will be adjusted in integer values.

*-1, +1, +2, +3*



# Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC)

- Is performed only once for a day.
- Considers acceptable scores submitted on a golf course, including all rated tees and both genders.
- Requires at least eight acceptable scores submitted by players with a Handicap Index of 36.0 or below.
- Is applied in the calculation of score differentials for all players.
- Includes both 9-hole and 18-hole acceptable scores.
- Regardless of when the score is posted, the PCC will impact the score differential.



# Exceptional Score Reduction (ESR)

ESR is a procedure for dealing with exceptional scores which may indicate the player's true ability. **All scores** are considered, rather than only Tournament scores.

*How does it work?*

- 1. Calculate Score Differential once score is posted and Playing Conditions Calculation is applied (when appropriate).
- 2. If Score Differential is **-7.0 strokes or better** than the Handicap Index from when the round was played;
- 3. Apply ESR table reduction to newly calculated Handicap Index.

<i>Score Differential Relative to Index</i>	7.0 – 9.9 strokes lower	10.0 or more
<i>ESR Adjustment</i>	-1.0	-2.0

➤ This is *in addition to* any reduction caused by the score being used in the updated 8 of 20 calculation.



# ESR

Note the scores made after the Exceptional Score will not have a -1 adjustment, which allows the ESR to take care of itself.

The player posted a second Exceptional Score on 9/5, which resulted in a -1 adjustment to their previous 20 differentials.

The player posted an Exceptional Score on 5/22, which resulted in a -1 adjustment to their previous 20 differentials.

	Score Type	Date Played	Adjusted Gross Score	Rating/Slope	PCC	Score Differential	Course Name
1		9/29/2020	92	70.5/125	0	19.4	Hill CC
2		9/22/2020	91	70.5/125	0	18.5	Hill CC
3		9/5/2020	75	70.5/125	0	4.1	Hill CC
4		9/1/2020	99	70.5/125	0	25.8	Hill CC
5		8/28/2020	89	70.5/125	0	16.7	Hill CC
6		8/23/2020	92	71.3/127	0	18.4	River CC
7		7/26/2020	87	72.2/131	0	12.8	Meadow CC
8		7/14/2020	97	70.5/125	0	24.0	Hill CC
9		7/4/2020	88	70.5/125	0	15.8	Hill CC
10		6/19/2020	87	71.3/127	0	13.5	River CC
11		6/18/2020	95	69.9/118	0	24.0	Valley CC
12		6/12/2020	86	70.1/115	0	15.6	Forest CC
13		6/5/2020	85	72.2/131	0	11.0	Meadow CC
14		6/2/2020	82	70.5/125	0	10.4	Hill CC
15		5/30/2020	94	70.5/125	0	21.2	Hill CC
16		5/25/2020	89	69.9/118	0	18.3	Valley CC
17		5/22/2020	75	70.5/125	0	4.1	Hill CC
18		4/29/2020	85	70.5/125	0	13.1	Hill CC
19		4/14/2020	93	70.5/125	0	20.3	Hill CC
20		4/10/2020	94	70.5/125	0	21.2	Hill CC
21		4/3/2020	86	72.2/131	0	12.1	Meadow CC
22		3/29/2020	84	72.2/131	0	10.2	Meadow CC
23		3/27/2020	92	70.5/125	0	19.4	Hill CC
24		3/22/2020	90	69.9/118	0	19.2	Valley CC
25		3/21/2020	89	70.5/125	0	16.7	Hill CC



