

Rules of Handicapping Club Members Presentation



PURPOSE OF THE WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM (WHS)

The purpose of the WHS is to provide maximum enjoyment for all who play the game by enabling players of any ability, from anywhere in the world, to play and compete with others on a fair basis.

Purpose of the World Handicap System

The World Handicap System 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.



COURSE RATING

It is Course Rating that allows portability of players' handicaps. It measures how many strokes a Scratch player should take on any given course, and this provides a common base from which to compare different players' abilities.

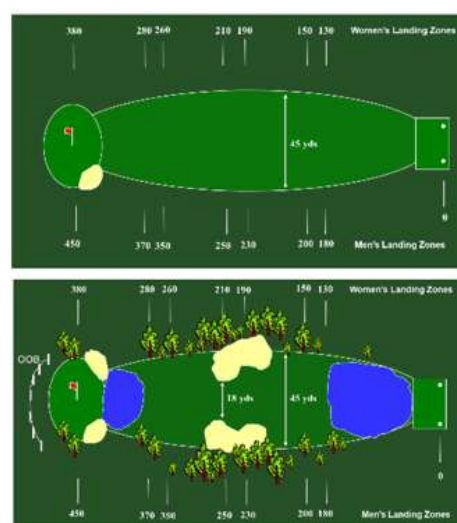
The example below shows 2 holes of equal length, but the second hole has more obstacles which will, quite obviously, increase the playing difficulty. Players of different abilities will find that second hole to be more or less difficult than the scratch golfer, depending on their ability level.

What is course rating?

Course Rating assesses two types of challenges; the effective playing length of the course and the obstacles that a player will encounter.

All ratings are completed by trained teams, with all findings checked and verified prior to being published.

Ratings allow for tee sets to be rated for both genders (except for a women/girl's maximum course length being 6100 yards).



WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM
R&A USGA

You could measure every hole on the course to assess the difficulty for EVERY single handicap (it may take a while!! but you'd find there was a straight-line relationship between the difficulty for the scratch golfer and the difficulty for the other handicap levels) but luckily there is a method that can be used that means the course needs only to be measured for the Scratch player and ONE other ability level, and then the difficulty for all other handicaps can be deduced. This method used is called a Slope Rating.

SLOPE RATING

There are two measures taken that provide a Slope Rating:

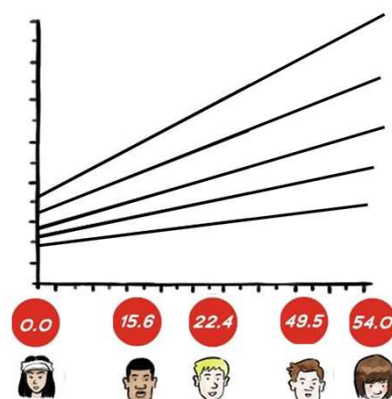
The Course Rating is the score that a scratch golfer is expected to score; the Bogey Rating is the score a bogey player (a handicap of between 20 for men and 24 for women) is expected to score.

Knowing the Course Rating and Bogey Rating allows a line to be drawn representing the relationship between the two (as for one of those in the image below – hence the term ‘Slope’). From this the difficulty of the course for all other levels of ability can be deduced.

Course and Slope Ratings are gender specific and the tee you play must have a rating for your gender.

What is a Slope Rating?

- Course Rating is the measure of the playing difficulty of a set of tees for a **Scratch Golfer**
- Bogey Rating is the measure of the playing difficulty of a set of tees for a **Bogey Golfer**
- A **Slope Rating** is the number which indicates the relative playing difficulty of a course for bogey golfers, compared to scratch golfers.
- It is the combination of the Course Rating and the Bogey rating that allows us to calculate the Slope Rating of a set of tees.



WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM
R&A USGA

How does the Slope Rating affect your handicap? You will have a Course Handicap calculated for whichever set of tees you decide to play from, that tells you how many strokes are needed for your level of handicap on that particular set of tees

The Slope Rating is, therefore, a key component in the calculation of the number of strokes each player receives to play a particular golf course. Slope Rating values range from 55 to 155 and 113 is the slope value indicating ‘standard’ relative difficulty. There is a common misconception that the Slope Rating compares the difficulty of one course with another. IT DOES NOT. It compares the difficulty of a course (playing from a specific set of tees) for the Bogey player compared to the Scratch player from the same set of tees. It does NOT indicate the relative playing difficulty of that set of tees versus a set of tees at another course.

OBTAINING A HANDICAP INDEX

Most of you already have a handicap, but for completeness let's start with a new golfer putting in scores for the first time

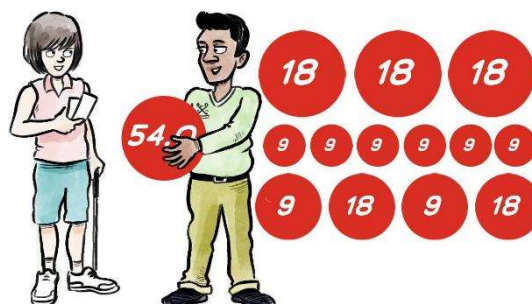
This is the same principle as we have now under CONGU.

All of the 9- or 18- holes must be played. 9-holes scores are combined as they come in, to result in an 18-hole score.

Scores per hole will be capped at par +5, until the initial Index had been allocated.

Obtaining a Handicap Index (New Golfer)

- Players are required to submit 54 holes of scores made up of any combination of 9- or 18-hole rounds.
- There is no time limit on completing the submission of these scores.
- Maximum Handicap Index of 54, for both men and women.



WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM
R&A USGA

Once 20 scores are available, a 'fully developed' handicap index can be calculated.

If a player has not yet attained 20 scores, the software will calculate a player's handicap index based on the number of scores they do have and the actual scores to date.

Below is an example of a players handicap record containing the last 20 scores played in date order (most recent at the top):
We identify the best 8 (highlighted in Yellow) and divide the total by 8

Handicap Index Calculation

Score No.	Date Played	Course	Course Rating	Slope Rating	Adjusted Gross Score	Score Differential
1	22/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	91	18.5
2	5/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	92	19.4
3	1/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	99	25.8
4	28/8/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	89	16.7
5	23/8/20	River GC	71.3	127	92	18.4
6	26/7/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	87	12.8
7	14/7/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	97	24.0
8	4/7/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	88	15.8
9	19/6/20	River GC	71.3	127	87	13.5
10	16/6/20	Valley GC	69.9	118	95	24.0
11	12/6/20	Forest GC	70.1	115	86	15.6
12	5/6/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	85	11.0
13	2/6/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	82	10.4
14	30/5/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	94	21.2
15	25/5/20	Valley GC	69.9	118	89	18.3
16	22/5/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	97	24.0
17	29/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	85	13.1
18	14/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	93	20.3
19	10/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	94	21.2
20	3/4/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	86	12.1
21						

- Adding together the best 8 differentials out of the last 20:

12.8	
+ 15.8	
+ 13.5	
+ 15.6	
+ 11.0	
+ 10.4	
+ 13.1	
+ 12.1	
= 104.3	/ 8
- And averaging the total:

Handicap Index of **13.0**

WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM
R&A USGA

Giving a Handicap Index of 13.0.

As a new score is added, the most recent 20 is updated and the 21st score will be dropped

Handicap Index Calculation

Score No.	Date Played	Course	Course Rating	Slope Rating	Adjusted Gross Score	Score Differential
1	22/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	91	18.5
2	5/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	92	19.4
3	1/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	99	25.8
4	28/8/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	89	16.7
5	23/8/20	River GC	71.3	127	92	18.4
6	26/7/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	87	12.8
7	14/7/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	97	24.0
8	4/7/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	88	15.8
9	19/6/20	River GC	71.3	127	87	13.5
10	16/6/20	Valley GC	69.9	118	95	24.0
11	12/6/20	Forest GC	70.1	115	86	15.6
12	5/6/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	85	11.0
13	2/6/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	82	10.4
14	30/5/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	94	21.2
15	25/5/20	Valley GC	69.9	118	89	18.3
16	22/5/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	97	24.0
17	29/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	85	13.1
18	14/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	93	20.3
19	10/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	94	21.2
20	3/4/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	86	12.1
21						

