





# USGA/AGA WHS Education & Authorization Requirements

- All NJSGA member clubs are required to attend an education seminar and complete a quiz demonstrating knowledge of the new Rules of Handicapping.
  - This is to be done by June 2020.
  - Quiz is open book and can be taken as many times as needed to get 80 or better.



# WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM

## Rules of Handicapping

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Director of Handicapping and Membership





The background is a dark gray field with intricate, light gray wavy lines that resemble topographical contours or fluid motion. Several irregular, darker gray shaded regions are scattered across the composition, adding depth and visual interest. The overall aesthetic is modern and minimalist.

# Welcome to the WHS



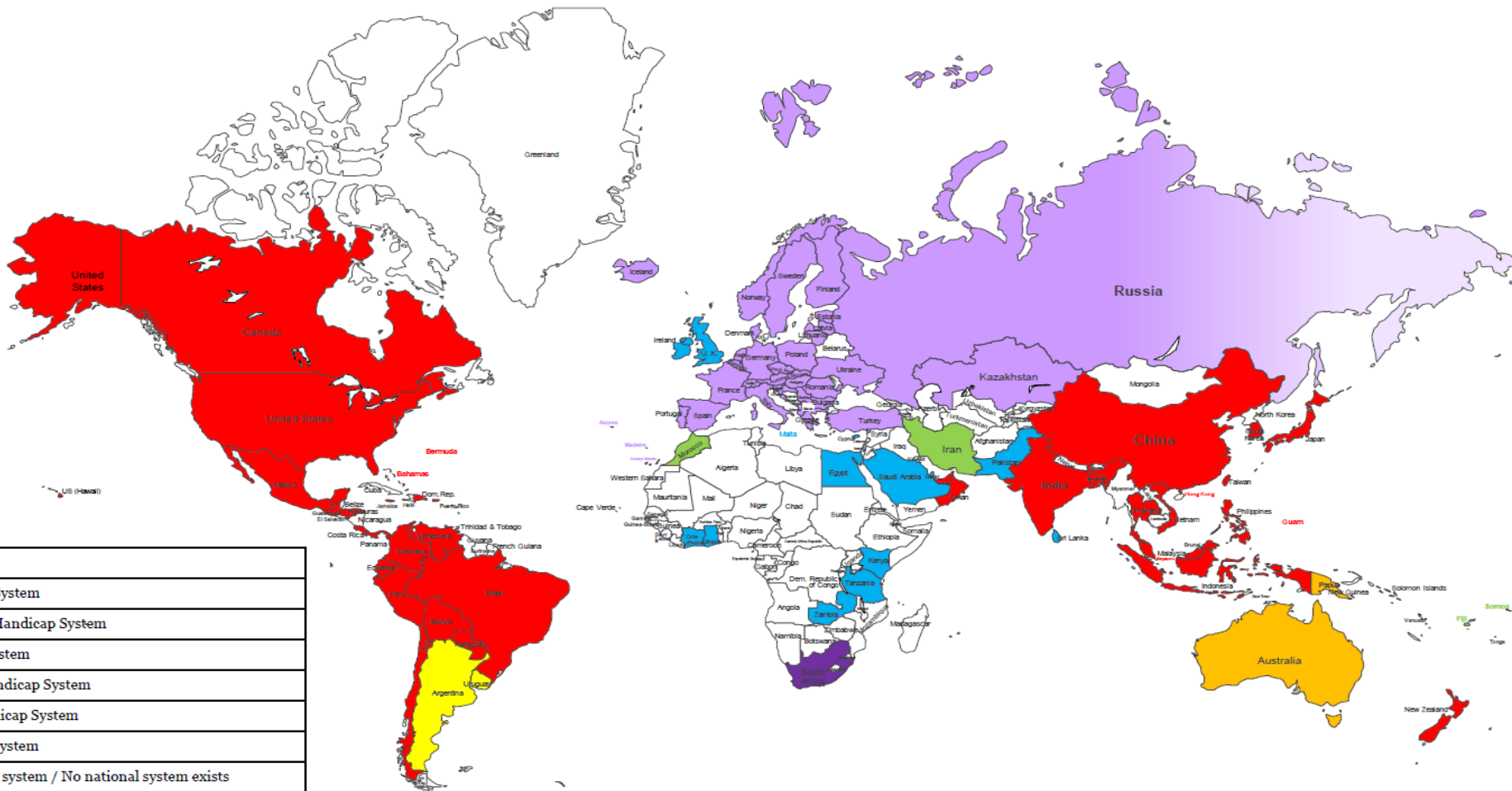
## Workshop Content

- 1) Fundamentals in Handicapping
- 2) Handicap Formula
- 3) Club Handicap Committee Responsibilities
- 4) Competition Committee Responsibilities
- 5) AGA Responsibilities – Administration of a Handicap Index
- 6) Take Home / Open book Quiz





# 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)





# 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.
Allied Golf Associations	AGAs are affiliated to the USGA and comprised of golf clubs and/or golfers within a defined area.
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.

