

SUMMARY OF THE GOLF RSA HANDICAPPING RULES FOR MEN AND WOMEN

Effective from 1 October 2019

Note: the full GolfRSA Rules Manual can be viewed on either www.golfrsa.co.za or www.handicaps.co.za.

OCTOBER 1, 2019 HANDICAP RULE CHANGES

The Golf RSA Handicap Rules Manual has been changed where necessary to give partial effect to the adoption of the World Handicap System. These include, Change to the Handicap Calculation, Maximum Score on a Hole, 9-Hole Scoring, Time to Enter a Score, Penalty Scores, and Exceptional Scores.

PURPOSE

Essence of the System

The aim of a Handicap Index is to allow golfers of differing abilities to compete against one another. GolfRSA present this Handicap System in the conviction that, when faithfully operated, it results in an equitable Handicap Index no matter where golfers live and play.

DEFINITIONS

Course Handicap

A "Course Handicap" is the number of handicap strokes a player receives from a particular set of tees at the course being played.

A "9 Hole Course Handicap" is the number of handicap strokes a player receives from a particular set of tees for the 9 holes they have elected to play.

To convert a Handicap Index to a Course Handicap, a player takes the Handicap Index to a Course Handicap Conversion Table to find the corresponding Course Handicap. Each set of rated tees will have a different Course Handicap Conversion Table for men and women based on its Slope Rating and Course Rating and adjustment to Par. It is the player's responsibility to determine the correct Course Handicap, and to know the holes at which handicap strokes are to be given or received.

A player's Course Handicap is determined by multiplying a Handicap Index by the Slope Rating of the course played before dividing it by 113 and then adding the Course Rating and deducting the Par of the course. The resulting figure is rounded off to the nearest whole number (0.5 or more is rounded upward).

Course Handicap = Handicap Index X Slope Rating of the Course /113 + (Course Rating - Par)

Course Handicap Conversion Table

A "Course Handicap Conversion Table" is a chart that converts a Handicap Index to a Course Handicap based on the Slope Rating for a specific set of tees and the adjustment to Par.

Course Handicap Conversion Table

EXAMPLE ONLY – NOT ACCURATE

CLUB NAME: ABC GOLF CLUB TEES: Back /Yellow

Slope Rating: 140 USGA Course Rating: 72.7 Par 72

For: Men

Handicap Index	Course Handicap	Handicap Index	Course Handicap
+3.6 to +2.9	+4	16.6 to 17.3	21
+2.8 to +2.1	+3	17.4 to 18.1	22
+2.0 to +1.3	+2	18.2 to 18.9	23
+1.2 to +.5	+1	19.0 to 19.7	24
+.4 to .4	0	19.8 to 20.5	25
.5 to 1.2	1	20.6 to 21.3	26
1.3 to 2.0	2	21.4 to 22.1	27
2.1 to 2.8	3	22.2 to 23.0	28
2.9 to 3.6	4	23.1 to 23.8	29
3.7 to 4.4	5	23.9 to 24.6	30
4.5 to 5.2	6	24.7 to 25.4	31
5.3 to 6.0	7	25.5 to 26.2	32
6.1 to 6.8	8	26.3 to 27.0	33
6.9 to 7.6	9	27.1 to 27.8	34
7.7 to 8.4	10	27.9 to 28.6	35
8.5 to 9.2	11	28.7 to 29.4	36
9.3 to 10.0	12	29.5 to 30.2	37
10.1 to 10.8	13	30.3 to 31.0	38
10.9 to 11.7	14	31.1 to 31.8	39
11.8 to 12.5	15	31.9 to 32.6	40
12.6 to 13.3	16	32.7 to 33.4	41
13.4 to 14.1	17	33.5 to 34.3	42
14.2 to 14.9	18	34.4 to 35.1	43
15.0 to 15.7	19	35.2 to 35.9	44

15.8 to 16.5	20	36.0 to 36.4	45
<p>INSTRUCTIONS</p> <p>When using the table, find the range containing the Handicap Index in the left column. The Course Handicap is the corresponding number in the right column.</p> <p>The table above is a sample. Make sure that the table you use is for the tees that you play for a particular round, and for the appropriate gender.</p>			

Exceptional Score

An “*exceptional score*” is highlighted on the players scoring records when the particular score differential is 7 or more strokes below their handicap index at the time the round was played.

