

# WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM

## Rules of Handicapping

Presenter: JIM COWAN, NCGA

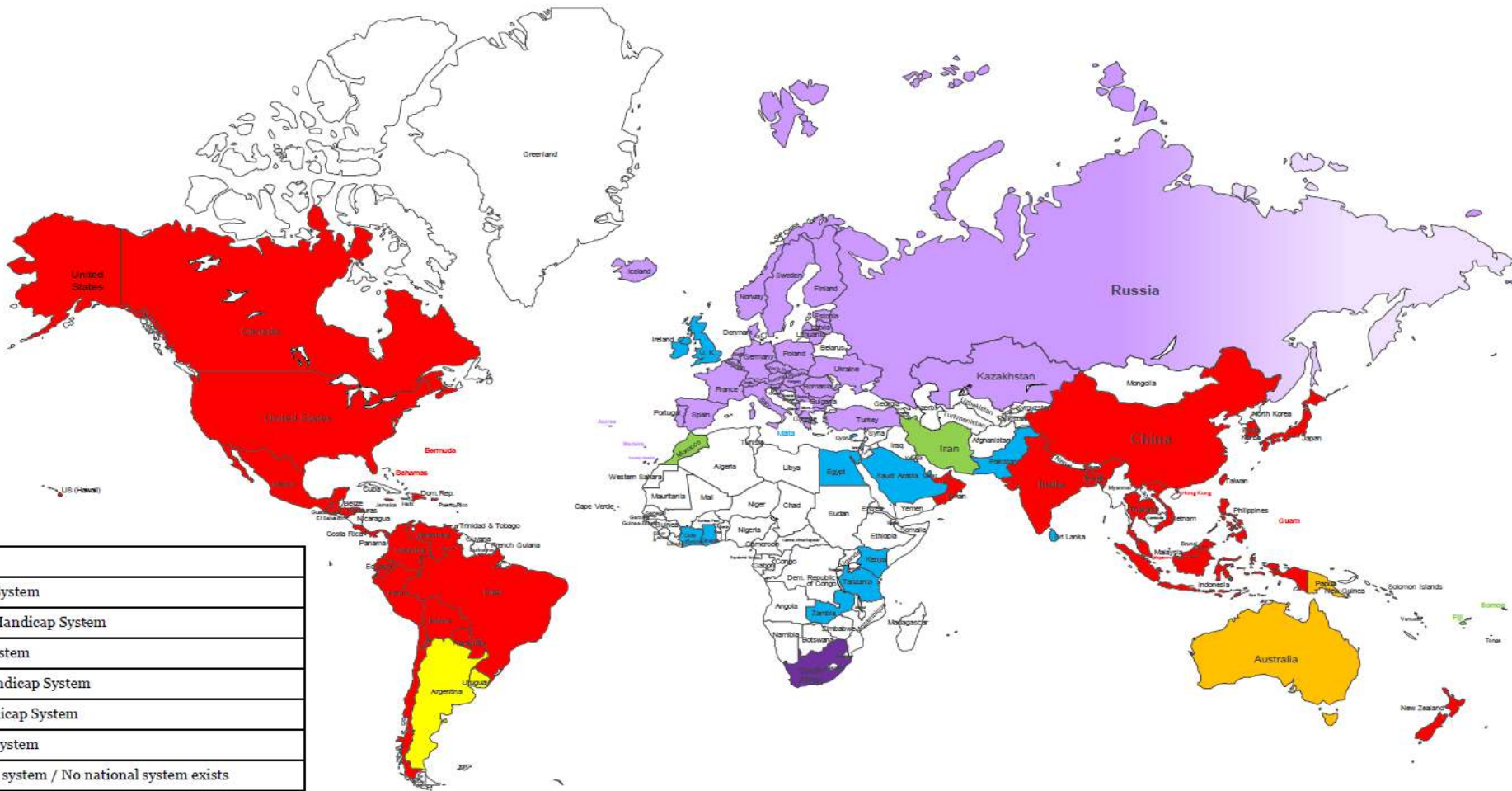
Date: NOV-DEC, 2019



The background of the slide is a dark gray color. It features several thin, light gray wavy lines that meander across the surface, creating a topographical or organic feel. There are also several irregular, darker gray shapes scattered throughout, some of which are filled with fine, parallel white lines (hatching).

# Welcome to the WHS

# Six Systems to One



Key	
	USGA Handicap System
	CONGU Unified Handicap System
	EGA Handicap System
	Golf Australia Handicap System
	Argentinian Handicap System
	SAGA 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.

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

## Governance Structure

Rules of Golf

Rules of Amateur  
Status

The Equipment  
Rules

World Handicap  
System

# Hierarchy

The USGA and The R&A	Are joint governing authorities and are responsible for authorizing use of the World Handicap System.
National Associations	Have the exclusive rights to implement and administer the World Handicap System within its jurisdiction, including the issuance of a Handicap Index. <b>USGA</b>
Allied Golf Associations	AGAs are affiliated to the USGA and comprised of golf clubs and/or golfers within a defined area. <b>NCGA</b>
Golf Club/Handicap Committee	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.
Player	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.

# 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.

Use the Rule Book whenever a question arises about the World Handicap System.



# QUESTIONS?



# 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. Some of these regions are filled with fine, parallel diagonal lines, while others are solid. The overall effect is a complex, organic, and textured pattern.



# Purpose of the World Handicap System

The World Handicap System includes the Rules of Handicapping and the Course Rating System. Its purpose is to make the game of golf more enjoyable and 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.