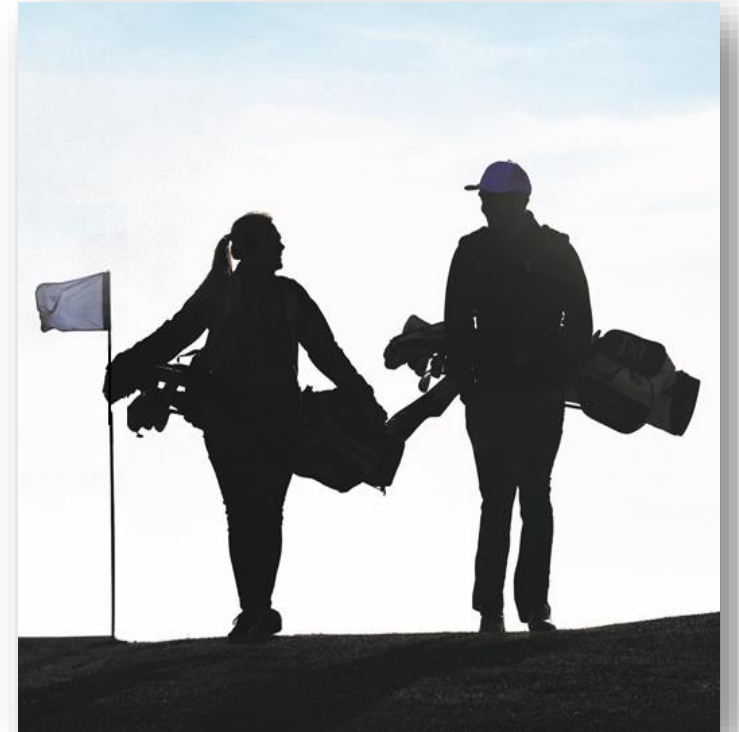


# The WHS “Rules of Handicapping” – 3 Reoccurring themes

THEME 1     PORTABILITY / CONSISTENCY

THEME 2     INCLUSIVITY

THEME 3     ADVANCEMENT



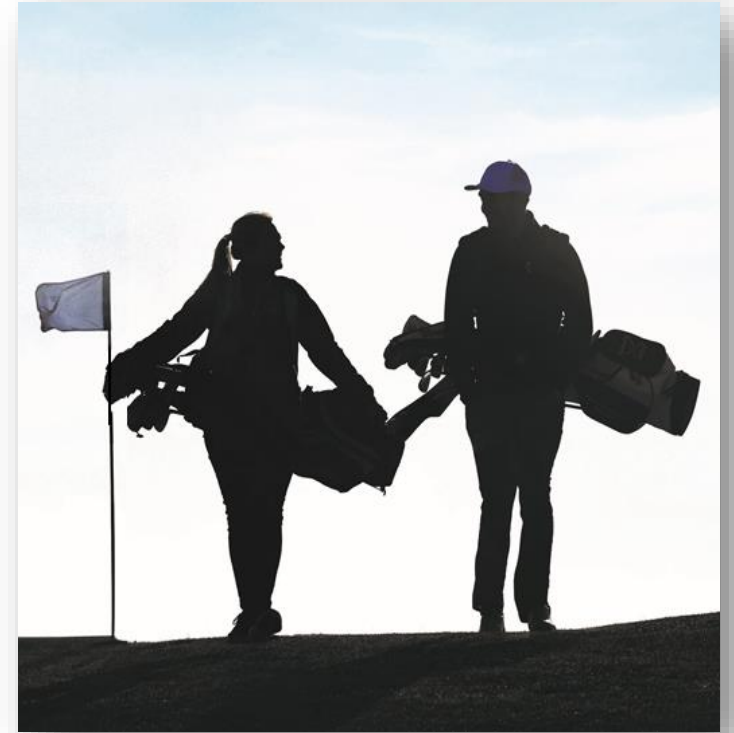


# The “Rules of Handicapping” will consist of Definitions and seven Rules:

- 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.





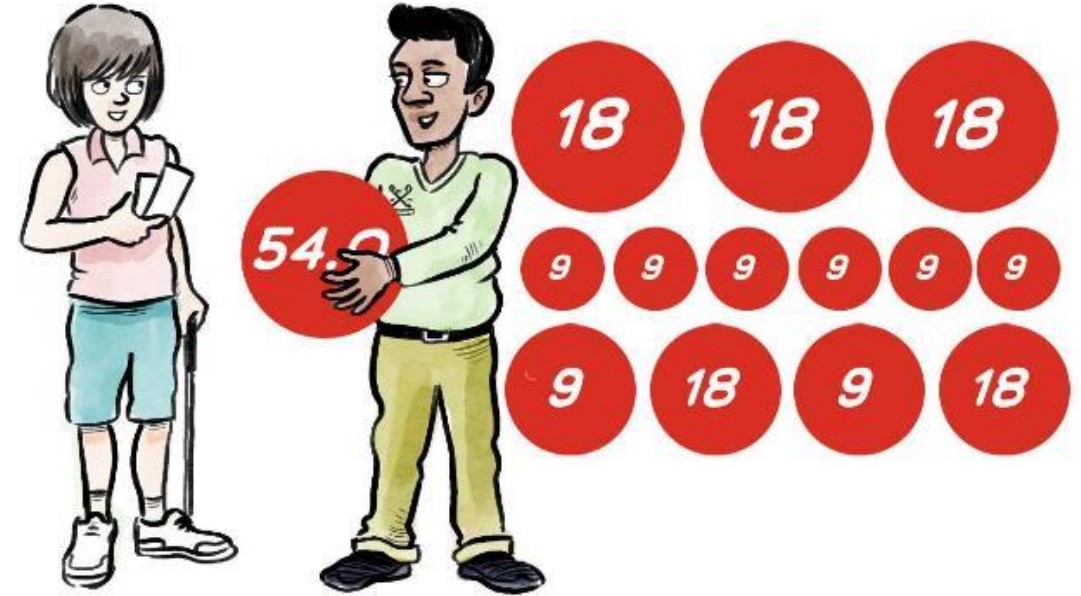
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# Fundamentals of Handicapping



# 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.

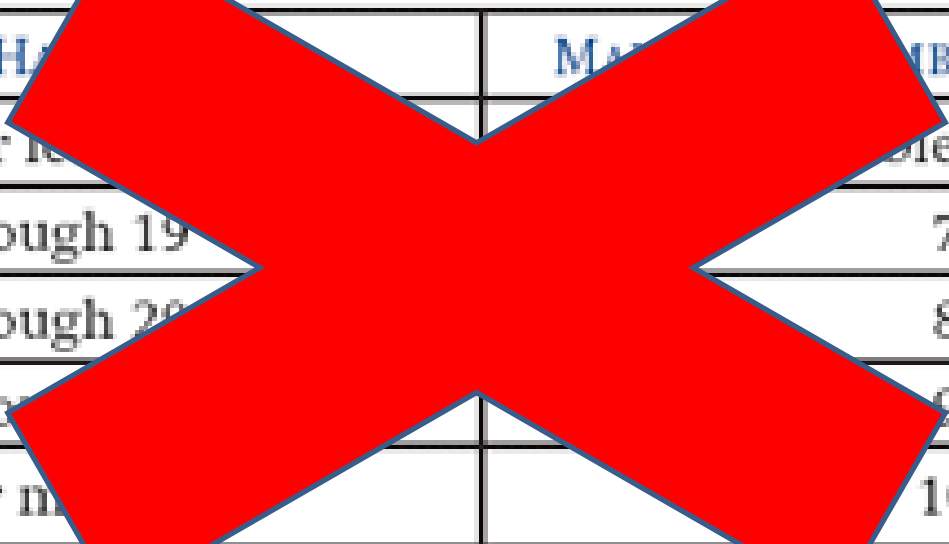




## NET DOUBLE BOGEY (REPLACES ESC)

### EQUITABLE STROKE CONTROL

COURSE HANDICAP	MAXIMUM SCORE ON ANY HOLE
9 or less	Double Bogey
10 through 19	7
20 through 29	8
30 through 39	9
40 or more	10