Score No.	Date Played	Course	Course Rating	Slope Rating	Adjusted Gross Score	Score Differential
1	25/9/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	89	14.5
2	22/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	91	18.5
3	5/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	92	19.4
4	1/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	99	25.8
5	28/8/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	89	16.7
6	23/8/20	River GC	71.3	127	92	18.4
7	26/7/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	87	12.8
8	14/7/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	97	24.0
9	4/7/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	88	15.8
10	19/6/20	River GC	71.3	127	87	13.5
11	16/6/20	Valley GC	69.9	118	95	24.0
12	12/6/20	Forest GC	70.1	115	86	15.6
13	5/6/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	85	11.0
14	2/6/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	82	10.4
15	30/5/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	94	21.2
16	25/5/20	Valley GC	69.9	118	89	18.3
17	22/5/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	97	24.0
18	29/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	85	13.1
19	14/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	93	20.3
20	10/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	94	21.2
21	3/4/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	86	12.1

WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM
R&A USGA

The process of calculating the updated Handicap Index is then repeated:

Handicap Index Calculation

- Adding together the best 8 differentials out of the last 20:

14.5
+ 12.8
+ 15.8
+ 13.5
+ 15.6
+ 11.0
+ 10.4
+ 13.1
- And averaging the total: $= 106.7 \div 8$

Handicap Index of **13.3**

Score No.	Date Played	Course	Course Rating	Slope Rating	Adjusted Gross Score	Score Differential
1	25/9/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	89	14.5
2	22/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	91	18.5
3	5/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	92	19.4
4	1/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	99	25.8
5	28/8/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	89	16.7
6	23/8/20	River GC	71.3	127	92	18.4
7	26/7/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	87	12.8
8	14/7/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	97	24.0
9	4/7/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	88	15.8
10	19/6/20	River GC	71.3	127	87	13.5
11	16/6/20	Valley GC	69.9	118	95	24.0
12	12/6/20	Forest GC	70.1	115	86	15.6
13	5/6/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	85	11.0
14	2/6/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	82	10.4
15	30/5/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	94	21.2
16	25/5/20	Valley GC	69.9	118	89	18.3
17	22/5/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	97	24.0
18	29/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	85	13.1
19	14/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	93	20.3
20	10/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	94	21.2
21	3/4/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	86	12.1

WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM
R&A USGA

In this case, the updated Handicap Index is 13.3

This makes sense because 12.1 has been replaced by 14.5

Because the handicap index is completely refreshed every 20 scores, the system is very responsive to changes in form.

A golfer playing 3 times a week will completely refresh their scoring record in 2 months.

Once you have decided which tees you are going to play, you must convert your Handicap Index into a Course Handicap.

COURSE HANDICAP

Your Course Handicap provides you with the number of strokes you need to help you play to your handicap based on the difficulty of the course and the set of tees you will be playing.

The conversion process is easy—and can be done by using a look-up table located near the first tee, your Club software or a mobile app.

Course Handicap Calculation.

- For a Handicap Index to be portable across courses, it must be converted into a Course Handicap to determine the number of strokes a player receives for the golf course being played.
- A Course Handicap look up table will be available at each club, or you could use an App or the club handicap software.
- You simply select the tees you want to play and look up your Handicap index to ascertain your Course Handicap
- If you are playing in a competition or match you will also need to know any handicap allowances that may be applied.



WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM
R&A USGA

For those of you who like numbers, you can do it yourself using the following formula for an 18-hole round:

Course Handicap = Handicap Index x (SlopeRating/113)

NOTE: The calculation for a 9-hole round is different.

