

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.
- Compete, or play recreationally, with anyone else on a fair and equal basis.

What is a Course Rating?

- The evaluation of the playing difficulty of a course for scratch golfers(0.0 handicap) under normal course and weather conditions.
- Based on yardage and other obstacles to the extent that they affect the scoring difficulty for the scratch golfer.
- Expressed as the number of strokes expected, taken to one decimal place.

This basically replaces the SSS for a course.

What is a Bogey Rating?

- The evaluation of the playing difficulty of a course for bogey golfers(20 handicap for men and 24 handicap for ladies) under normal course and weather conditions.
- Based on yardage and other obstacles to the extent that they affect the scoring difficulty for the bogey golfer.
- Expressed as the number of strokes expected, taken to one decimal place.

What is a Slope Rating?

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

It is the difference between the Bogey Rating and the Course Rating multiplied by a constant factor. It is expressed as a whole number from 55 to 155. A golf course of standard relative playing difficulty has a Slope Rating of 113.

Gathurst Ratings

TEE	LENGTH	GENDER	COURSE RATING	SLOPE RATING	FRONT 9	BACK 9
WHITE	5948	MEN	69.6	129	36.7/136	32.9/121
YELLOW	5705	MEN	68.4	123	36.2/132	32.2/114
RED	5324	WOMEN	71.5	128	38.5/139	33.0/117

How is My Handicap Index Calculated

Average the lowest 8 of the most recent 20 score differentials, rounded to the nearest tenth.

It also includes mechanisms which:

- Take into consideration the conditions under which a score was played.
- Remembers previously demonstrated ability within a defined period of time.
- Caps the upward movement of a Handicap Index within a defined period of time.
- Applies additional adjustments to Handicap Index when an exceptional score is submitted.

What is a Score Differential

Score differential = $(113 \div \text{Slope Rating}) \times (\text{Gross score} - \text{Course Rating})$

A player's gross score is 95 on a course with Course Rating of 71.5 and Slope Rating of 125.

The player's score differential is:

$$\text{Score Differential} = (113 \div 125) \times (95 - 71.5)$$
$$0.904 \quad \times \quad 23.5$$

$$\text{Score Differential} = 21.2$$

Calculation of a New Handicap Index & For Fewer Than 20 Scores

Number of score differentials in scoring record	Score differential(s) to be used in calculation of Handicap Index	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 New Handicap Index

For Fewer Than 20 Scores– Examples:

A beginner submits 3 scores, with calculated differentials of 36.5, 43.2 and 45.9.

The player's Handicap Index is calculated as:

Lowest score differential	Adjustment	Handicap Index.
36.5	- 2.0	= 34.5

The player submits a 4th score of 40.7.

The player's Handicap Index is calculated as :

Lowest score differential	Adjustment	Handicap Index.
36.5	- 1.0	= 35.5

Authorised Formats of Play

Format of Play	Type of Round	Number of Holes			
		9	Yes	18	Yes
Individual Stroke Play	Organised competition	9	Yes	18	Yes
	General play	9	Yes	18	Yes
	Stableford – organised competition	9	Yes	18	Yes
	Stableford – general play	9	Yes	18	Yes
	Par / bogey – organised competition	9	Yes	18	Yes
	Par / bogey – general play	9	Yes	18	Yes
	Maximum Score – organised competition	9	Yes	18	Yes
	Maximum Score – general play	9	Yes	18	Yes
Four-ball stroke play	Organised competition	9		18	
	General play	9		18	
	Stableford – organised competition	9		18	
	Stableford – general play	9		18	
	Par / Bogey – organised competition	9		18	
	Par / bogey – general play	9		18	
Individual Match play	Organised competition	9		18	
	General play	9		18	
Four-ball Match play	Organised competition	9		18	
	General play	9		18	

General Play Submissions

Within GB&I players are required to pre-register their intent to submit a score in general play for handicap purposes.