# 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

Double Bogey Plus (handicap strokes)

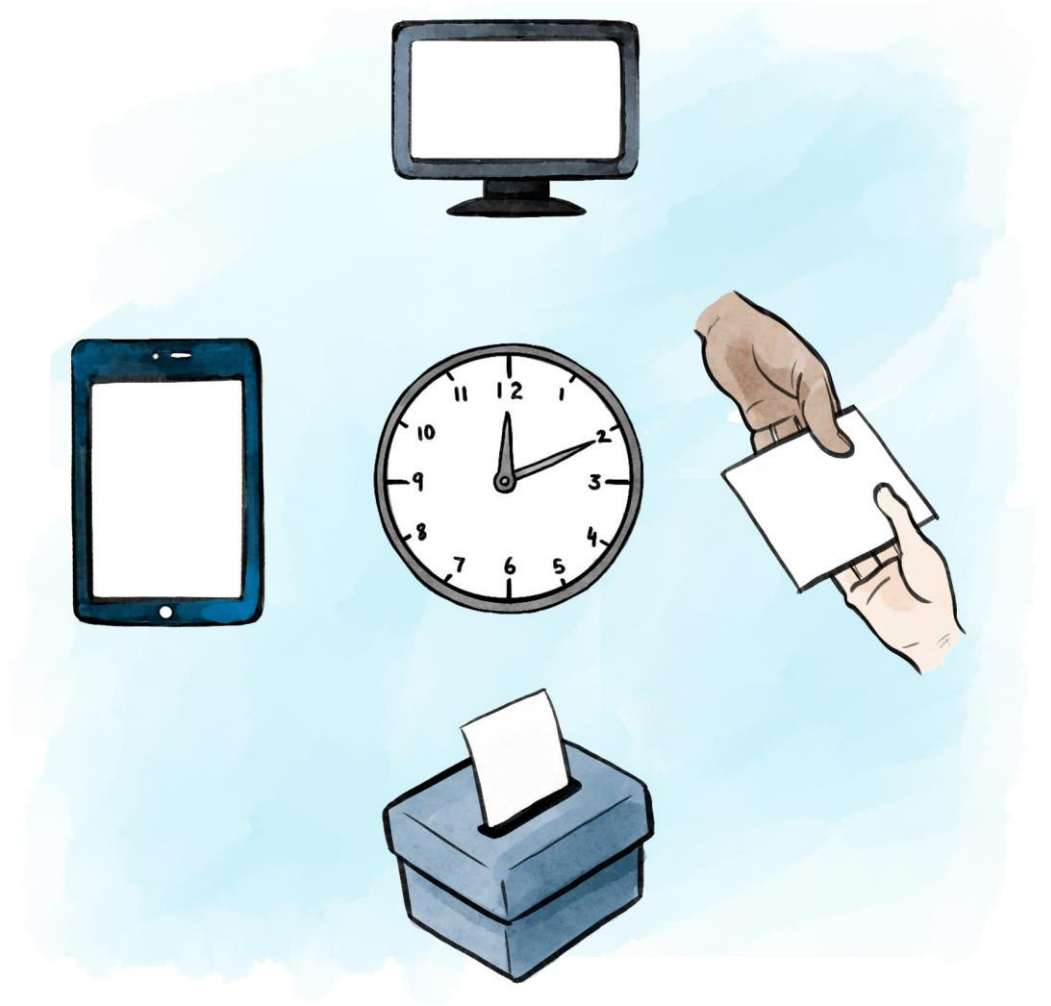


# Timeframe for Submitting a Score

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

WHY???

- DAILY REVISIONS
- PLAYING CONDITION CALCULATION
- EQUITABLE SCORE REDUCTION
- PEER REVIEW





# 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 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 Comparison (15.0 Player)

**Handicap Index – 15.0  
Without CR - Par**

TEE	YARDS	RATING	SLOPE	PAR	CH
BLACK	7033	74.2	135	72	18
BLUE	6684	72.8	131	72	17
WHITE	6414	71.7	128	72	17
SILVER	6021	69.9	125	72	17
WHITE/SILVER/RED	5886	68.8	123	71	16
RED	5637	67.8	121	71	16
GREEN	5385	66.5	118	70	16
GOLD	4957	64.4	113	69	15

**Handicap Index – 15.0  
Using CR - Par**

TEE	YARDS	RATING	SLOPE	PAR	CH
BLACK	7033	74.2	135	72	20
BLUE	6684	72.8	131	72	18
WHITE	6414	71.7	128	72	17
SILVER	6021	69.9	125	72	15
WHITE/SILVER/RED	5886	68.8	123	71	14
RED	5637	67.8	121	71	13
GREEN	5385	66.5	118	70	13
GOLD	4957	64.4	113	69	10





# Course Handicap Comparison (Scratch Player)

## Handicap Index – 0.0 Without CR- Par

TEE	YARDS	RATING	SLOPE	PAR	CH
BLACK	7033	74.2	135	72	0
BLUE	6684	72.8	131	72	0
WHITE	6414	71.7	128	72	0
SILVER	6021	69.9	125	72	0
WHITE/SILVER/RED	5886	68.8	123	71	0
RED	5637	67.8	121	71	0
GREEN	5385	66.5	118	70	0
GOLD	4957	64.4	113	69	0

## Handicap Index – 0.0 Using CR - Par

TEE	YARDS	RATING	SLOPE	PAR	CH
BLACK	7033	74.2	135	72	2
BLUE	6684	72.8	131	72	1
WHITE	6414	71.7	128	72	0
SILVER	6021	69.9	125	72	+2
WHITE/SILVER/RED	5886	68.8	123	71	+2
RED	5637	67.8	121	71	+3
GREEN	5385	66.5	118	70	+4
GOLD	4957	64.4	113	69	+5





# 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.





# 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	90%
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





# 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.

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 – NET PAR (formally referred to as par plus handicap strokes)

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





# Acceptability of Scores

- Scores from an authorized format - 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.