# 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).

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 DOUBLE BOGEY



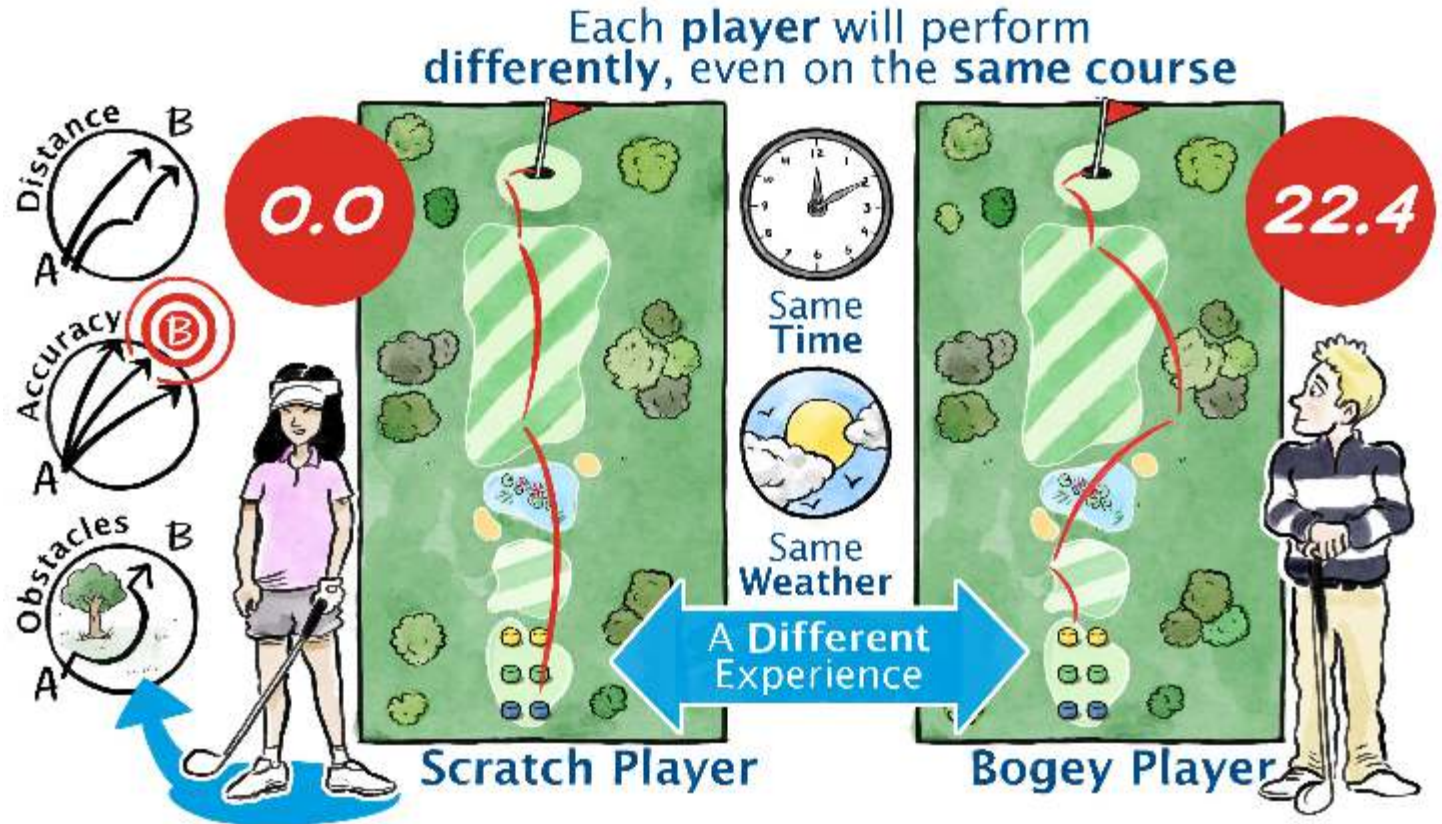
## NET PAR

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

# Course Rating System

The USGA Course Rating System is already in use not only in connection with the USGA Handicap System, but also with other existing Handicap systems.

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.

It is expressed as the number of strokes taken to one decimal place and is 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.

It is expressed as the number of strokes taken to one decimal place and is based on yardage and other obstacles to the extent that they affect the scoring difficulty of the bogey player.

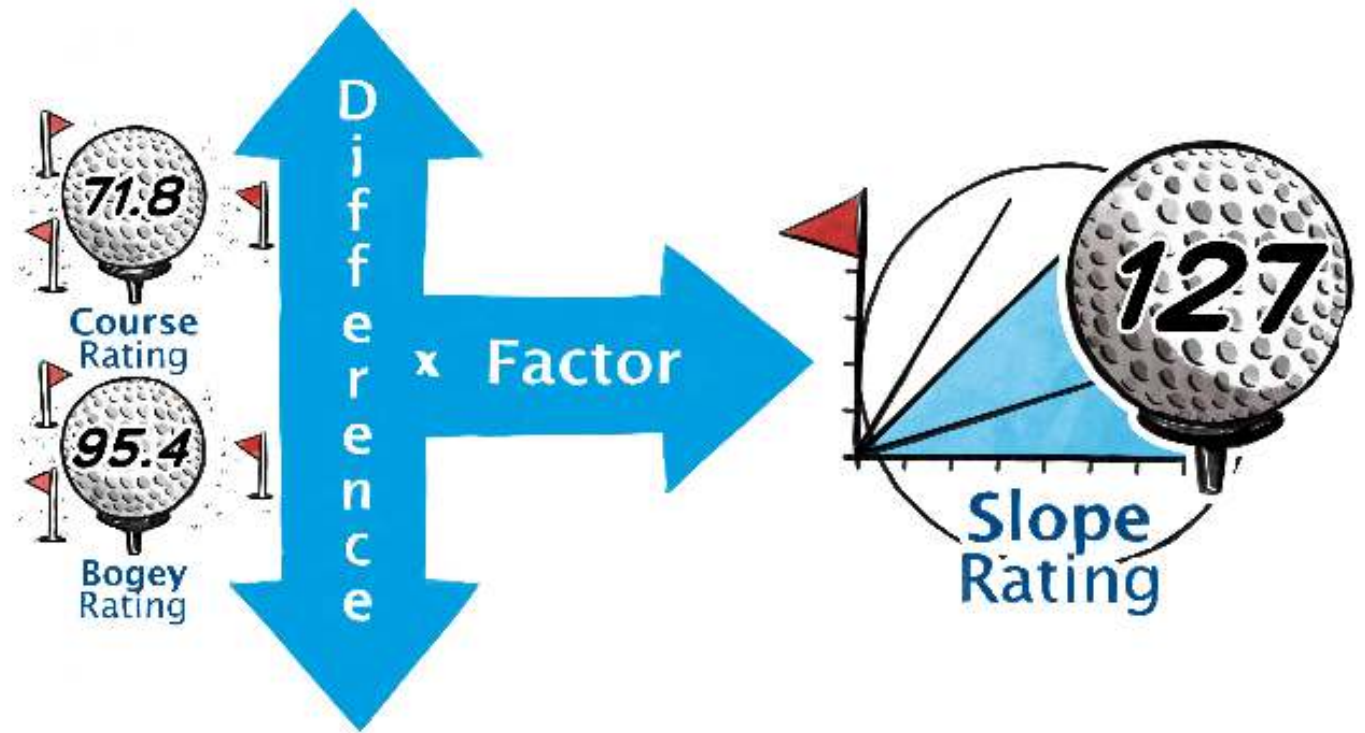


# What is Slope Rating?

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

- Course Rating
- Bogey Rating

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



# Course Handicap

Under the *Rules of Handicapping*, 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:

$$\text{Course Handicap} = (\text{Handicap Index} \times \text{Slope Rating} / 113) + (CR - PAR)$$