	Score Type	Date Played	Adjusted Gross Score	Rating/Slope	PCC	Score Differential	Course Name	ESR Adjustment
1		9/29/2020	92	70.5/125	0	19.4	Hill CC	
2		9/22/2020	91	70.5/125	0	18.5	Hill CC	
3		9/5/2020	75	70.5/125	0	4.1	Hill CC	-1
4		9/1/2020	99	70.5/125	0	25.8	Hill CC	-1
5		8/28/2020	89	70.5/125	0	16.7	Hill CC	-1
6		8/23/2020	92	71.3/127	0	18.4	River CC	-1
7		7/26/2020	87	72.2/131	0	12.8	Meadow CC	-1
8		7/14/2020	97	70.5/125	0	24.0	Hill CC	-1
9		7/4/2020	88	70.5/125	0	15.8	Hill CC	-1
10		6/19/2020	87	71.3/127	0	13.5	River CC	-1
11		6/18/2020	95	69.9/118	0	24.0	Valley CC	-1
12		6/12/2020	86	70.1/115	0	15.6	Forest CC	-1
13		6/5/2020	85	72.2/131	0	11.0	Meadow CC	-1
14		6/2/2020	82	70.5/125	0	10.4	Hill CC	-1
15		5/30/2020	94	70.5/125	0	21.2	Hill CC	-1
16		5/25/2020	89	69.9/118	0	18.3	Valley CC	-1
17		5/22/2020	75	70.5/125	0	4.1	Hill CC	-1/-1
18		4/29/2020	85	70.5/125	0	13.1	Hill CC	-1/-1
19		4/14/2020	93	70.5/125	0	20.3	Hill CC	-1/-1
20		4/10/2020	94	70.5/125	0	21.2	Hill CC	-1/-1
21		4/3/2020	86	72.2/131	0	12.1	Meadow CC	-1/-1
22		3/29/2020	84	72.2/131	0	10.2	Meadow CC	-1/-1
23		3/27/2020	92	70.5/125	0	19.4	Hill CC	-1
24		3/22/2020	90	69.9/118	0	19.2	Valley CC	-1
25		3/21/2020	89	70.5/125	0	16.7	Hill CC	-1

# Memory of Low Handicap Index (LHI)

- The *LHI* represents the demonstrated ability of a player over the 12-month period preceding the most recent score in the player's scoring record.
- It provides a reference point against which the current Handicap Index can be compared.
- 4/25/2021 – Golfer submitted a score which produced a Handicap Index of 24.9
  - *Low Handicap Index at this time is 25.8 (from 5/3/2020)*

Retains a  
memory  
of your  
lowest  
Handicap  
Index



Upon recalculation the next day, a new Low Handicap Index of 24.9 is set.

# Limit on Upward Movement of a Handicap Index

- There is no limit on the amount by which a player's Handicap Index can decrease.
- There are two trigger points that will limit extreme upward movement of a Handicap Index.



Your Handicap Index should **NEVER** increase more than **five strokes** above your Low Handicap Index over a rolling **twelve-month period**

# Cap Procedure

A Soft Cap and Hard Cap will be implemented to limit the extreme upward movement of a player's Handicap Index within a 12-month period.

The *Soft Cap* will suppress upward movement by 50% after a 3.0 stroke increase over the Low Handicap Index has been reached.

The *Hard Cap* will restrict upward movement to 5.0 strokes over the Low Handicap Index.

*The soft cap and hard cap procedures only start to take effect once a player has at least 20 acceptable scores in their scoring record.*



Soft cap



Hard cap

# Soft Cap Example

---

*Player A has a Low H.I. of **10.0**. His current 8 of 20 average is **15.2***

---

**Step 1:** Add 3.0 to Low HI

$$10.0 + 3.0 = 13.0$$

---

**Step 2:** Determine difference between current 8 of 20 average and Step 1:

$$15.2 - 13.0 = 2.2$$

---

**Step 3:** Add 50% of the resulting value to Step 1:

$$13.0 + 1.1 = 14.1$$

---

**Handicap Index:** 14.1



# Hard Cap Example

---

*Player A has a Low H.I. of **10.0**. A's current 8 of 20 average is **17.4***

---

**Step 1: Add 7.0 to Low HI**

$$10.0 + 7.0 = 17.0$$

---

**Step 2: Compare 8 of 20 value to Step 1. If 8 of 20 is greater value, go to Step 3.**

17.4 vs. 17.0    8 of 20 is greater

---

**Step 3: Because 8 of 20 is greater, Hard Cap applies and limits Index to 15.0**

**Handicap Index: ~~17.4~~ 15.0**



Hard cap



# Daily Revisions/Timeframe for Submitting a Score

- A Handicap Index will update daily.
- Players should submit their scores as soon as possible after the round is completed, and before midnight (local time).
- This is to ensure the score will be used for the Playing Conditions Calculation.
- A player's Handicap Index should be updated the day after a score is submitted.