HANDICAP ALLOWANCES

Depending on the format of play, a handicap allowance may be applied to your Course Handicap.

The resulting strokes received is called the Playing Handicap. They allow for equity to be achieved across all formats and give all players an equal opportunity of success.

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

Strokes Received: Playing Handicap

<u>Singles Formats</u>	<u>Handicap Allowance</u>	<u>Team Formats</u>	<u>Handicap Allowance</u>
Individual match play	100%	Four-ball match play	90%
Individual stroke play	95%	Four-ball stroke play / stableford	85%
Individual stableford	95%	Foursomes	50% of combined team handicap
Individual par / bogey	95%	Greensomes	60% Low handicap + 40% high handicap
Individual Maximum Score	95%	Scramble (4 players)	25%/20%/15%/10% from lowest to highest handicap

Example:

The recommended handicap allowance for individual Stroke Play events is 95%, which means a player could have a Course Handicap of 15 and a Playing Handicap of 14.

If players are competing from different tees, a further adjustment may be necessary for any differences in Course Rating.

A golfer can still play a singles event using their Course Handicap and allow the software to adjust the strokes received for the leaderboard nett scores

ADJUSTMENTS TO HOLE SCORES

If during an 18 hole round a player fails to complete a hole or records a score higher than Net Double Bogey (NDB), the gross score for that hole shall be adjusted to the NDB for that player using their Course Handicap (similar to now).

If a player doesn't start a hole or leaves the course after playing the minimum number of acceptable holes, the player will be given a score of Net Par for the holes not played (unless fewer than 14 holes have been returned then the player will be given Net Par +1 on the first hole not played and Net Par for the remaining holes). Fairly similar to our treatment of 9-hole scores in CONGU.

This is not meant to be a 'get out of jail free card' to avoid playing holes you don't like! Penalties would be applied for such behaviour.

Adjustments to Hole Scores

- By Net Double Bogey for a high hole score.
- Or
- If a hole isn't played, a Net Par is recorded
(for handicap purposes only)

Exception: if less than 14 holes of an 18 hole round have been played, net par + 1 stroke must be added to the first hole not played and net par to the remaining unplayed holes

These adjustments are made using the **Course Handicap** and will be applied by the computer.



PLAYING CONDITIONS CALCULATION (PCC)

Golf is an outdoor sport, and sometimes playing conditions can cause scores to be abnormally high or low on a given day. The effect of the weather and course conditions is referred to in CONGU as the CSS.

The PCC will account for this and is automatically applied to Score Differentials to better reflect the player's actual performance.

How it differs from the CSS that we are familiar with:

It is only performed ONCE A DAY and includes all scores (both 9- and 18- hole rounds) from all tee sets on a course.

It uses all acceptable scores from both genders and requires at least 8 scores from players with a Handicap Index of 36.0 or below.

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 provide integer value adjustments.



-1, +1, +2, +3

A minus value means the course was playing easier than expected and will be added to the rating of the course in the differential calculation.

A plus value means the course was playing harder than expected and will be subtracted from the rating of the course in the differential calculation.

WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM
RSA USGA

If scores were unusually low or high, a PCC adjustment between -1 and +3 will be applied to your score differential calculation to reflect the playing conditions on the day.

A PCC of 0 means the course played as expected, which will be the case more often than not.

SUBMITTING YOUR SCORE

Timeframe for Submitting a Score

Scores should be **posted on the day of play** and before midnight.

Posting of scores is possible by three different methods:

- The computer/terminal installed in the golf club, the pro shop, or locker room
- Logging into the desktop dashboard on an internet connected computer, tablet or cell phone, away from the clubhouse
- Using the Mobile App on a smartphone



WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM
R&A USGA

Submit your score in accordance with Club procedures as soon as possible after you have completed your round. It must be certified by a marker.

The prompt submission of your score is important as it will enable your score to be included in the daily PCC and your Handicap Index to be updated ready for your next round.