# Course Handicap

## Can I see an example?

Course Info			
Tee	Course Rating	Slope Rating	Par
Green	72.0	128	70
White	70.0	125	70
Silver	68.0	119	70

Impact on 15.0 Handicap Index		
2019 Course Handicap	2020 Course Handicap	Target Score
17	19	89
17	17	87
16	14	84

In this example, a 15.0 Handicap Index player's Course Handicap will **increase** from the Green Tees (since the Course Rating is higher than Par), **decrease** from the Silver Tees (since the Course Rating is lower than Par), and **stay the same** from the White Tees (since the Course Rating and Par are the same).

Note: Your Target Score (the score needed to play to your handicap) will not change.

In 2019, it's equal to Course Handicap + Course Rating. In 2020, it's equal to Course Handicap + Par.

# Playing Handicap

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

Within the *Rules of Handicapping*, the adjusted Course Handicap will be referred to as a **Playing Handicap**.

***Playing Handicap***

=

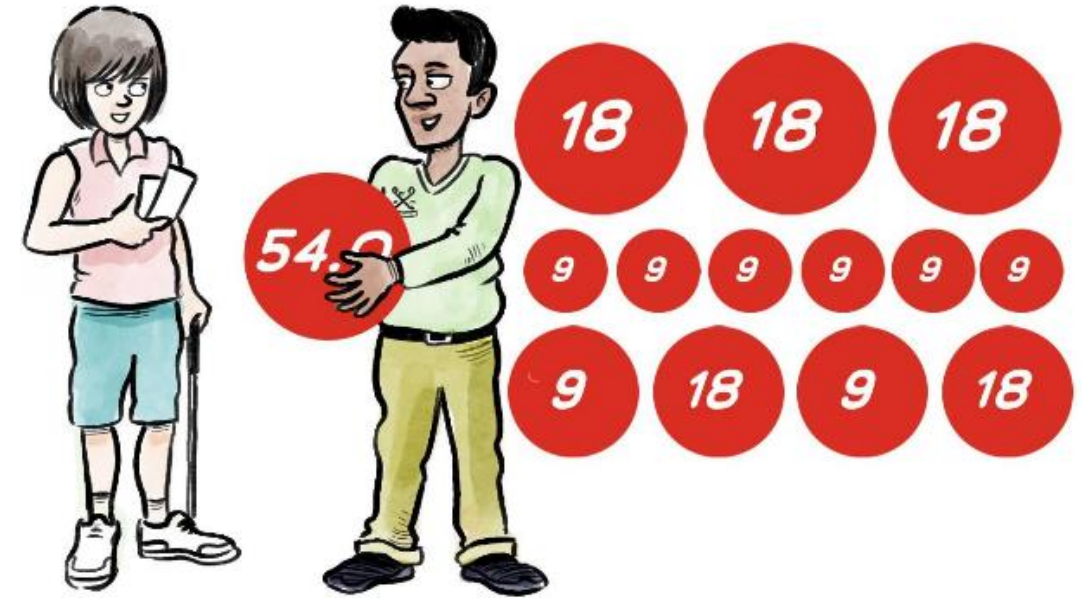
***Course Handicap x Handicap Allowance***

If different tees are in use, 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.
- Strong recommendation that initial scores are submitted hole-by-hole to better assess the potential of the player.



# 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 hole 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



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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		
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↓  
7 → = Net double bogey adjustment of -1

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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

→ 94



7

→

=

Net double bogey adjustment of -1

# Application of Net Double Bogey Adjustment

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Bronze Tees Course Rating: 72.1      Slope Rating: 122  
Name of Player: *Janet Smith*  
Course Handicap: 18

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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

Score for Competition = 95  
Score for Handicap Purposes = 94

→ 94

↓  
7 → = Net double bogey adjustment of -1

# Incomplete Holes - Most Likely Score

When a player starts, but does not complete a hole, the score recorded for handicap purposes is the Most Likely Score.

The Rules of Handicapping includes the following guidelines for determining a most likely score:

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 reconstruction 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 play and stroke play – including multi-ball or team competitions where players have not completed one or more holes or players are requested to pick up when out of contention on 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.*





# Unacceptable Scores

A score is not acceptable for handicap purposes and must not be posted to a player's scoring record 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 or more holes but fewer than the minimum number of holes for an 18-hole score to be acceptable, then the 9-hole score will be posted and then combined with next 9-hole score.

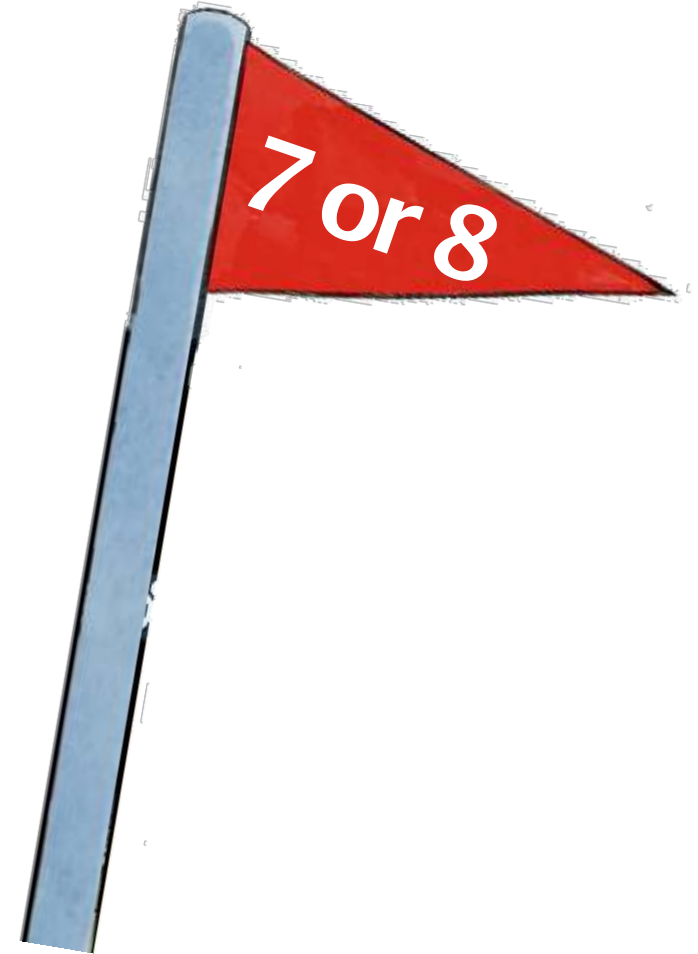
$$\begin{array}{c} 9 + 9 = \\ 18 \end{array}$$

# 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 produced by adding a score of Net Par for the remaining hole(s).

This 9-hole score must then be combined with another 9-hole score to produce an 18-hole score differential.