Such pre-registration must be made:

- Before the player starts the round, and
- In the manner prescribed by the club where the round is being played.
- The round must be played to the rules of golf- no conceded puts.

Minimum Number of Holes

- If playing an 18 hole round and the player completes more than 9 holes, the score is added to the record.
- If playing a 9 hole round all holes must be played.
- If the minimum number of holes are not played the score is discarded and not included in the players record.

Hole scores may be adjusted:

- By Net Double Bogey for a high hole score. Or If all hole haven't been played, recording a Net Par on the holes not played.

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.

Acceptability of Scores

Rounds played must be:

- In an authorised format of play;
- Over a minimum number of holes;
- By the Rules of Golf;
- In the company of at least one other person or player;
- On a course with a current Course Rating and Slope Rating.

Scores that cannot be used?

- Foursomes (also known as Alternate Shot)
- Scrambles
- When practicing or being coached
- When using non-conforming equipment
- When the minimum number of holes have not been played

What do I need to do when I want to play?

- 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.

Course Handicap Calculation

$$\text{Handicap Index} \times (\text{Slope} \div 113) = \text{Course Handicap}$$

Examples:

Player decides to play a set of tees with a Slope rating of 119

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Handicap Index} & \times & (\text{Slope} \div 113) = \text{Course Handicap} \\ 15.6 & & 1.05 & & 16.4(16) \end{array}$$

Player decides to play a set of tees with a Slope rating of 129

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Handicap Index} & \times & (\text{Slope} \div 113) = \text{Course Handicap} \\ 15.6 & & 1.14 & & 17.8(18) \end{array}$$

Course Handicap Table

These will be on display at all golf courses.

At Gathurst they will be displayed en-route to the first tee.

Also on the notice board in the clubhouse.

Course Handicap Table

England Golf
Gathurst Golf Club (1006815) - Gathurst Golf Club
Men's - White

Course Rating™: 69.6 - Slope Rating®: 129

Handicap Index®	Course Handicap™	Handicap Index®	Course Handicap™
+5.0 to +4.9	+6	24.1 to 24.9	28
+4.8 to +4.0	+5	25.0 to 25.8	29
+3.9 to +3.1	+4	25.9 to 26.7	30
+3.0 to +2.2	+3	26.8 to 27.5	31
+2.1 to +1.4	+2	27.6 to 28.4	32
+1.3 to +0.5	+1	28.5 to 29.3	33
+0.4 to 0.4	0	29.4 to 30.2	34
0.5 to 1.3	1	30.3 to 31.0	35
1.4 to 2.1	2	31.1 to 31.9	36
2.2 to 3.0	3	32.0 to 32.8	37
3.1 to 3.9	4	32.9 to 33.7	38
4.0 to 4.8	5	33.8 to 34.6	39
4.9 to 5.6	6	34.7 to 35.4	40
5.7 to 6.5	7	35.5 to 36.3	41
6.6 to 7.4	8	36.4 to 37.2	42
7.5 to 8.3	9	37.3 to 38.1	43
8.4 to 9.1	10	38.2 to 38.9	44
9.2 to 10.0	11	39.0 to 39.8	45
10.1 to 10.9	12	39.9 to 40.7	46
11.0 to 11.8	13	40.8 to 41.6	47
11.9 to 12.7	14	41.7 to 42.4	48
12.8 to 13.5	15	42.5 to 43.3	49
13.6 to 14.4	16	43.4 to 44.2	50
14.5 to 15.3	17	44.3 to 45.1	51
15.4 to 16.2	18	45.2 to 45.9	52
16.3 to 17.0	19	46.0 to 46.8	53
17.1 to 17.9	20	46.9 to 47.7	54
18.0 to 18.8	21	47.8 to 48.6	55
18.9 to 19.7	22	48.7 to 49.4	56
19.8 to 20.5	23	49.5 to 50.3	57
20.6 to 21.4	24	50.4 to 51.2	58
21.5 to 22.3	25	51.3 to 52.1	59
22.4 to 23.2	26	52.2 to 52.9	60
23.3 to 24.0	27	53.0 to 53.8	61
		53.9 to 54.0	62

INSTRUCTIONS

* When using the table, find the range containing your Handicap Index® in the left column. Play with the Course Handicap™ which corresponds with it in the right column.