- 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.*





# USGA's STATEMENT on Playing Golf COVID 19 Social Distancing

'From the perspective of the Rules of Handicapping, the most frequent questions received are primarily related to the acceptability of scores for posting to a player's scoring record. In particular, relating to modifying the hole and not requiring the player to "hole out" as required under the Rules of Golf. These are founded in a desire to minimize the possibility of exposing golfers to coronavirus and have included leaving the hole liner raised above the putting surface or placing various objects into the hole so the ball can be more easily removed. **In these specific cases, provided guidance from health and governmental officials is being followed, a temporary measure is in place within the United States to accept scores played under these conditions for handicap purposes using the most likely score guidelines, even though the player has not holed out.'**

This temporary measure is now in effect within the United States until advised otherwise by the USGA.





# Unacceptable Scores

- Playing Alone
- Player 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.

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

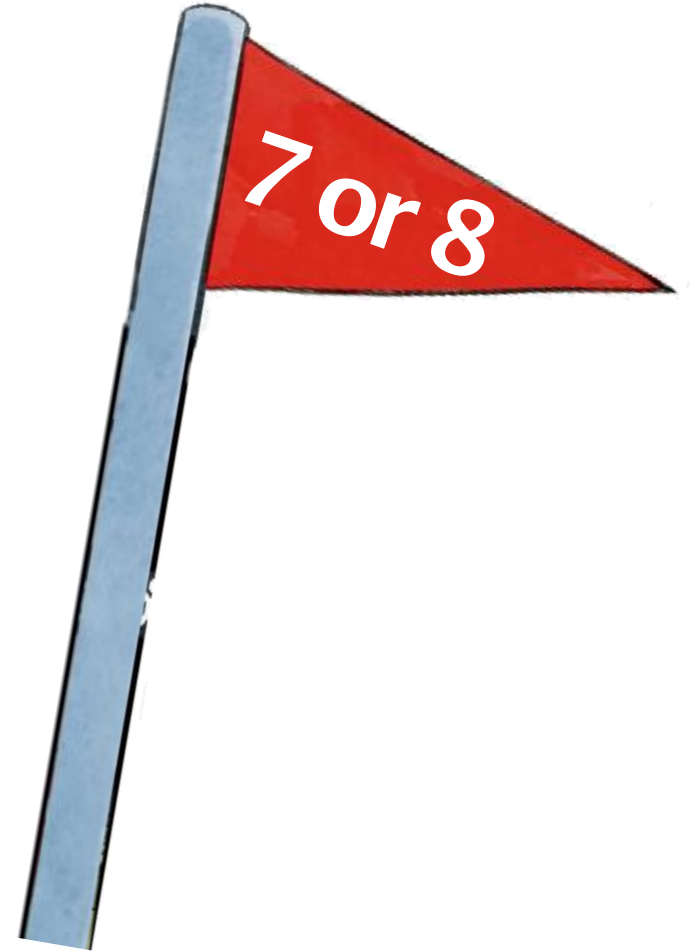


# Fewer than 9 Holes Played

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.





# QUESTIONS?





# Handicap Formula



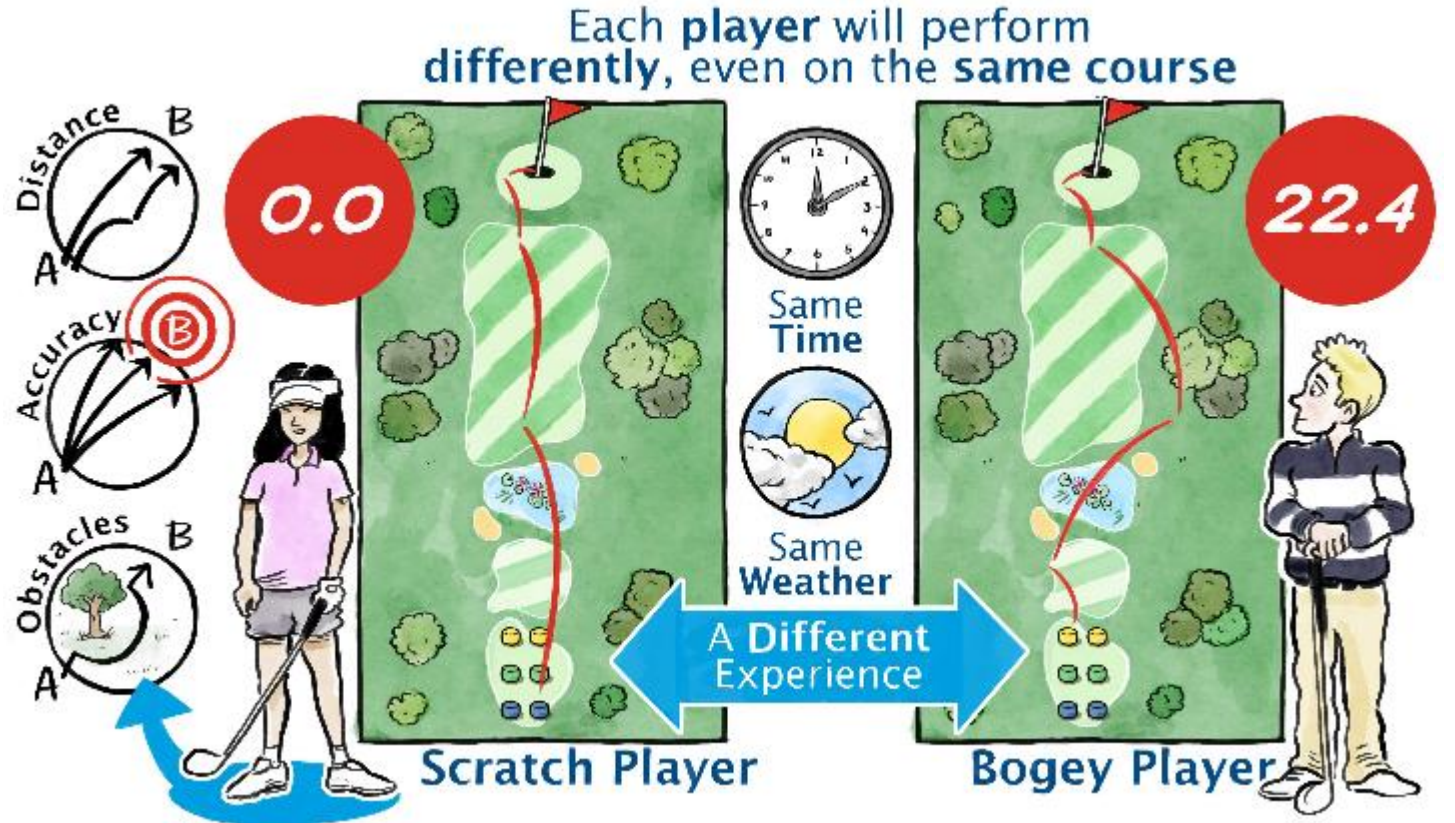




# Course Rating System

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.