# Timeframe for Submitting a Score

A player should submit their score as soon as possible on the day of play and preferably before midnight (local time).

If a player does not submit their score on the day of play, their score will not be included within the daily playing conditions calculation.

When the score is subsequently posted to the player's scoring record, the published playing conditions calculation for the day should be applied to the player's score differential calculation.



# QUESTIONS?

# 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

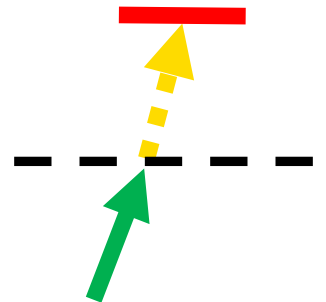
**3)** A Playing Conditions Calculation.



**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 scoring record	<i>Score differential(s)</i> to be used in calculation of <i>Handicap Index</i>	Adjustment
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 Score Differential

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

**Score Differential =**

**$(113 / \text{Slope Rating}) \times (\text{Adjusted Gross Score} - \text{Course Rating} - \text{PCC adjustment})$**

# Calculation of a Score Differential

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

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

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



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



# Calculation of a Handicap Index

## For 20 Scores

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

Your  
**Handicap  
Index** is  
based on:



# Sample Calculation

Type	Date	Score	Rated	Used	Diff.	Course Played
A	8/14/2019	86	68.7/126		15.5	Twin Pines Country Club
A	8/11/2019	86	70.5/127	*	13.8	The Crossings
H	8/8/2019	94	68.8/127		22.4	Warren Golf Course
H	8/7/2019	89	68.8/127		18	Warren Golf Course
A	8/5/2019	89	71.4/125		15.9	Red River Country Club
H	7/30/2019	84	68.8/127	*	13.5	Warren Golf Course
H	7/29/2019	86	68.8/127		15.3	Warren Golf Course
H	7/28/2019	89	68.8/127		18	Warren Golf Course
A	7/20/2019	90	72.4/138	*	14.4	Lost Valley Country Club
A	7/15/2019	88	68.0/114		19.8	Spooky Point Golf Course
A	7/7/2019	86	71.0/135	*	12.6	Peninsula Golf Club
A	7/6/2019	86	71.0/135	*	12.6	Peninsula Golf Club
A	7/4/2019	84	68.8/124	*	13.9	Twin Pines Country Club
A	6/20/2019	91	71.9/130		16.6	The National Club
A	5/20/2019	88	72.3/134	*	13.2	Red River Country Club
A	5/19/2019	94	72.3/134		18.3	Red River Country Club
A	5/15/2019	87	71.0/135	*	13.4	Peninsula Golf Club
H	5/1/2019	95	70.0/128		22.1	Warren Golf Course
H	4/10/2019	82	67.8/122	*	13.2	Warren Golf Course
H	4/2/2019	84	68.5/124	*	14.1	Warren Golf Course

**USGA Handicap System: 12.9**

Type	Date	Score	Rated	Used	Diff.	Course Played
A	8/14/2019	86	68.7/126		15.5	Twin Pines Country Club
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A	5/20/2019	88	72.3/134	*	13.2	Red River Country Club
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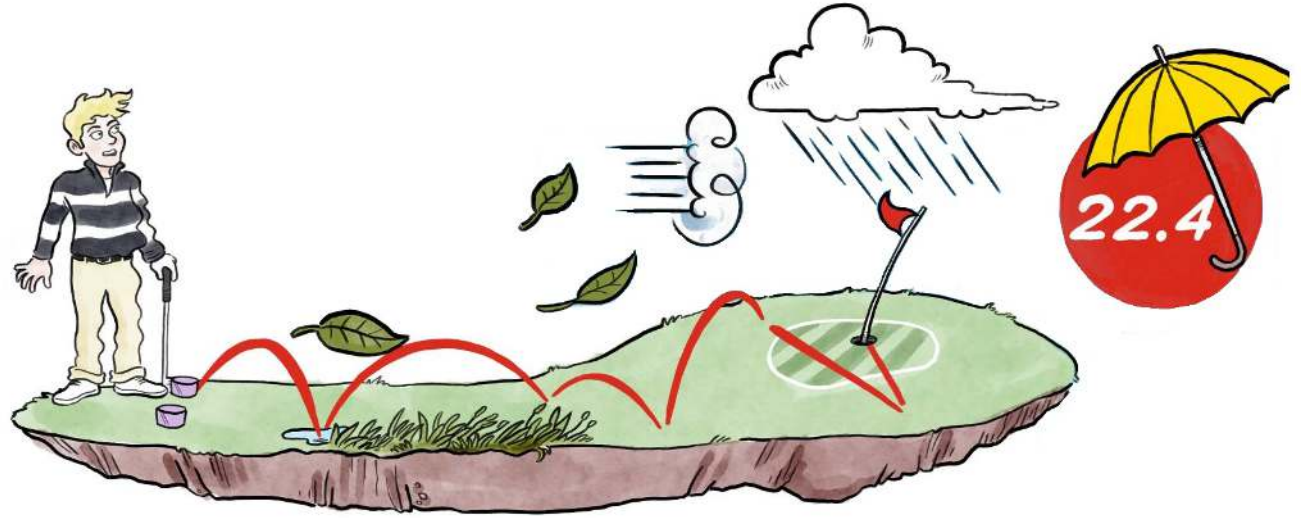
**World Handicap System: 13.3**

# Playing Conditions Calculation

When adverse weather conditions or abnormal course set-up causes 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, etc.*





# Playing Conditions Calculation

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.