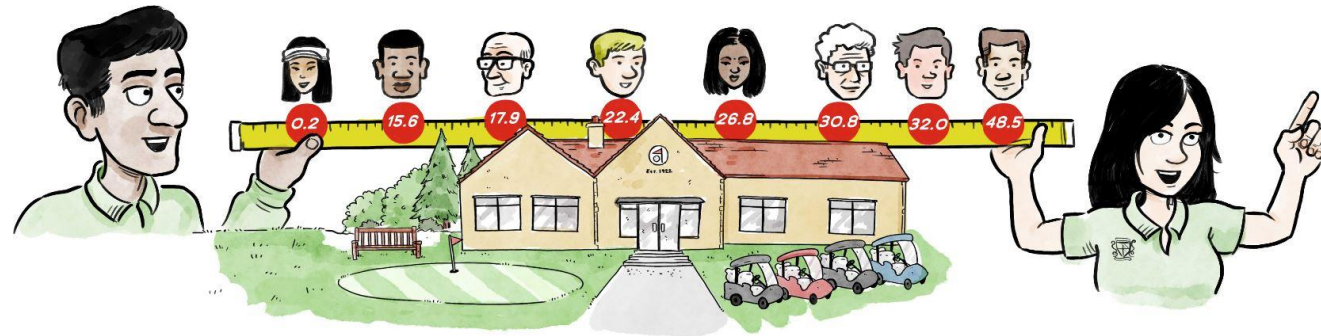


# Club Handicap Committee Responsibilities

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# Handicap Review

- It is strongly recommended that the Handicap Committee conducts handicap reviews regularly.
- Reports will be available to Handicap Committees to identify those players requiring a handicap review.
- A player can request a handicap review if they believe their Handicap Index no longer reflects their demonstrated ability.
- A player must be made aware of, and be involved in, the handicap review process and be able to appeal a decision.



# Handicap Review

**A review could involve the analysis of any or all of the following information:**

Deviations from the expected scoring performance for the player.

Frequency of score submissions in last 12 months v previous 12-month cycles.

The trend of the player's Handicap Index - differences in player's Handicap Index over last 12months/24 months.

The player's scoring record history.

% of acceptable scores submitted at a player's home club.

% of acceptable scores from 9-hole rounds.

Any scores from, or performances known, in non-authorized formats of play.

Comparison of average score differentials in match play v stroke play formats of play.

Comparison of average score differentials between competitive and casual rounds.

# Adjusting a Handicap Index

When a handicap review has been completed, the Handicap Committee can adjust a player's Handicap Index to better reflect their demonstrated ability, based on the results of the analysis.

The adjustment must satisfy the following criteria:

- Be a minimum of 1 full stroke; and
- Except in exceptional circumstance, only increase a player's Handicap Index by up to 5.0 strokes above their Low Handicap Index.