Adjusted Gross Score

An “*Adjusted Gross Score*” is a player’s Gross Score adjusted as per the GolfRSA Handicap System procedure for unfinished holes, conceded strokes, holes not played or not played under the Rules of Golf or adjusted maximum score on any hole.

Handicap Index

A “*Handicap Index*” is the USGA’s service mark used to indicate a measurement of a player’s demonstrated ability on a course of standard playing difficulty. It is expressed as a number taken to one decimal place (e.g. 10.4) and is used for conversion to a Course Handicap.

Score Differential

A “*Score Differential*” is the difference between a player’s Adjusted Gross Score and the Course Rating of the tee from which the player played, multiplied by 113/Slope Rating.

Handicap Stroke Hole

A “*Handicap Stroke Hole*” is a hole at which a player applies a handicap stroke (or strokes) to their Gross Score for that hole to determine a Net Score for the hole. The order in which handicap strokes (from 1 to 18) are allocated to the holes of the course should be shown on the scorecard.

Most Likely Score

A “*Most likely score*” is the score a player would most likely have achieved if he started the hole but did not complete the hole or if a player is conceded a stroke. This should be calculated as to the number of strokes already taken plus the number of strokes the player was most likely to have achieved.

Most likely scores should be determined on any hole in accordance with the following guidelines:

Position of the Ball	Strokes to be Added
If the ball lies on the putting green and is no more than 5 feet (1.5 metres) from the hole:	Add one additional stroke.
If the ball lies between 5 feet (1.5 metres) and 20 yards (20 metres) from the hole:	Add 2 or 3 additional strokes, depending on the position of the ball, the difficulty of the green and the ability of the player.
If the ball lies more than 20 yards (20 metres) from the hole:	Add 3 or 4 additional strokes, depending on the position of the

	ball, the difficulty of the green and the ability of the player.
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Net Score

A "Net Score" is a player's score after their Gross Score has been adjusted by their Course Handicap.

No Return (N/R)

An N/R must be entered in the system where a round was not acceptable for handicap purposes as detailed below.

Penalty Scores

Players have 24 hours in which to enter a score after the completion of their round. Any scores returned after this 24-hour period will result in a "Penalty Score" being allocated to the player's profile.

Playing Handicap

A "playing handicap" is one where the Course Handicap has been adjusted up or down by the application of a Handicap Allowance or as determined by the competition committee. The Playing handicap shall only be used for the competition scores. The Course Handicap must be used when calculating an Adjusted Gross Score.

Slope Rating

A "Slope Rating" is the USGA's mark that indicates the measurement of the relative difficulty of a course for players who are not Scratch Golfers compared to the USGA Course Rating (e.g., compared to the difficulty of a course for Scratch Golfers). A Slope Rating is computed from the difference between the Bogey Rating and the USGA Course Rating. The lowest Slope Rating is 55 and the highest is 155. A golf course of standard playing difficulty has a Slope Rating of 113.

Scratch Golfer

A "Scratch Golfer" is a player who can play to the Course Rating from any set of tees. For handicapping purposes, it is defined as a player with a Handicap Index of 0.0.

Course Rating (CR)

A "USGA Course Rating" is the USGA's mark that indicates the evaluation of the playing difficulty of a course for a Scratch Golfer under normal course and weather conditions. It is expressed as strokes taken to one decimal place, and is based on metres and other obstacles to the extent that they affect the scoring ability of a Scratch Golfer.

SCORES ACCEPTABLE**All scores**

Scores must be entered on the GolfRSA Handicapping System for all 18-hole and 9-hole rounds except for rounds not acceptable as detailed below.

Maximum score on any hole

The maximum score on any hole is a Net Double Bogey (Net two over par or Zero Stableford points) and the score the golfer must record should they exceed the number of strokes equal to zero

stableford points. For a player with an established *Handicap Index*, the maximum score for each hole played is limited to a *net double bogey*, calculated as follows:

Par of the hole + 2 strokes + any handicap stroke(s) that the player receives on that hole*

(*or minus any handicap stroke(s) that a plus handicap player gives back on that hole)

For a player submitting their first scores to obtain an initial *Handicap Index*, the maximum score for each hole played is limited to *par* + 5 strokes.