# Exceptional Score Reduction

ESR is a procedure for dealing with exceptional scores which may indicate the player's true ability. The procedure considers all scores, 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. Calculate new Handicap Index.
3. If Score Differential is **-7.0** strokes or better than the Handicap Index from when the round was played, apply ESR table reduction to new Handicap Index:

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

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



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.

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

# Memory of Low Handicap Index

The *Low Handicap Index* represents the demonstrated ability of a player over the 12-month period preceding the most recent score in the player's scoring record and 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 7.1
  - Low Handicap Index at this time is 6.2 (from 5/5/2020)
- When the golfer plays again on 5/16/2021, the Low Handicap Index of 6.2 would still be used for the Cap procedure, even though it's more than 12 months old
- Upon recalculation the next day, a new Low Handicap Index would be set

Retains a  
memory  
of your  
lowest  
Handicap  
Index



# 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

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

---

**Step 1:** Subtract the Low H.I. from current 8 of 20 average:

$$15.2 - 10.0 = 5.2$$

---

**Step 2:** Determine how much greater than 3.0 the result is:

$$5.2 - 3.0 = 2.2$$

---

**Step 3:** Subtract 50% of the resulting value from 8 of 20 average:

Current 8 of 20 average: **15.2** -

50% of 2.2: **1.1**

---

**Handicap Index: 14.1**



# Hard Cap Example

---

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

---

**Step 1:** Subtract the Low H.I. from current 8 of 20 average:

$$17.4 - 10.0 = 7.4$$

---

**Step 2:** Determine how much greater than 3.0 the result is:

$$7.4 - 3.0 = 4.4$$

---

**Step 3:** Subtract 50% of the resulting value from 8 of 20 average:

Current 8 of 20 average: **17.4** -

50% of 4.4: **2.2**

---

Handicap Index: ~~**15.2**~~ **15.0**



Hard cap



# Daily Revisions

Under the Rules of Handicapping, a Handicap Index will update the day after a score(s) is posted.

- Players should submit their scores as soon as possible after the round is completed, and before midnight.
- This is to ensure the score will be used for the Playing Conditions Calculation.
- A player's Handicap Index can also be revised by a Committee adjustment.





# QUESTIONS?

# Club Handicap Committee Responsibilities

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# Handicap Review

- It is strongly recommended that the Handicap Committee conducts a handicap review at least once a year, for all players for which it is responsible.
- WHS compliant technology should provide reports to assist Handicap Committees 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:

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

Deviations from the expected scoring performance for the player.

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 downwards a Handicap Index can be adjusted.



# Adjusting a Handicap Index

The Handicap Committee can adjust a player's Handicap Index to ensure that it reflects their demonstrated ability. In doing so, the Handicap Committee should consider all available information relating to the player's demonstrated ability, including:

- The player's scoring potential,
- Any handicap(s) previously held by the player, and
- Whether the player is an improver, a steady player or a declining player.

The Handicap Committee should consult with, or have ratified, any player's handicap adjustment by the **NCGA**.

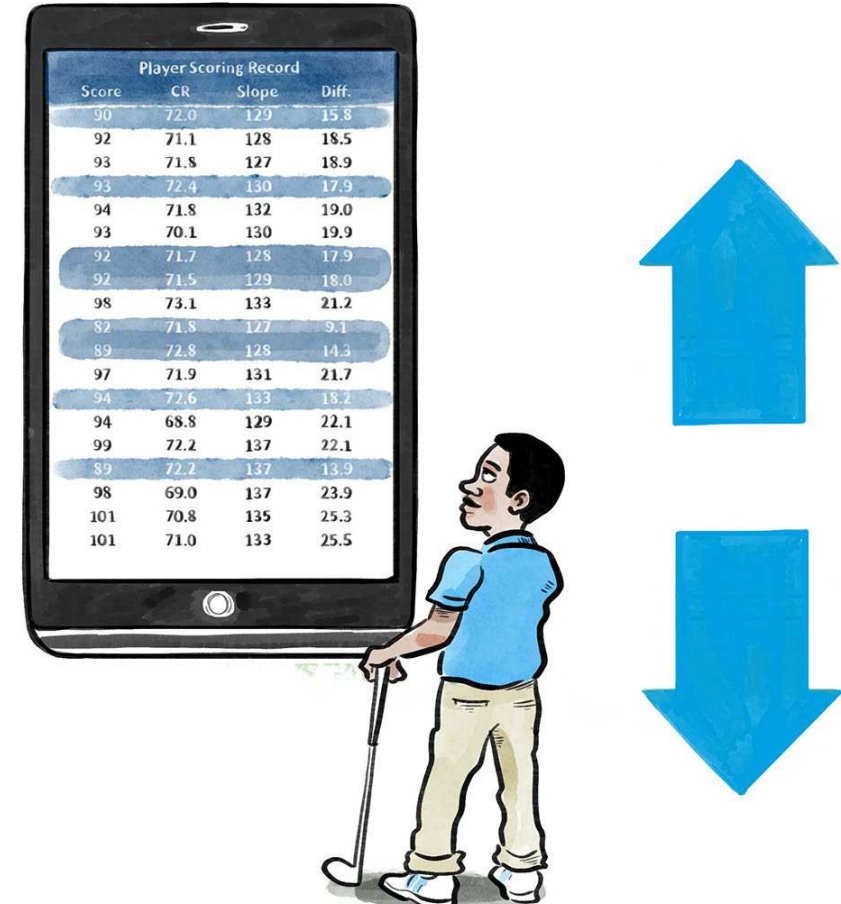




# Adjusting Upward or Downward

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



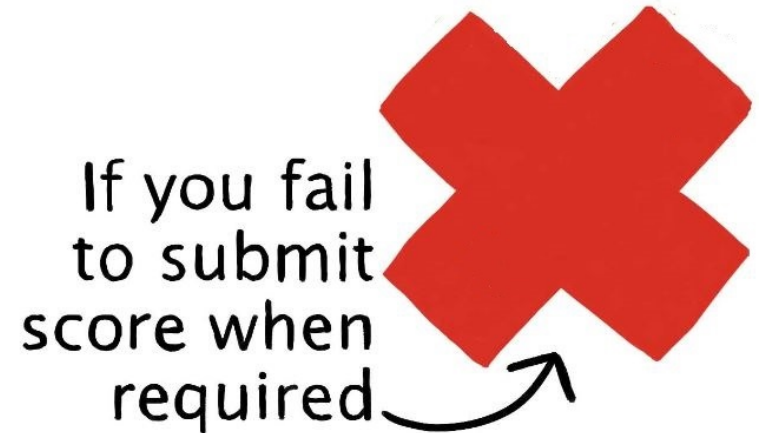
Score	CR	Slope	Diff.
90	72.0	129	15.8
92	71.1	128	18.5
93	71.8	127	18.9
93	72.4	130	17.9
94	71.8	132	19.0
93	70.1	130	19.9
92	71.7	128	17.9
92	71.5	129	18.0
98	73.1	133	21.2
82	71.8	127	9.1
89	72.8	128	14.3
97	71.9	131	21.7
94	72.6	133	18.2
94	68.8	129	22.1
99	72.2	137	22.1
89	72.2	137	13.9
98	69.0	137	23.9
101	70.8	135	25.3
101	71.0	133	25.5