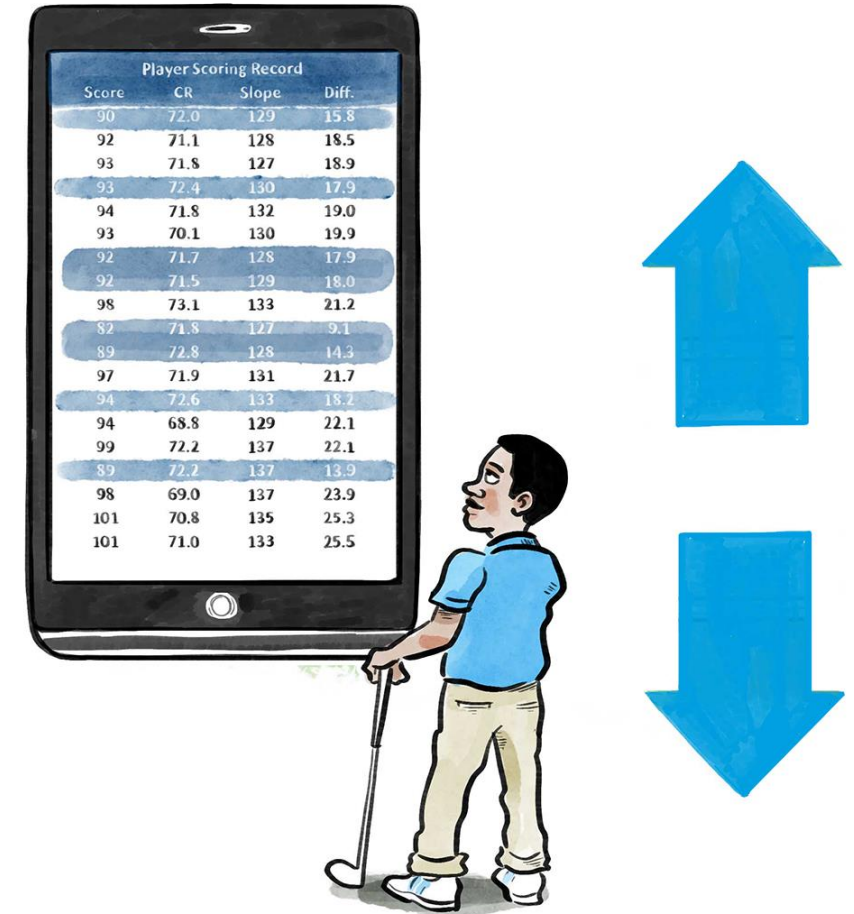


*There is no limit as to how far downward a Handicap Index can be adjusted.*

# Adjusting Upward or Downward

The adjustment, upward or downward, must have the effect of:

- Freezing/modifying the Handicap Index for a defined period of time as determined by the Handicap Committee, or
- Resetting the Handicap Index by applying an adjustment to each of the most recent 20 score differentials in the scoring record, to achieve the chosen Handicap Index.





# Applying a Penalty Score

If a player fails to submit a score from an authorized format of play, the Handicap Committee should *investigate* and *take appropriate action*.

- If the reason was valid and an acceptable score is still discoverable, that score will be posted.
- If there was no valid reason and an acceptable score is discoverable, that score will be posted.
- If the score is not discoverable, a penalty score may be posted.
- In the most serious cases, such as repeated failure to submit acceptable scores, the Committee has discretion to apply additional penalty scores, reset the player's Handicap Index or consider other disciplinary procedures.

If you fail to submit score when required



# Withdrawing a Handicap Index

**The Handicap Committee, or SCGA, should withdraw the Handicap Index of a player who deliberately or repeatedly fails to comply with the player's responsibilities under the Rules of Handicapping.**

**The withdrawal of a player's Handicap Index can be applied only after the player has been informed and has had an opportunity to respond to the Handicap Committee and/or SCGA.**

**Reinstatement of the Handicap Index can take place when a player has met conditions set forth by the Handicap Committee.**



# Competition Committee Responsibilities



# Competition Committee

**The Committee in charge of a competition may set a maximum limit for play within their Terms of the Competition.**

**For example:**

- **A maximum Handicap Index for entry;**
- **A maximum Handicap Index a player is permitted to use;**
- **A maximum Course Handicap; and**
- **A maximum Playing Handicap.**



# Terms of Competition

For example, a limit of 18.0 may be set by Committee, with higher Handicap Index players being restricted to playing from a Handicap Index of 18.0 for the purposes of that competition.