* Please make sure that the tees from which you are playing correspond with the tees for which this table applies.

Course Handicap Table

England Golf
Gathurst Golf Club (1006815) - Gathurst Golf Club
Women's - Red

Course Rating™: 71.5 - Slope Rating®: 128

Handicap Index®	Course Handicap™	Handicap Index®	Course Handicap™
+5.0 to +4.9	+6	24.3 to 25.1	28
+4.8 to +4.0	+5	25.2 to 26.0	29
+3.9 to +3.1	+4	26.1 to 26.9	30
+3.0 to +2.3	+3	27.0 to 27.8	31
+2.2 to +1.4	+2	27.9 to 28.6	32
+1.3 to +0.5	+1	28.7 to 29.5	33
+0.4 to 0.4	0	29.6 to 30.4	34
0.5 to 1.3	1	30.5 to 31.3	35
1.4 to 2.2	2	31.4 to 32.2	36
2.3 to 3.0	3	32.3 to 33.1	37
3.1 to 3.9	4	33.2 to 33.9	38
4.0 to 4.8	5	34.0 to 34.8	39
4.9 to 5.7	6	34.9 to 35.7	40
5.8 to 6.6	7	35.8 to 36.6	41
6.7 to 7.5	8	36.7 to 37.5	42
7.6 to 8.3	9	37.6 to 38.4	43
8.4 to 9.2	10	38.5 to 39.2	44
9.3 to 10.1	11	39.3 to 40.1	45
10.2 to 11.0	12	40.2 to 41.0	46
11.1 to 11.9	13	41.1 to 41.9	47
12.0 to 12.8	14	42.0 to 42.8	48
12.9 to 13.6	15	42.9 to 43.6	49
13.7 to 14.5	16	43.7 to 44.5	50
14.6 to 15.4	17	44.6 to 45.4	51
15.5 to 16.3	18	45.5 to 46.3	52
16.4 to 17.2	19	46.4 to 47.2	53
17.3 to 18.0	20	47.3 to 48.1	54
18.1 to 18.9	21	48.2 to 48.9	55
19.0 to 19.8	22	49.0 to 49.8	56
19.9 to 20.7	23	49.9 to 50.7	57
20.8 to 21.6	24	50.8 to 51.6	58
21.7 to 22.5	25	51.7 to 52.5	59
22.6 to 23.3	26	52.6 to 53.4	60
23.4 to 24.2	27	53.5 to 54.0	61

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* Please make sure that the tees from which you are playing correspond with the tees for which this table applies.