# 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.



# Withdrawing a Handicap Index

The Handicap Committee, or AGA, 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 should be applied only after the player has been informed and has had an opportunity to respond to the Handicap Committee and/or AGA.

A player must be notified of the period of Handicap Index withdrawal and any additional conditions.



# Reinstating a Handicap Index

Reinstatement of a player's Handicap Index will be required when a player's Handicap Index has been withdrawn for a period of time, after which it will become eligible to be reinstated.

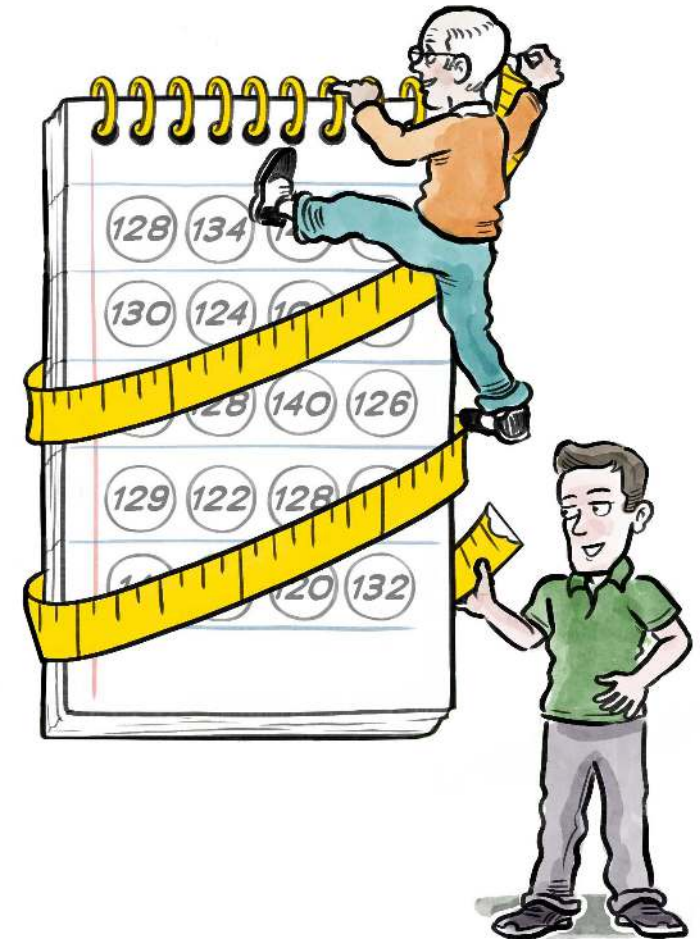


# Considerations When Reinstating a Handicap Index

To determine the level of Handicap Index at which the player is to be reinstated, the Handicap Committee may wish to consider:

- Reinstating the Handicap Index at a level that the Handicap Committee feels is currently reflective of the player's demonstrated ability,
- Applying the handicap allocation procedure as if the player were new to the game, or
- Reinstating the last recorded Handicap Index.

It is strongly recommended that under this option the Handicap Committee monitors the player's Handicap Index closely over subsequent rounds and, where required, makes appropriate adjustments.



# QUESTIONS?

# 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.
- A maximum Playing Handicap.





# Terms of Competition Example

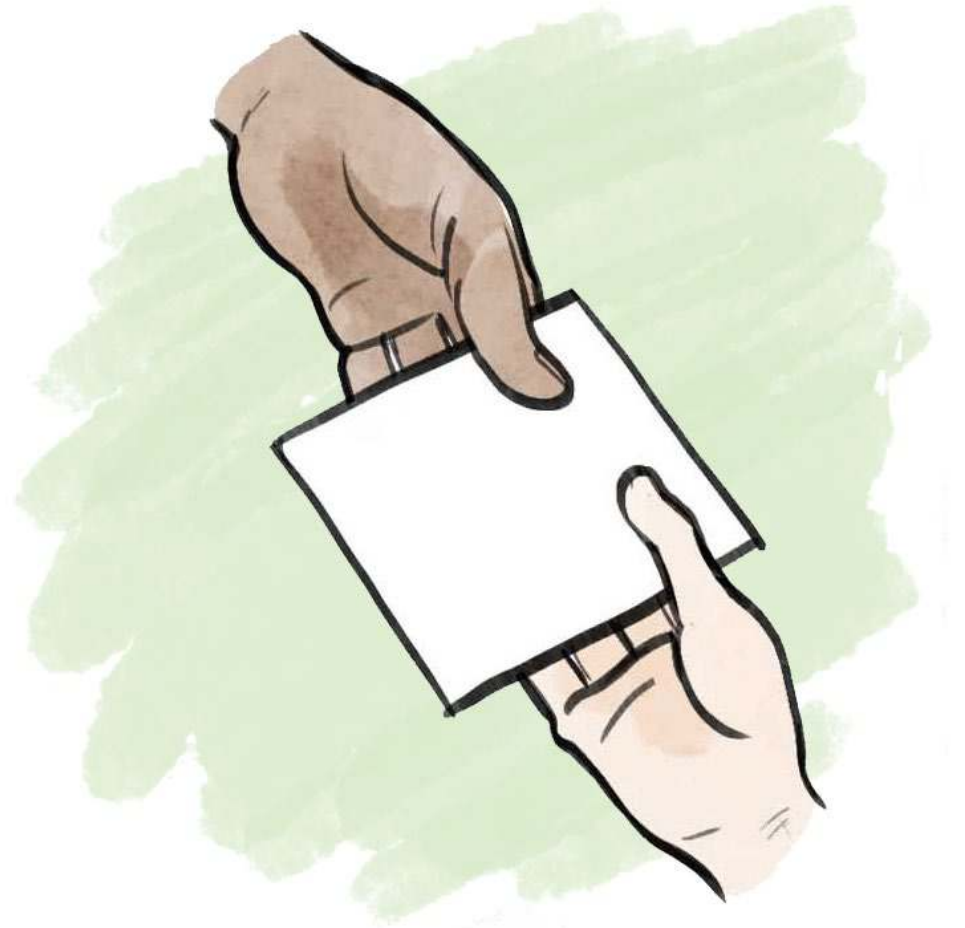
For example, a limit of 18.0 may be set by Committee, with higher Handicap Index players being restricted to playing from a Handicap Index of 18.0 for the purposes of that competition.