# Handicap Index Calculation

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

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

3

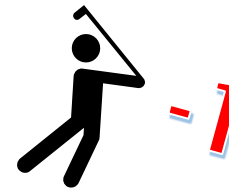
2) The **number** of **differentials** used.

8 of 20

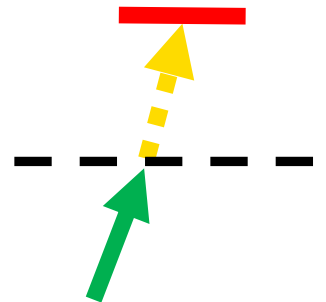
3) A Playing Conditions Calculation.



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
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
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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

**World Handicap System: 13.3**



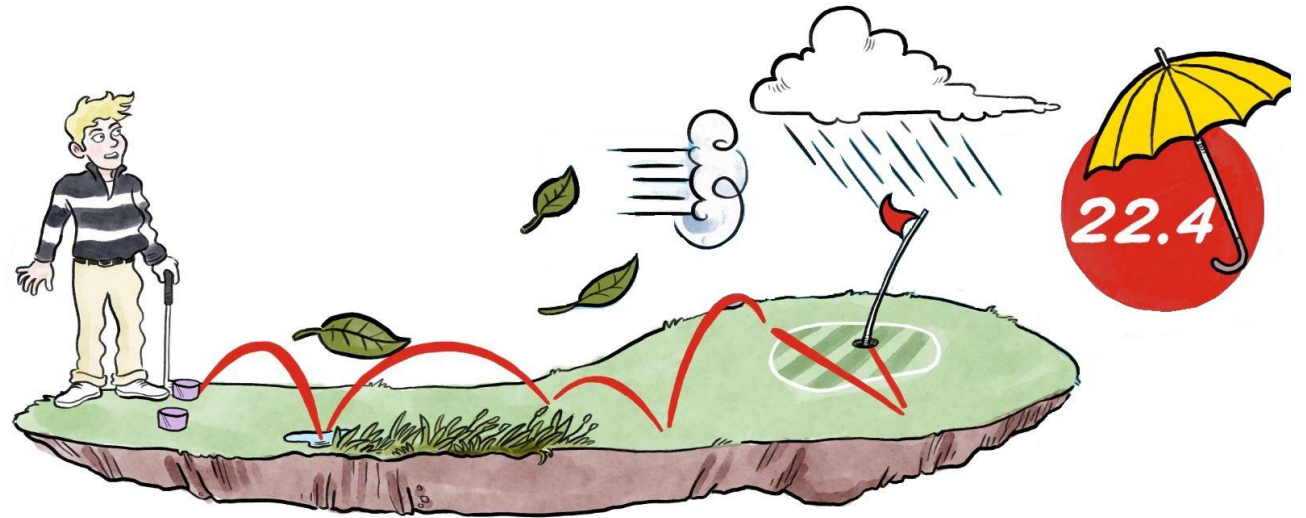


# Playing Conditions Calculation

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.

Range: -1 to +3





# 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.





# Playing Conditions Calculation

*"I see somebody's upset  
the greenskeeper again!"*









# 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 365-day (one year) 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?





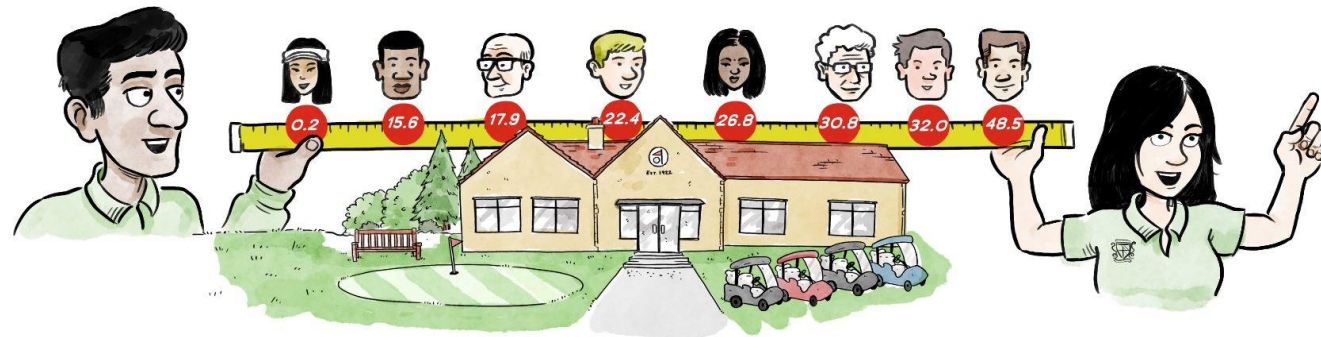
# Club Handicap Committee Responsibilities

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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 (USGA Admin Portal) 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.





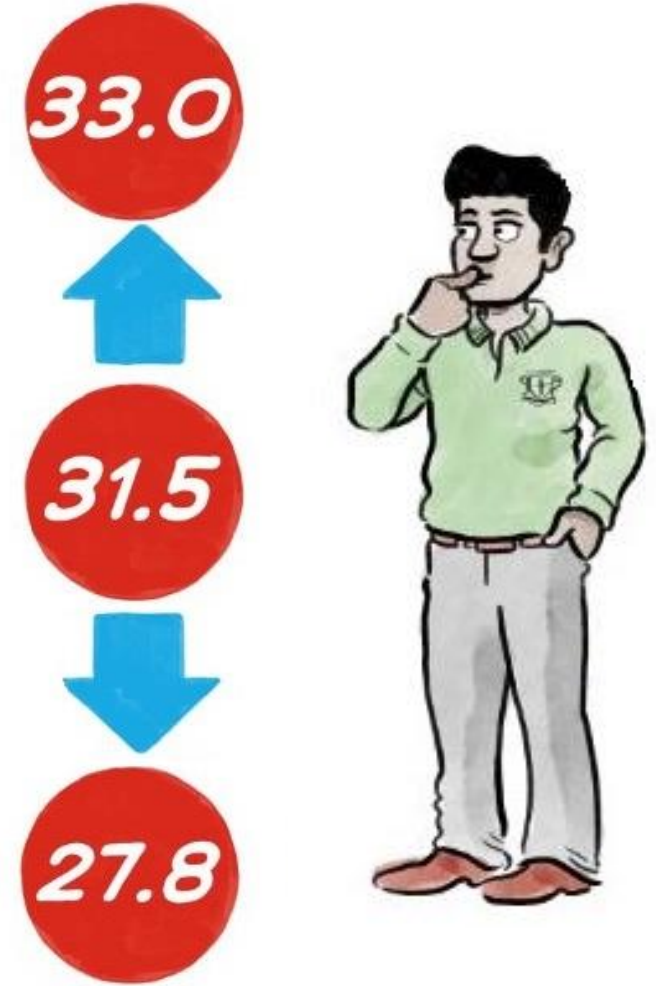
# Adjusting a Handicap Index

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 ***Allied Golf Association***.