Players should, where possible, complete every hole regardless of their partner's or their opposition's score. Where a player does not complete a hole they should record their most likely score.

Where a player is unsure of how to adjust the gross on each hole, the player may enter the scores achieved on each hole using the GolfRSA Handicap Terminal function "Hole-by-Hole" scoring, and the system will adjust the player's actual score to the maximum allowed per hole, based on the stroke allocation per hole, as entered on the system by the club, to give a total Adjusted Gross score for the round.

Unfinished Holes, Conceded Strokes

A player who starts but does not finish a hole or is conceded a stroke must record the Most Likely Score they would have achieved. The number of strokes most likely to have been achieved should not exceed the maximum allowed on each hole as detailed above.

Scores not acceptable

Scores made under the following conditions are not acceptable for handicap purposes and should not be entered in any form in the player's scoring record:

- a) When the score cannot be ratified by a marker
- b) When the types or number of clubs are limited (as in a competition in which only iron clubs are allowed).
- c) When the round played includes the use of "Mulligans"
- d) When more than one ball is used at a time
- e) When the course played is not officially rated including when a course is set up much longer or shorter than the Average Playing Length when the rating of the course was determined
- f) When the player uses non-conforming clubs, balls or tees, or with respect to Rule 14-3 (Rules of Golf) where an artificial device is used in the execution of stroke or when equipment is used in an unusual manner during the execution of a stroke

DIFFERENTIALS

Calculation of Score Differentials

A Score Differential is computed from four elements: Adjusted Gross Score, USGA Course Rating, Slope Rating, and 113 (the Slope Rating of a course of standard difficulty). To determine the Differential, subtract the USGA Course Rating from the Adjusted Gross Score, multiply the difference by 113, and divide the resulting number by the Slope Rating. Round the final number to the nearest tenth (one decimal).

Score Differential = (Adjusted Gross Score - USGA Course Rating) x 113 / Slope Rating

HOW TO COMPUTE A HANDICAP INDEX

Handicap Index Formula

The Handicap Index formula is based on the best Score Differential(s) in a player's scoring record. If a player's scoring record contains 20 scores, the best 8 Score Differentials of the most recent 20 rounds entered are used to calculate the Handicap Index. For players with fewer than 20 scores, the table below details the number of scores the system will use to compute the player's Handicap Index. A Handicap Index must not be issued to a player who has returned fewer than three 18 hole acceptable scores. The first three 18 hole scores must be entered using the hole by hole score entry option.

No of differentials in scoring record	Differentials to be used in calculation	Adjustment
3	Lowest 1	-2.0
4	Lowest 1	-1.0
5	Lowest 1	N/A
6	Average of lowest 2	-1.0
7 or 8	Average of lowest 2	N/A
9 to 11	Average of lowest 3	N/A
12 to 14	Average of lowest 4	N/A
15 or 16	Average of lowest 5	N/A
17 or 18	Average of lowest 6	N/A
19	Average of lowest 7	N/A
20	Average of lowest 8	N/A

- a) Select the number of differentials from the above table
- b) Average these to obtain an intermediate handicap index accurate to one decimal place.

Handicap Index = Average of the lowest valid score differentials

Exceptional performance calculation (marked with legend "e")

When an *exceptional score* is posted to a player's scoring record, the *Handicap Index* will be reduced in accordance with the following adjustment table:

Number of strokes the <i>Score Differential</i> is lower than a player's <i>Handicap Index</i> in effect when the round was played	<i>Exceptional score</i> reduction
7.0 – 9.9	-1.0
10.0 or more	-2.0

- A reduction can be applied based on a single *exceptional score*.
- Reductions for multiple *exceptional scores* are applied cumulatively.
- A reduction is automatically applied to a *Handicap Index* after it is updated following the submission of an *exceptional score*.

- To ensure that the impact of the adjustment remains after the next score is submitted, the reduction is also applied to the previous 19 *Score Differentials* recorded in the player's *scoring record*. The impact of the adjustment will become gradually diluted as new scores are submitted.