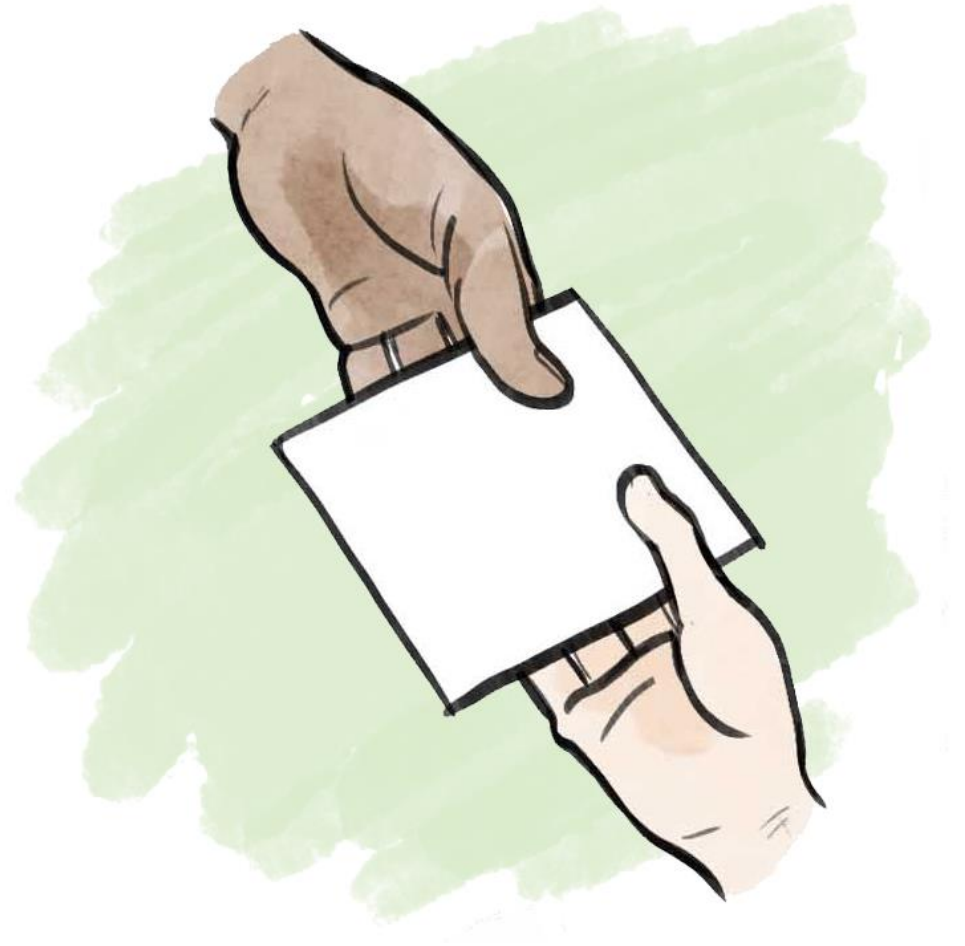
Even though higher handicap players are restricted to playing from a Handicap Index of 18.0 in this example, their full Course Handicap should be used in determining the score to post for handicap purposes.





# Terms of Competition

**The Committee in charge of a competition may reserve the right to adjust the Playing Handicap of an entrant within its Terms of the Competition, where they have evidence that the player's Handicap Index does not reflect their demonstrated ability.**





# Multi-round Competitions

For multi-round competitions it is strongly recommended that a term of competition is introduced that the Handicap Index used at the start of the competition be used for the duration of the event.

The Committee always has the discretion to decide the Playing Handicap the player should use for any round.



# Handicap Allowances

Handicap Allowances are recommended to provide equity for various forms of team competition.

Allowance recommendations will be the same for men and women.

MATCH PLAY	
Format:	Allowance:
Head to Head	100%
Four-ball	95%
Total Score of 2 Match Play	100%
Foursomes	50% Combined
Selected Drive (Greensomes)	60% Low + 40% High
Pinehurst/Chapman	60% Low + 40% High

STROKE PLAY	
Format:	Allowance:
Singles Stroke Play/Stableford	95%
Four-ball Stroke Play	85%
Maximum Score Form of Stroke Play	95%
Best 1 of 4 Stroke Play	75%
Best 2 of 4 Stroke Play	85%
Best 3 of 4 Stroke Play	100%
All 4 of 4 Stroke Play	100%
Total Score of 2	100%
Foursomes	50% combined
Selected Drive (Greensomes)	60% Low + 40% High
Pinehurst/Chapman	60% Low + 40% High
Scramble (4 players)	25%/20%/15%/10% from lowest to highest handicap
Scramble (2 players)	35% Low, 15% High

