

Handicap Frequently Asked Questions

What is a handicap Index?

A golf handicap is a numerical measure based on past scores, of a golfer's potential that is used to enable players of varying abilities to compete against one another. A handicap is stated as an index rounded to 1 decimal place, e.g. 14.2.

What is a score differential?

A Score Differential measures the performance of a round in relation to the relative difficulty of the course that was played, measured by the Course Rating and Slope Rating.

What is a Playing Course Calculation (PCC)

A PCC is an automatic increase or decrease in a score differential. The PCC is an automatic adjustment calculated after all of the score differentials from a course are submitted each day. The adjustment of +/- 3 strokes is made when course and/or weather conditions significantly impacted scores on that day.

Is there a maximum handicap Index?

Yes, the maximum handicap index for both men and women is 54.

What is The World Handicap System (WHS)?

Beginning in 2020, the WHS unifies six different handicap systems that were used around the world into a single system that enables golfers of different abilities to play and compete on a fair basis, in any format, on any course, anywhere around the world.

How do I get a handicap Index?

At The Woods, all residents with a Class A membership are automatically enrolled in the Golf Handicap Information Network (GHIN) for a nominal fee charged to your Woods account annually.

How are handicap indexes calculated?

A handicap index is an average of 8 of the best score differentials of the last 20 rounds played rounded to 1 decimal place.

Are there other automatic adjustments?

Yes. Two adjustments can be automatically applied to eliminate drastic upward movements of handicap indexes. Both are measured from the average of the best 8 rounds against the lowest handicap index in the golfer's profile. A soft cap limits the upper movement of an index by up to 3 strokes. A hard cap similarly limits the upward movement by 5 strokes above the player's low handicap index.

Are handicap indexes capped during tournaments?

Yes, typically at The Woods we limit handicap indexes for tournaments at 90% for men and 95% for women. However, the tournament format sometimes dictates the use of other limits.

How many scores are required to establish a handicap Index?

In order to establish a Handicap Index, a total of 54 holes must be played and posted to your scoring record. These scores can be made up of any combination of 9- or 18-hole rounds. 9-hole scores are combined in the order that they are received to form 18-hole Score Differentials that are used to calculate your Handicap Index.

How and when do I post my scores?

Scores must be posted on the day of play. The GHIN system recalculates handicaps every night. There are several ways to post scores. The Woods pro shop maintains a computer for players to enter scores immediately after exiting the golf course. You can also post scores online at www.ghin.com.

What is a hole handicap?

On any scorecard there is a line titled "Handicap" which shows a numerical value of the relative difficulty of each hole on the course. Handicap scores range from 1 to 18. The hole identified with a "1" is the most difficult hole on the golf course. The hole identified as "18" is the least difficult.

How is a course handicap calculated?

Use the following equation:
 $(\text{Index}) \times (\text{Course Slope}/113) + (\text{Course Rating} - \text{Par})$. The result is then rounded to the first significant digit using conventional rounding rules, i.e. 5 and above rounded up.

What are the different types of scores?

When posting a score into the GHIN system there are three alternative types of scores: Home; Away; Competition. Home and away scores are self-explanatory. The committee determines when scores are to be submitted as "Competition", usually when a player plays his/her own ball in a competitive environment run by either the WMGA or WWGA.

What is Peer review?

Peer review is the process by which either a player's score or Handicap Index can be confirmed or challenged. While the Handicap Index calculation has built in safeguards to protect against handicap manipulation, the human element is equally important to ensure fair play. Any player who believes a handicap violation has occurred may refer the issue to the WMGA handicap committee for review.

Is there a maximum score I can post for handicap purposes?

Yes. On any given hole you can post a score no higher than a net double bogey defined as two over par for the hole plus whatever number of strokes your handicap allows for that hole. For example, on a par 4 hole for which you receive 1 handicap stroke you may post a score of 7 (4+2+1).

What is a course handicap?

Golf courses are rated by the USGA in degrees of difficulty. A specific course handicap is the result of a relationship between a player's handicap index and the difficulty of the course being played translated into the numerical difference between the par of the course and the number of strokes a player receives to adjust a score to par.

Is there an easier way to determine my course handicap?

Yes. The easiest way to determine a course handicap is to use the handicap calculator available at www.ghin.com or at <https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/course-handicap-calculator.html>

Does the WMGA handicap committee monitor scores submitted?

Yes. To insure the integrity of the handicap system and in fairness to all of our members, our handicap committee periodically samples scores submitted for accuracy and on time submission.

May the WMGA handicap committee adjust scores once submitted?

Yes, under the handicap rules established by the USGA the handicap committee is charged with enforcement of handicap rules and is authorized to change any scores submitted after a review determines scores were in error or not submitted on the day the round was played.