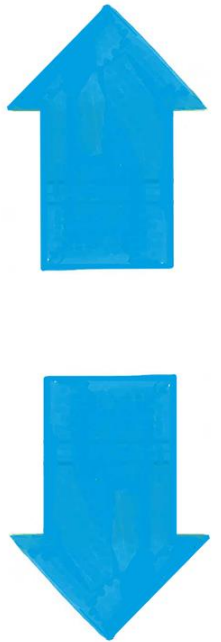
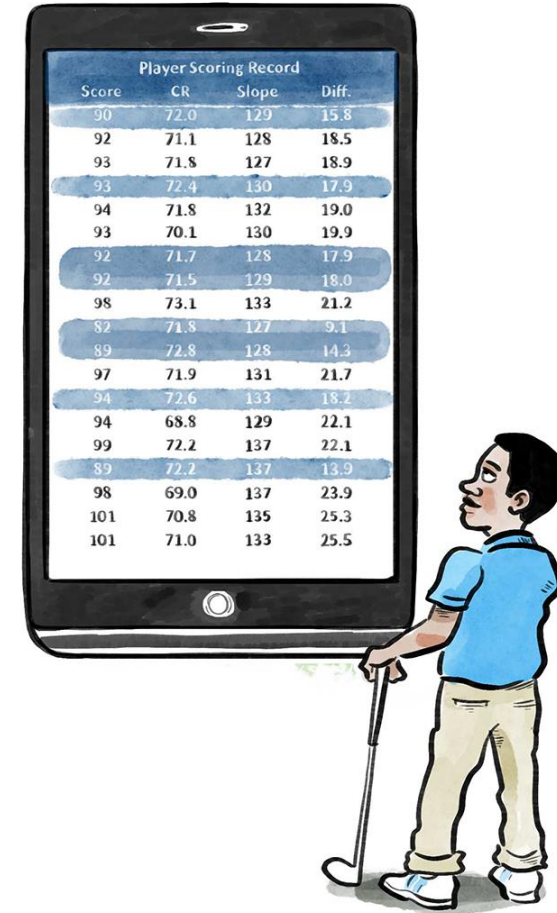




# Adjusting Upward or Downward

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

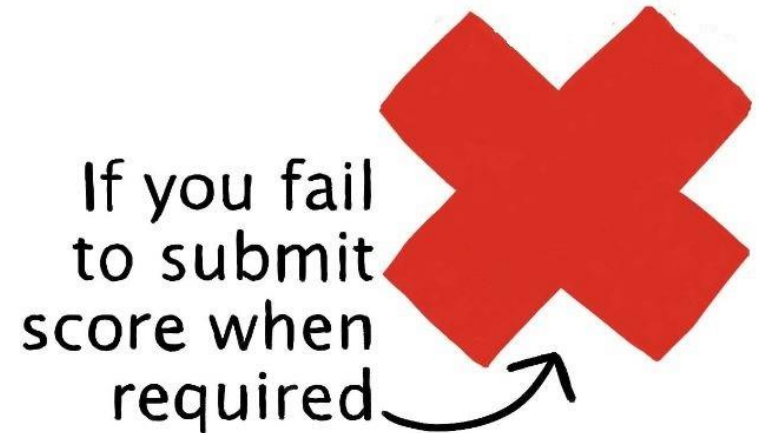




# Applying a Penalty Score

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.





# 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.



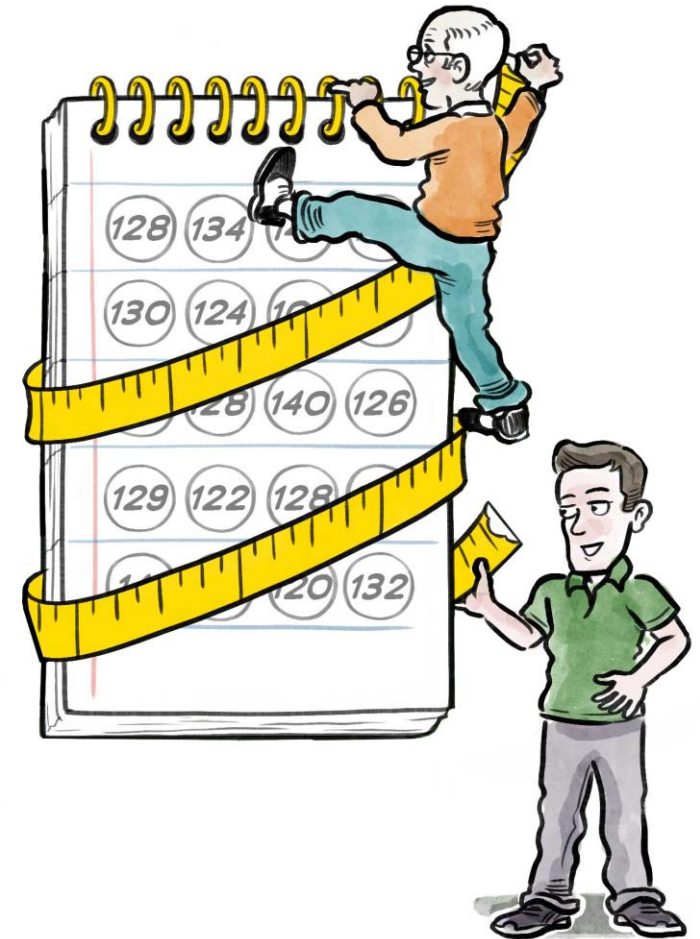


# Considerations When Reinstating a Handicap Index

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.