# Education and Resources

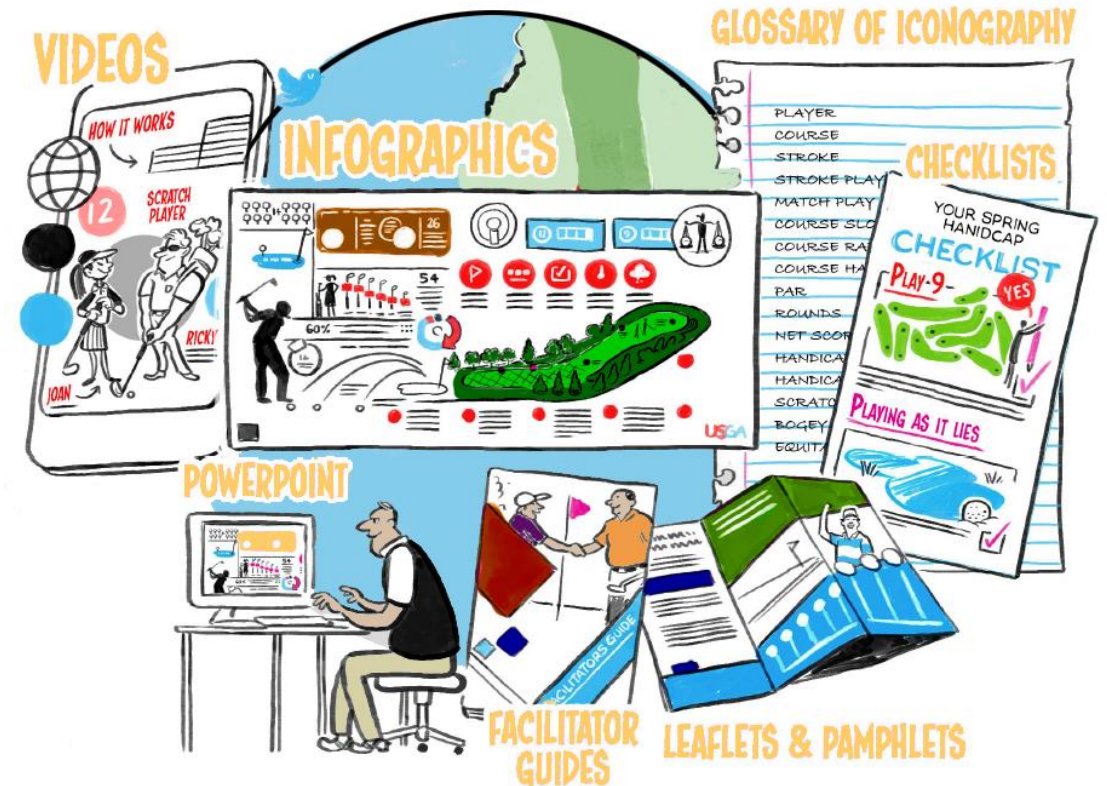
The background of the slide is a dark gray field filled with intricate, light gray, hand-drawn style lines. These lines form a complex network of organic, flowing shapes and patterns, reminiscent of a topographical map or a microscopic view of tissue. Some areas are filled with a fine, diagonal hatching pattern, while others are solid dark gray, creating a textured and layered visual effect.

# Education Overview

## Tools and Resources

The following resources are being developed to enable golfers and golf clubs to learn about the Rules of Handicapping.

- Rules of Handicapping book
- Player's Guide
- Committee Guide
- Handicap Chair toolkit
- Videos
- Video Snippets/Snackable pieces
- Infographics/Posters
- Online articles & common FAQs to enhance learning





# World Handicap System(WHS) Hub on SCGA.org



Beginning on Jan. 1, 2020, the USGA and the R&A will implement major changes to the fabric of our handicap system. This revamped World Handicap System aims to bring the game of golf under a single set of handicapping rules and provide a more consistent measure of players' ability between different regions of the world. The WHS Hub will serve as your one-stop shop for the key changes and what you need to know before this new system goes into place. Below you will find information on each of the major changes in digestible videos and printable PDF documents. Please share this WHS Hub with all of your fellow golfers!



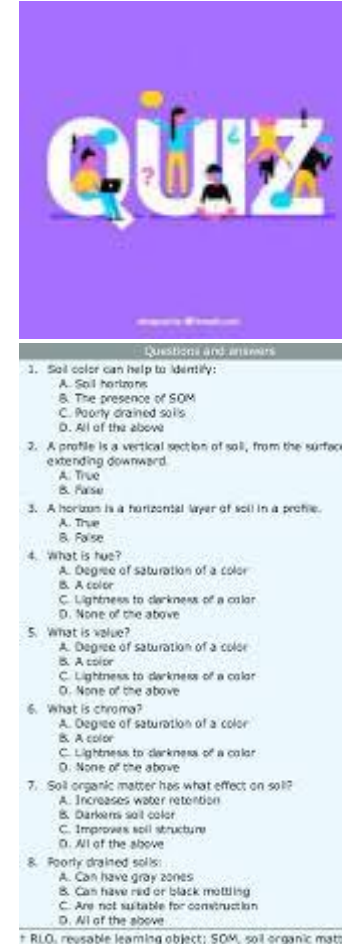
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# Certification Requirements

Each club must have a representative that completes certification requirements by mid-2020.

The requirement participating in a seminar **AND** includes passing a quiz.





# Thank you for attending!

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[courserating@scga.org](mailto:courserating@scga.org)