Where there are fewer than 20 scores in a player's *scoring record* the reduction is applied to all recorded *Score Differentials*.

Nine Hole Score Entry

9 hole Adjusted Gross Scores are to be entered on the GolfRSA Handicap System where the player has completed between 9 and 13 holes (see 8.3 for incomplete rounds). The system will use the player's adjusted gross score for the 9 holes played and then add par for the second nine, plus the player's course handicap strokes received on the 9 holes played, plus one additional stroke to give an 18 hole Adjusted Gross Score.

Incomplete Rounds

If a player completes 14 or more holes, the player must post an 18-hole score. If more than 9 but less than 14 holes are played, the player must post a nine-hole score. Scores for unplayed holes must be recorded as *par* plus any handicap strokes that the player is entitled to receive on the unplayed holes.

Example: A player with a Course handicap of 24 stops playing after 16 holes because of lightning. Hole 17 is a par 3 and its stroke index is 18 on the course scorecard. The player will record 3 (par) plus 1 handicap stroke for a gross 4 on hole 17. Hole 18 is a par 4 and its stroke index is 6 on the course card. The player will record 4 (par) plus 2 handicap strokes for a 6 on hole 18.

Nine Hole Scores and 24 Hour Penalty

9 hole scores entered on the system are not considered when calculating Exceptional Scores but they will result in a late-score entry penalty if the score is entered more than 24 hours after the 9 holes has been completed.

Time limit on entering scores

A score should be returned on the same day as the round was played but no later than 24 hours after completion of a round. The period of 24 hours is taken from 23:00 on the day of play to 23:00 the following day. Scores not returned during this period will result in a penalty score being entered on the player's behalf. Such scores are not to be deleted or modified by the player's home club, unless exceptional circumstances warrant such action. A player is obliged to enter a score on the system before another round is played.

Penalty Scores (marked with legend "p")

A penalty score is the lowest differential of the player's last 20 recorded scores, or such penalty as the club handicapper may decide, based on the circumstances around the failure of the player to enter the score.

Handicap Index Calculations

Handicap Indexes will be automatically computed from 23:00 each day. Players are advised to confirm their handicap indexes on either the club terminal, www.handicaps.co.za website, or the HNA Handicap App prior to each round, as handicap indexes may have been adjusted over night or due to an exceptional performance trigger.

HANDICAP REVISIONS

Frequency of Revisions

In order to be equitable, handicap indexes must always be kept up to date and are revised daily at 4am. Although players are allowed 24 hours after completing a round within which to record a score, this period should not be used to delay score entry where the club terminal is operational.

Clubs are encouraged to make it a condition of their competitions that all scores should have been entered at the end of a round and prior to the start of any further round. When a previous days score is only entered the following morning, the player should be allowed to play off his current handicap index as reflected on the system unless such score was a second exceptional score and resulted in an immediate recalculation of the payers handicap index.

Where a terminal is offline the player should play off his last computed handicap index as reflected on the off line terminal or on the handicap system when viewed on the internet or via the HNA cell phone application. Once the terminal goes back on line, all entered scores will be reflected in the players handicap index and the system will calculate the players handicap index at 4 am .

Handicapping Committees should however, use discretion to obviate undue fluctuating of handicap indexes.

Players without South African handicap Indexes

South African players who are not affiliated to Golf RSA are outside the scope of this Handicapping System. Where such players compete against players with Golf RSA handicap indexes, it is recommended that in the absence of any handicap history, organizing committees allow men a maximum Handicap Index of 13.0 and ladies a maximum Handicap Index of 20.0.

Foreign Visitors with a Handicap Index

Players from other countries may present their Handicap Index certificates, to a club when entering a competition and play off the Course Handicap as determined by the Course Handicap Conversion Table.

Foreign Visitors without a Handicap Index

Where a player is visiting from a country where the USGA Slope system is not in use and they do not have a Handicap Index, i.e Visitors from England Ireland Scotland and Wales. Their Handicap should be adjusted to par depending on the Tee they are playing, and the Competition organising committee should announce the method of Course Handicap calculation for non affiliated golfers.

Course Handicap for Foreign Handicap Players without a Handicap Index = Foreign Handicap + (Course Rating – Par).