If a score is posted late and misses the midnight deadline, it will not be a part of any PCC calculation but will have the PCC, from the day the round was played, applied.

SCORE DIFFERENTIALS

Once the PCC is determined, your final score differential will be calculated—representing the handicap you 'played to' for that round relative to the difficulty of the course played, as determined by the Course Rating and Slope Rating, and the playing conditions.

What is a score differential?

A score differential is the difference between a player's adjusted gross score and the course rating, reflecting the slope rating and the playing conditions calculation (PCC).

It is a numerical value attributed to a score achieved on a golf course on a specific day that is posted into the player's scoring record.

Your
**Handicap
Index** is
based on:



WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM
R&A USGA

A score of 80 on a difficult course may result in a lower score differential than a 77 on an easier one.

Likewise:

A high score on a day when conditions are challenging may result in a lower score differential, which has the potential to become one of the best 8 within your scoring record.

EXCEPTIONAL SCORE REDUCTION

If a score produces a score differential that is 7.0 strokes or better than your Handicap Index at the time the round is played, it is subject to an exceptional score reduction.

Exceptional Score Reduction - ESR

ESR is a procedure for dealing with exceptional scores which may indicate the player's ability is rapidly improving.

How does it work?

If a Score Differential is **-7.0** strokes or better than the Handicap Index used when the round was played, the appropriate ESR table reduction is applied to the new Handicap Index:

Score Differential Relative to Index	7.0 – 9.9 strokes lower	10.0+ strokes lower
ESR Adjustment	-1.0	-2.0

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

If the score differential is between 7.0 and 9.9 strokes better, your Handicap Index will be reduced by 1.0 stroke.

If the score differential is 10.0 or more strokes better, your Handicap Index will be reduced by 2.0 strokes.

HANDICAP INDEX CAPS

Even the best players struggle from time to time - and although form changes, a player's underlying ability does not change rapidly.

To prevent your Handicap Index from increasing too quickly, every time it is updated, the 8 of 20 calculation is compared to the lowest Handicap Index that you have achieved during the last 365 days.

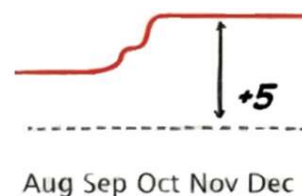
Handicap Index Caps

A Soft Cap and Hard Cap will be implemented to limit any extreme upward movement of a player's Handicap Index.

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.



WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM
R&A USGA

A Low Handicap Index is established once a player has at least 20 acceptable scores in their scoring record. It is re-evaluated every time a new acceptable score is submitted. It represents the lowest Handicap Index the player achieved in the rolling 12-month period before the new score was submitted. This is an indication of their 'fairly recent' ability, despite any 'more recent' poor scores.

The calculated Low Handicap Index is then used as an 'anchor' to cap the upward movement of a player's handicap index. The soft and hard caps will be implemented to ensure that a temporary loss of form does not cause a player's Handicap Index to move too far from a level consistent with their demonstrated ability. The caps also serve as anti-abuse safeguards and will aid in minimising the potential for handicap manipulation.

AND FINALLY...

You'll be relieved to know you are not expected to be able to calculate your own handicap after submitting a new score!!

Even if you have played away from your home course..... (the scorecard will still need to be checked to make sure it matches the score you entered, so depending on the circumstances you may need to return it to your home club)

Revisions will take place soon after midnight following the submission of a score. Scores should be submitted asap, wherever they were played. The handicap calculations are no longer tied to the act of closing the competition to determine the results

If you have any questions, please direct them to myself or a member of the Handicap Committee.

If required, further information will be sourced from the County Union/Association. The England Golf website also has further information and FAQ's

Thank you for taking the time to read this presentation. Please contact me if you have any queries regarding the WHS. My contact details are listed below.

Kathryn Taylor
Handicap Secretary
South Moor Golf Club

Email: kathrynt1975@gmail.com
Mobile: 07980 992769