

HANDICAP SYSTEM CHANGES

World Handicap System

As of January 1, 2020

Change to Playing Handicap (formerly Course Handicap): the strokes allowed when playing stroke play.

The Playing Handicap will now be adjusted for Par. It will still be based on the Course Rating and Slope Rating, but will be adjusted based on Par.

This means 2 noticeable changes.

1. When playing from tees with a Course Rating less than Par, your Playing Handicap will be lower than under the previous system, and
2. There will be no Tee Adjustment when players compete from different tees, whenever Par is the same for the different tees.

Example:

INDEX	TEES	RATING	SLOPE	OLD WAY	NEW WAY
5.1	Green	66.2	116	5	0
5.1	White	69.0	123	6	3

Old Way: Player gets 1 more stroke from White than from Green.

New Way: Player will get 3 more strokes from White than from Green.

Under the old method, playing to your Playing Handicap (Gross 71 from Green and Gross 75 from White) will result in a net score equal to the Course Rating (66 for Green and 69 for White). Under the net method, both will have a net score of par 72.

Competing from Different Tees:

INDEX	TEES	RATING	SLOPE	OLD WAY	NEW WAY
5.1	Green	66.2	116	5-3=2	0
5.1	White	69.0	123	6-0=6	3

The difference is 4 strokes under the old both method and 3 under the new method due, at least in part, to a change in when rounding occurs. Under the old way, both would have a net score of 69 when playing to their Course Handicap Allowance. Under the new way, both will have a net score of par 72.

NOTE: If par for the 2 sets of tees is different, a par adjustment would be applied.

Change to calculation of Handicap Index.

Their will be no change in calculating the Differential for a posted score. It will continue to be the posted score minus the Course Rating adjusted for Slope.

Changes to basic calculation:

- 1. Only the 8 lowest (instead of 10) differentials of the last 20 will be used to calculate the Index.**
- 2. The average of the included differentials will no longer be multiplied by .96.**

Changes to Handicap Index Reductions:

- 1. Exceptional Tournament Scores will no longer be the basis for a reduction (Scores no longer need to be designated as “T” scores and the method for calculating and possible reduction will change.)**
- 2. Exceptional posted scores will trigger a possible “Exceptional Score Reduction”. When a posted score results in a differential that is between 7.0 and 9.9 strokes below the Handicap Index, a reduction of 1 stroke will be applied to the last 20 differentials. When a posted score is 10.0 or more strokes below the Handicap Index, the adjustment will be 2 strokes. If another exceptional score is posted before 20 rounds have been played, some differentials will be reduced by 1 or 2 additional strokes. (The additional reduction will apply to those rounds that are within 20 rounds of both exceptional scores).**
- 3. A “Low Handicap Index” will be maintained in the system once a player has at least 20 posted scores. This will be the lowest Handicap Index in the 12 months prior to posting a score. (This will only start with rounds posted on, or after, January 1, 2020.)**
- 4. There will be a “Soft Cap” applied to the Handicap Index. The increase in Index will be limited when the calculated Index is 3.0 strokes higher than the “Low Handicap Index. One half of the amount that the amount by which the calculated index exceeds 3.0 will be subtracted from the calculated index.**
- 5. There will be a “Hard Cap” applied to the Handicap Index. If after applying the “Soft Cap”, the adjusted index is still 5.0 strokes or more higher than the “Low Handicap Index”, the Index will be limited to 5.0 over the “Low Handicap Index”.**
- 6. Differentials may be subject to an adjustment due to a “Playing Conditions Calculation”. Somewhere in “Computation World”, scores posted for a given day will be compared with expected scoring patterns. The Wizard of Oz may then apply an adjustment to the differentials for all scores posted for that day, even if posted on a later date.**

Handicap Index Updates:

Updates will occur daily. The committee in charge of a given competition will determine which update will be used.

Maximum Hole Scores for Handicap Index Calculations:

Allowable hole scores will be a maximum of Net Double Bogey. For our competitions, this will be calculated and provided to the staff for posting.

This calculation is based on the stroke play hole handicaps and your Playing Handicap for stroke play. In some formats (like best ball), your Handicap Allowance may be less than your full Playing Handicap. The full Playing Handicap is used for determining the maximum allowable hole score.

If you have a “Plus Handicap”, subtract a stroke from double bogey on the easiest holes to determine the maximum allowed.

For those occasions when you must post your own score, a hole handicap chart will be posted in the pro shop.

When you start, but do not finish a hole (like in the Blitz or Best Ball formats), use the lesser of the maximum allowed and the score you would have made 51% of the time considering where your ball was when you picked up.

When you have played at least 7 holes, you may post a 9 hole score. When you have played at least 14 holes, you may post an 18 hole score.

For the holes not played, the hole scores to post are Par plus strokes allowed by your Handicap.

Handicap Allowances:

The allowances for some formats have been changed in the new system, and some have been added for formats not previously included.

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

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

USGA.