Course Handicap Table

England Golf
Gathurst Golf Club (1006815) - Gathurst Golf Club
Men's - Yellow

Course Rating™: 68.4 - Slope Rating®: 123

Handicap Index®	Course Handicap™	Handicap Index®	Course Handicap™
+5.0 to +4.2	+5	24.4 to 25.2	27
+4.1 to +3.3	+4	25.3 to 26.1	28
+3.2 to +2.3	+3	26.2 to 27.1	29
+2.2 to +1.4	+2	27.2 to 28.0	30
+1.3 to +0.5	+1	28.1 to 28.9	31
+0.4 to 0.4	0	29.0 to 29.8	32
0.5 to 1.3	1	29.9 to 30.7	33
1.4 to 2.2	2	30.8 to 31.6	34
2.3 to 3.2	3	31.7 to 32.6	35
3.3 to 4.1	4	32.7 to 33.5	36
4.2 to 5.0	5	33.6 to 34.4	37
5.1 to 5.9	6	34.5 to 35.3	38
6.0 to 6.8	7	35.4 to 36.2	39
6.9 to 7.8	8	36.3 to 37.2	40
7.9 to 8.7	9	37.3 to 38.1	41
8.8 to 9.6	10	38.2 to 39.0	42
9.7 to 10.5	11	39.1 to 39.9	43
10.6 to 11.4	12	40.0 to 40.8	44
11.5 to 12.4	13	40.9 to 41.8	45
12.5 to 13.3	14	41.9 to 42.7	46
13.4 to 14.2	15	42.8 to 43.6	47
14.3 to 15.1	16	43.7 to 44.5	48
15.2 to 16.0	17	44.6 to 45.4	49
16.1 to 16.9	18	45.5 to 46.3	50
17.0 to 17.9	19	46.4 to 47.3	51
18.0 to 18.8	20	47.4 to 48.2	52
18.9 to 19.7	21	48.3 to 49.1	53
19.8 to 20.6	22	49.2 to 50.0	54
20.7 to 21.5	23	50.1 to 50.9	55
21.6 to 22.5	24	51.0 to 51.9	56
22.6 to 23.4	25	52.0 to 52.8	57
23.5 to 24.3	26	52.9 to 53.7	58
		53.8 to 54.0	59

INSTRUCTIONS

* When using the table, find the range containing your Handicap Index® in the left column. Play with the Course Handicap™ which corresponds with it in the right column.

* Please make sure that the tees from which you are playing correspond with the tees for which this table applies.

What Handicap Allowance Should I Be Using?

- For equity to be achieved amongst two or more players, a player's Course Handicap must be converted into a Playing Handicap.
- Determined by the format of play and the applicable handicap allowances.
- These will be different for each format of play, and you should always check the Terms of the Competition before you play.
- Singles and four-ball allowance are mandatory for GB&I.

Handicap Allowances

Formats of Play	Handicap Allowance	Formats of Play	Handicap Allowance
Individual stroke play	95%	Best 1 of 4 stroke play	75%
Individual stableford	95%	Best 2 of 4 stroke play	85%
Individual par/ bogey	95%	Best 3 of 4 stroke play	100%
Individual Maximum Score	95%	All 4 of 4 stroke play	100%
Four-ball Stroke play	85%	Scramble (4 players)	25%/20%/15%/10% from lowest to highest handicap
Four-ball stableford	85%	Scramble (3 players)	
Four-ball par / bogey	90%	Scramble (2 players)	35% Low / 15% High
Individual match play	100%	Total score of 2 match play	100%
Four-ball match play	95%	Best 1 of 4 par / bogey	75%
Foursomes	50% of combined team handicap	Best 2 of 4 par / bogey	80%
Greensomes	60% Low handicap + 40% high handicap	Best 3 of 4 par / bogey	90%
		4 of 4 par / bogey	100%

Playing Handicap Calculation

The calculation of a Playing Handicap is an adjustment to the Course Handicap by any handicap allowances in operation for the format of play

Course Handicap x Handicap Allowance = Playing Handicap
Examples:

This event is a Singles Stroke Play Competition.

Course Handicap X Allowance = Playing Handicap
16 95% 15

This event is a Four-Ball better ball Stableford

Course Handicap X Allowance = Playing Handicap
16 85% = 14

The Process:

<p>Know your Index</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Look it up:•Online•At the club	<p>Work out Course Hcp</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Use the rating table or course handicap calculator	<p>Adjust for format/Competition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Check the allowance.	<p>Play Golf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Enjoy your round	<p>Return your Score</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•If score is acceptable submit it as soon as possible
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Responsibilities of Competition Committee

The Committee in charge of a competition must set eligibility conditions within their Terms of the Competition.

For example:

- Who is eligible to Play?
- A maximum Handicap Index limit for entry.

- If a player fails to submit a score from an authorised format of play, the Handicap Committee should investigate and take appropriate action.
- If the reason was valid the Score should not be posted
- If there was no valid reason and an acceptable score is discoverable, that score will be posted; and a club sanction may be applied.
- If the score is not discoverable, a penalty score must 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.