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 the 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 which are played during the same or consecutive days, it is strongly recommended that a term of competition is introduced to state that the Handicap Index used at the start of the competition be used for the duration of the event, for ease of competition administration purposes. Scores should still be posted by the end of each day.

In a situation when a new round is played before the player's Handicap Index has been updated, the Committee in charge of the competition or the Handicap Committee has the discretion to decide the Playing Handicap the player should use (see Rule 7-2).



# Handicap Allowances

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

Under the Rules of Handicapping, the 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

# QUESTIONS?



# Miscellaneous

The background of the slide is a dark gray color. It features several thin, white, wavy lines that meander across the surface, creating a sense of movement and depth. Interspersed among these lines are several irregular, light gray shaded regions. Some of these regions are solid, while others have a fine, diagonal hatching pattern, adding texture and visual interest to the overall design.

# 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.





# Stroke Index Allocation

The Rules of Handicapping will recommend using Course Rating data to rank the holes for Stroke Index allocation. The recommendation is to allocate 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 the 18 holes to give 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 1st or 3rd 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 of the stroke index allocation above.

# Adjudicating Hole Par

Because of the new Course Handicap calculation, Net Par and Net Double Bogey, it's important to have accurate pars for each hole determined for both men and women and have these used for handicap purposes – ideally printed alongside each hole on the scorecard.

It is recommended that Par is established for each hole, in accordance with the hole lengths indicated in the table.

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

# Adjudicating Hole Par

Where hole lengths fall on a break point, it may be appropriate to designate par relative to the way the hole was designed to be played. For example, men's hole lengths from all sets of tees on a specific hole lie within the recommended par 4 range, except for the forward tee at 250 yards. If the hole was designed to play as a par-4 hole, then it can be assigned as such.

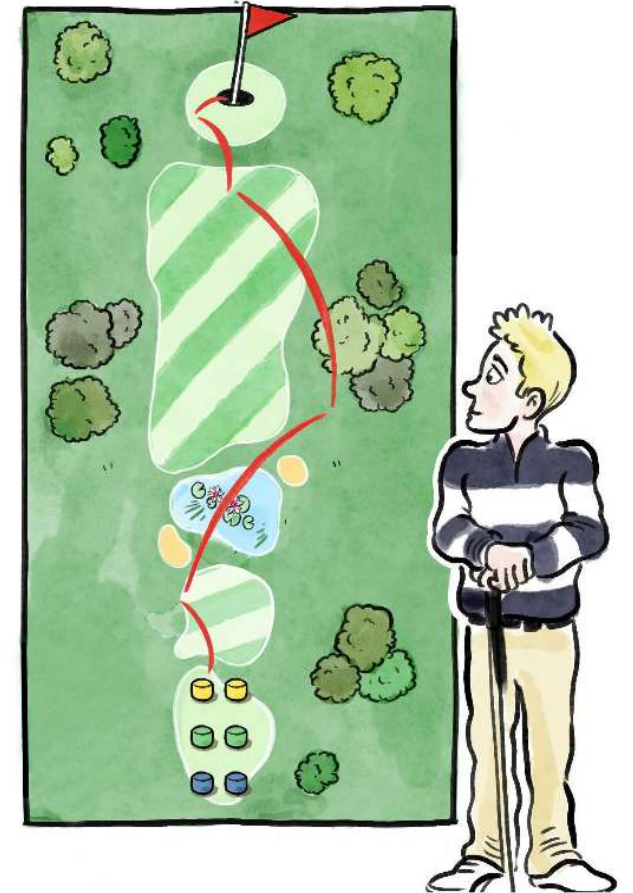
The ***Allied Golf Association, NCGA***, will have final say if there is a dispute.



# Temporary Ratings for an Unrated Set of Tees

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

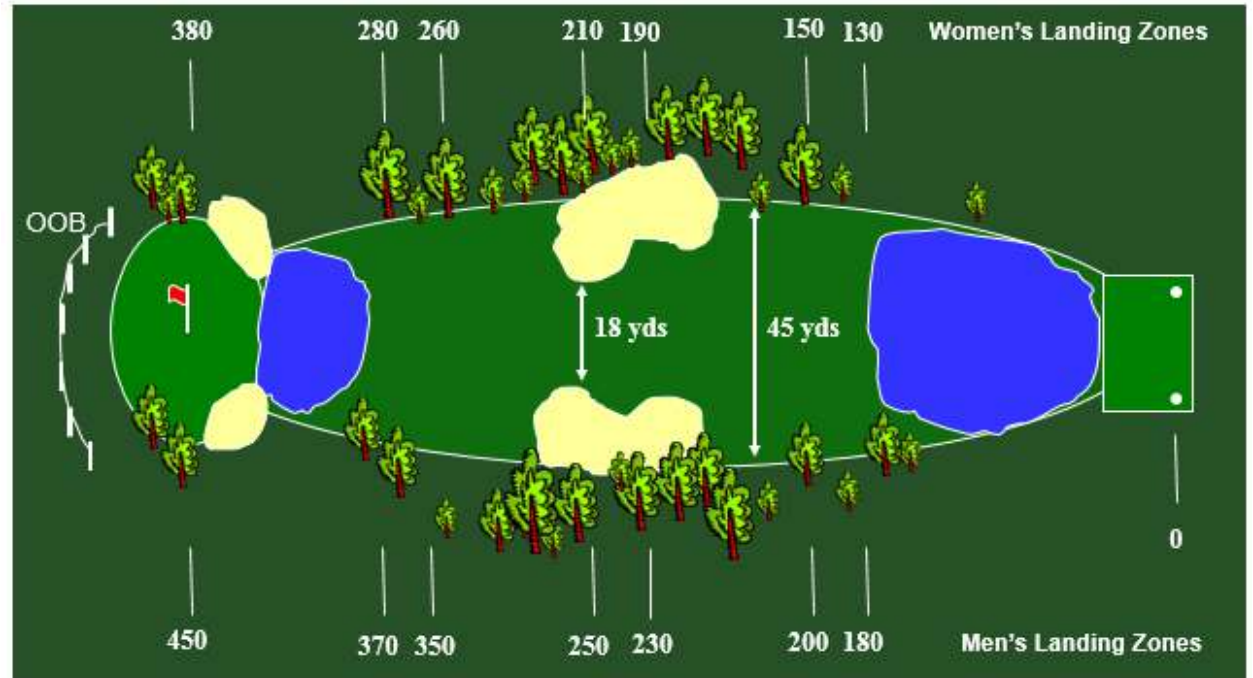
- Locate the nearest set of rated tees for the appropriate gender.
- Determine the measured difference between the set of tees being played and the rated set of tees.
- For differences under 100 yards, there is no adjustment necessary and scores can be returned or posted as usual.
- For differences between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