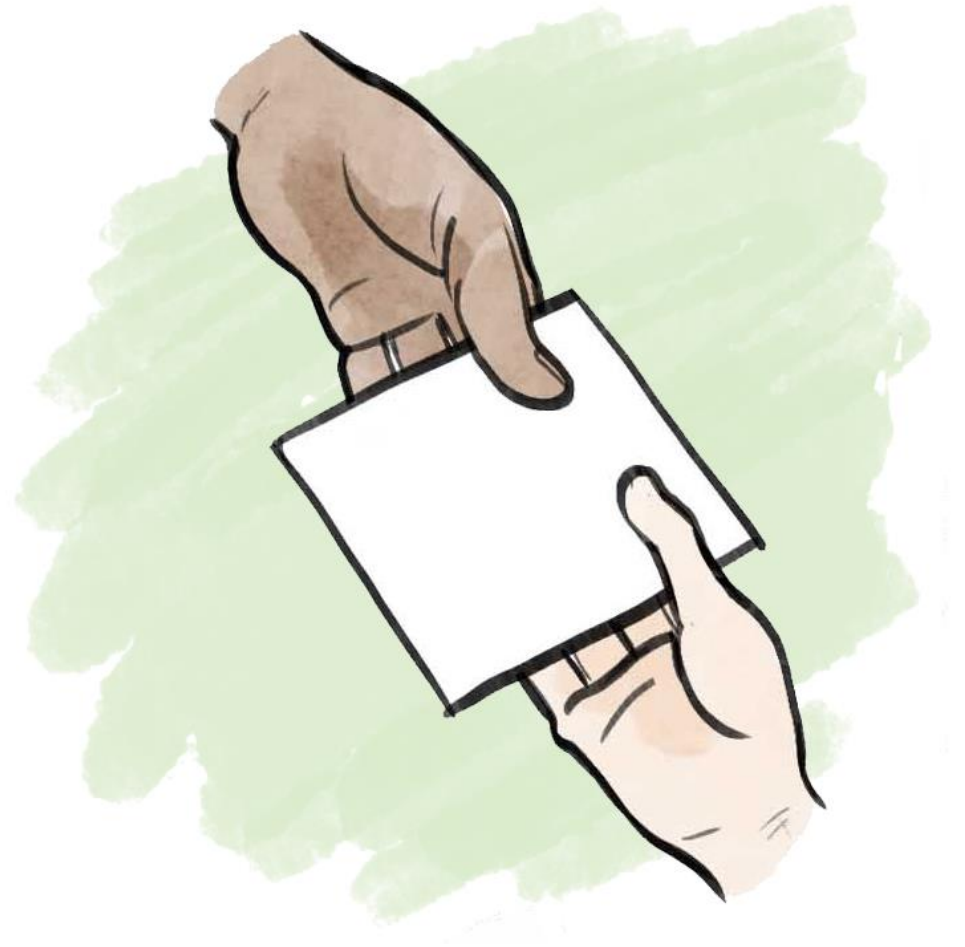




# Terms of the Competition

## COMMITTEE HANDICAP ADJUSTMENT

**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).





# QUESTIONS?





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# AGA Responsibilities Administration of a Handicap Index



# 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. Ideally par will be printed alongside each hole on the scorecard.

It is recommended that par is established in accordance with the hole lengths indicated in the table. The AGA can also take into consideration the way the hole is designed to be played.

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...  
Men's - < 240 Par 4, < 450 Par 5. Women's  
<400 Par 5

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 the  
Regular Tee is 485 yard Par 5, the forward tee  
play 440 yards. If the hole was designed to  
play as a par-5 hole, then it can be assigned  
as such.

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

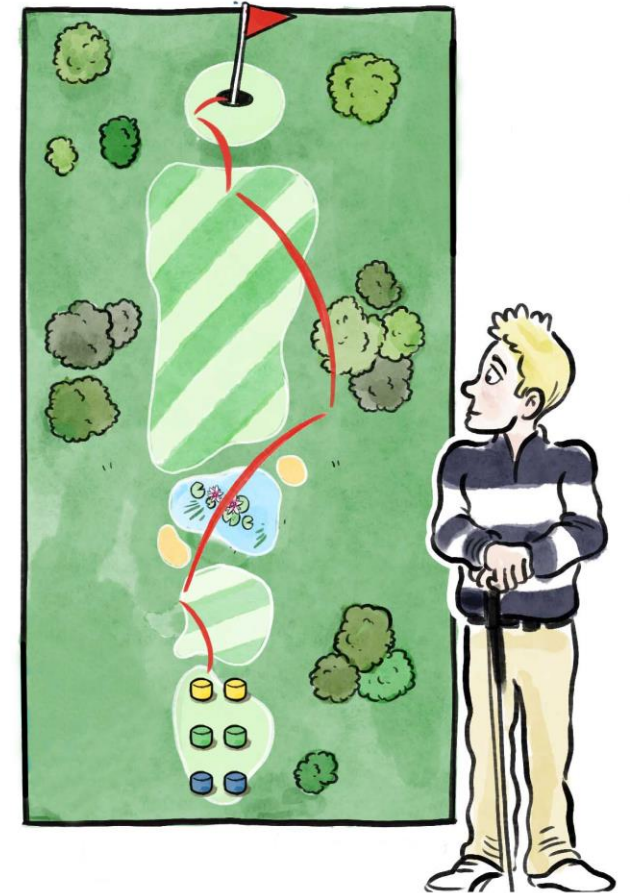




# Temporary Ratings for an Unrated Set of Tees

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.

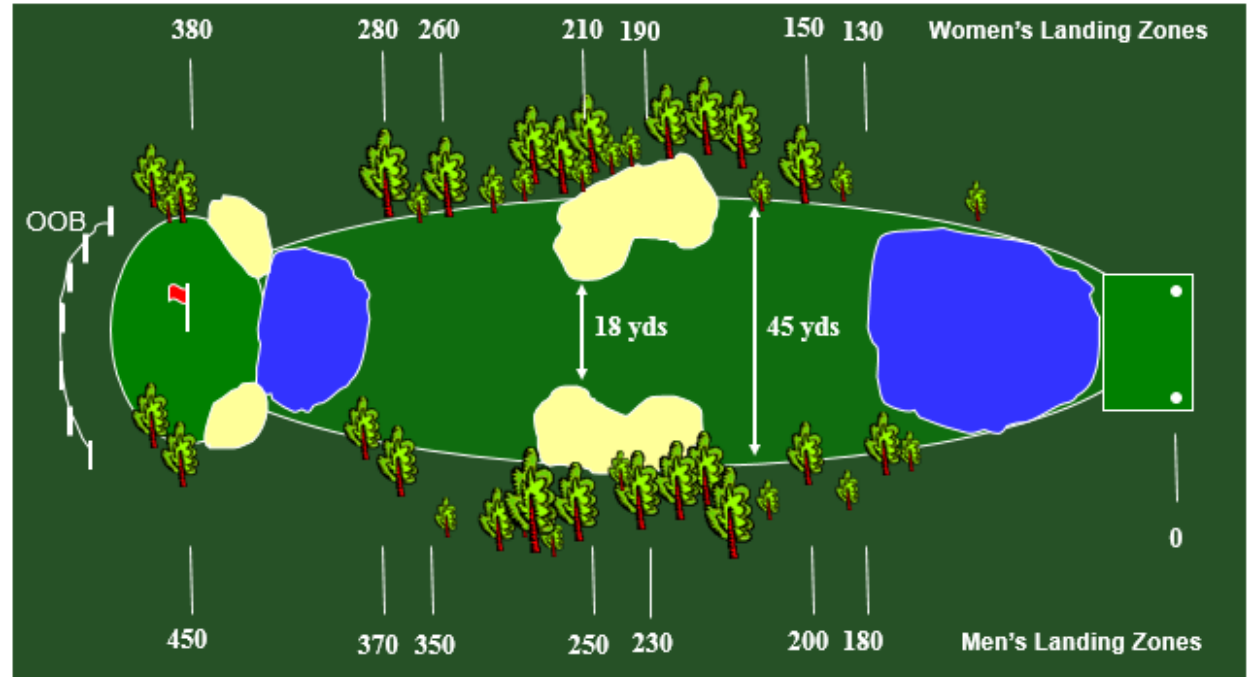




# Permanent Modification of Courses

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.





# 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 a recommendation for the #1 and #2 stroke holes in the middle clusters.

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.





# QUESTIONS?









# Additional Education

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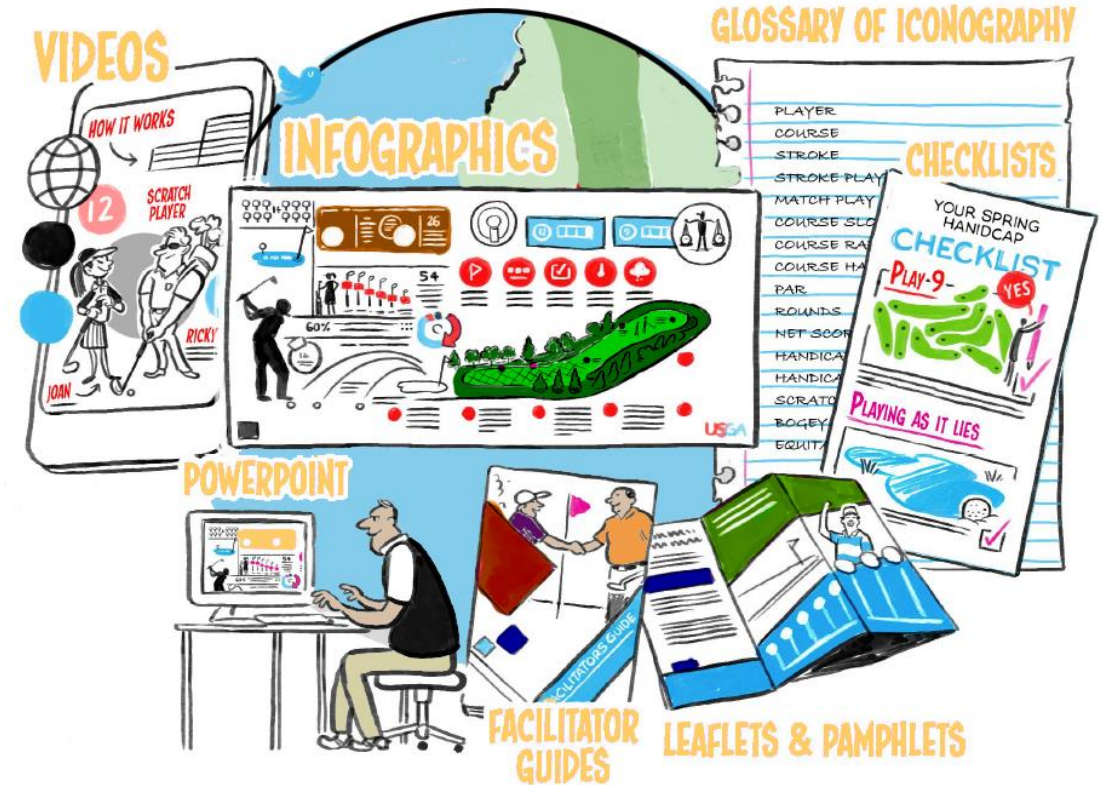
# WHS RESOURCES FOR CLUB ADMINS

## *Tools and Resources*

### ❖ ADMIN RESOURCES

- ❖ <https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/handicapping/world-handicap-system/world-handicap-system--education-resources-for-club-administrators.html>

### ❖ Rules of Handicapping





## Summary – rk Takeaways

### INCLUSIVITY

- 54.0, (3) 18-Hole Scores
- Play fairly verse Anyone Anywhere

### POST AFTER YOU PLAY

- Daily Revisions
- Playing Condition Calculation
- ESR

### MORE CHECKS AND BALANCES

- ESR, SOFT CAP, & HARD CAP



## Summary – rk Concerns

- CR – PAR factor in Course Handicap Calc
  - Impact on golfers losing strokes
- Net Double Bogey Concept (Double Bogey Plus)
- Daily Revisions – Impact of Event Prep.
- Playing Condition Calculation



Questions ???

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS  
OR... IF YOU WANT ACCESS TO THE RECORDING  
OF THIS WEBINAR

PLEASE EMAIL TO RICH KENNEDY  
[richk@njsga.org](mailto:richk@njsga.org)

SUBJECT: WHS WEBINAR



# WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM – RULES OF HANDICAPPING

On Behalf of NJSGA President Eric  
Houseknecht, the NJSGA Board and  
Advisory Committee, Executive  
Director Kevin Purcell  
and the NJSGA Staff  
Thank you for attending!  
Stay Safe and Healthy!