# Permanent Modification of Courses

The club must notify the AGA when permanent changes are made to the course.

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



# QUESTIONS?



# Additional Education

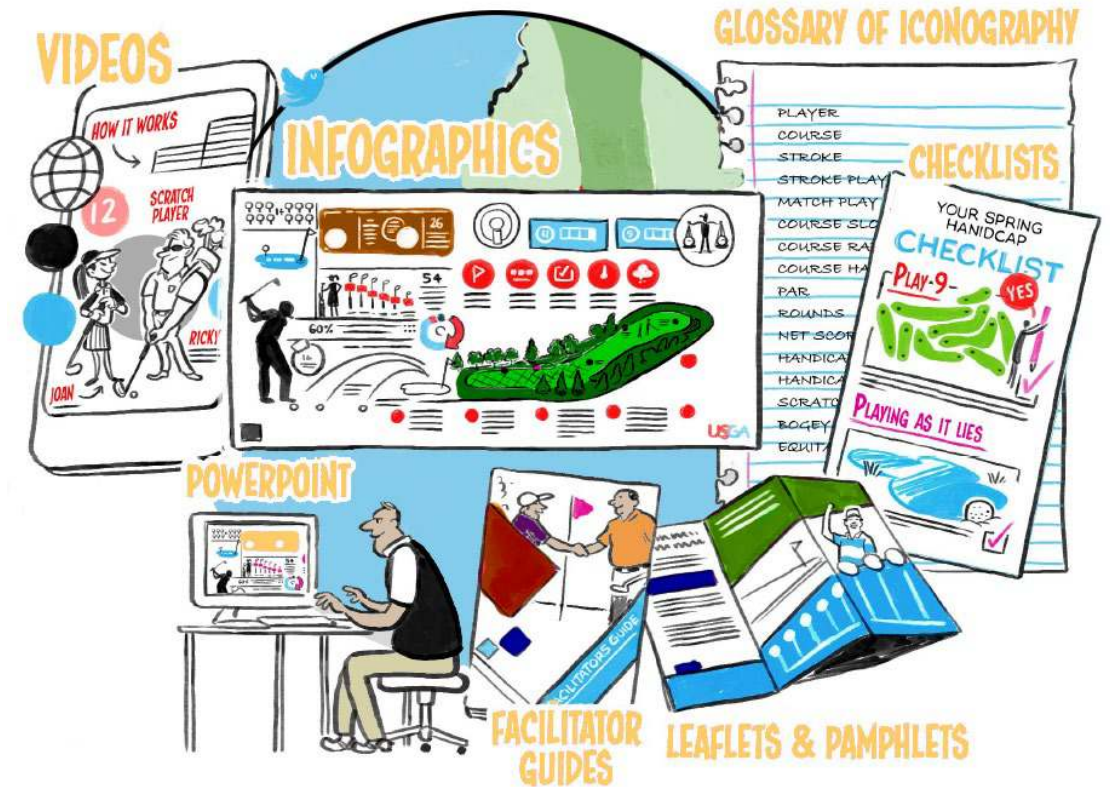
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# Education Overview

## *Tools and Resources*

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

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



# About Education & Authorization Requirements

The following outlines the education and authorization requirements for 2020:

- All member clubs and clubs affiliated with an AGA for handicap administration purposes are required to attend an education seminar and complete a quiz demonstrating knowledge of the new Rules of Handicapping. This is to be done between July 2019 – June 2020. We recommend that each AGA send a communication to all clubs within its jurisdiction about the authorization requirement, explaining the attention necessary before the launch of WHS.
- If a club does not satisfy the authorization requirement by June 2020, the club is not eligible to utilize the Rules of Handicapping or any part of the WHS.
- The USGA recommends conducting an in-person seminar consisting of a minimum of a four-hour presentation followed by the quiz administered to attendees. You may also facilitate this via online seminars. Note: we are evaluating additional options for completing the authorization requirement electronically and will provide further information once available.
- AGAs have the right to charge member clubs and/or DACs for the reasonable costs of materials and other incremental costs related to their attendance and participation in such seminars.
- More information will be shared regarding tracking clubs who have completed the certification process. Until then, please keep a record of all certifications.

# QUESTIONS?

# WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM

Thank you for attending!

Presenter: JIM COWAN, NCGA

Date: NOV-DEC, 2019



# WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM

## Rules of Handicapping

Presenter: JIM COWAN, NCGA  
Date: NOV/DEC 2019



# About This Resource

This PowerPoint deck outlines the new Rules of Handicapping and is intended to help with education and sharing of important information in support of the new World Handicap System (WHS). This deck has been updated to reflect the USGA decisions on discretionary items– including the treatment of nine-hole scores and the Course Handicap calculation.

Speakers notes have been added to help, and co-branding is encouraged on the title slide, body slides, and closing slide. Please see appropriate speakers notes for instructions.

*Coming the week of September 16th:*

- Additional educational materials for download, co-branding and use to enhance education efforts.



# 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
- 7) AGA Responsibilities – Administration of a Handicap Index

# Thank you for attending!

Presenter  
Date



# Who Issues the Handicap Index

In order to use the World Handicap System, an **Association must be authorized by the USGA and The R&A**. Within its area of jurisdiction, an Authorized National Association can:

- Use the Rules of Handicapping and the Course Rating System.
- Use the registered marks of the World Handicap System.
- Issue a Handicap Index either directly or, where delegated, through a golf club.

