Worldwide Handicap System

COURSE HANDICAPS, SLOPE TABLES AND SCORE DIFFERENTIALS

In our last update we introduced you to the Worldwide Handicap System that will come into force in November. This edition will concentrate on your COURSE HANDICAP, PLAYING HANDICAP and how your SCORE DIFFERENTIAL will be calculated. Last time we established that your current handicap would be converted into your HANDICAP INDEX which would be based on the neutral SLOPE RATING of 113, but how does the HANDICAP INDEX become a COURSE HANDICAP?

COURSE HANDICAP

In the lead up to the new WHS every course was rated to provide a SLOPE RATING, which is the relative difficulty of a course for a bogey golfer as compared with a scratch golfer. The SLOPE RATINGS will be different for each set of tees and for each gender, and is used to convert your HANDICAP INDEX to your COURSE HANDICAP by using the following formula:

HANDICAP INDEX x SLOPE RATING / 113 = COURSE HANDICAP

For example: 12.4x124/113=13.6 (rounded to 14). However, you don't want to be carrying your calculator with you for every round so you will see these SLOPE TABLES dotted around the club. (An A4 version of this table is included later in this document.)

WHS Slope Tables

How to use these tables to find your COURSE HANDICAP:
1 - Decide which set of tees you are playing from (Men - White/Yellow, Women - Red).
2 - Look down the columns to find the range that includes your HANDICAP INDEX.
3 - Read across the table to where your COURSE HANDICAP is shown in **BOLD** type.

White Tees — Slope Rating - 124				Yellow Tees — Slope Rating - 122				Red Tees — Slope Rating - 125			
Range of Handicap Index	Course H'cap	Range of Handicap Index	Course H'cap	Range of Handicap Index	Course H'cap	Range of Handicap Index	Course H'cap	Range of Handicap Index	Course H'cap	Range of Handicap Index	Course H'cap
+3.0 to +2.3	+3	26.0 to 26.8	29	+3.0 to +2.4	+3	26.4 to 27.3	29	+3.0 to +2.3	+3	25.8 to 26.6	29
+2.2 to +1.4	+2	26.9 to 27.7	30	+2.3 to +1.4	+2	27.4 to 28.2	30	+2.2 to +1.4	+2	26.7 to 27.5	30
+1.3 to +0.5	+1	27.8 to 28.7	31	+1.3 to +0.5	+1	28.3 to 29.1	31	+1.3 to +.5	+1	27.6 to 28.4	31
+0.4 to 0.4	0	28.8 to 29.6	32	+0.4 to 0.4	0	29.2 to 30.1	32	+0.4 to 0.4	0	28.5 to 29.3	32
0.5 to 1.3	1	29.7 to 30.5	33	0.5 to 1.3	1	30.2 to 31.0	33	0.5 to 1.3	1	29.4 to 30.2	33
1.4 to 2.2	2	30.6 to 31.4	34	1.4 to 2.3	2	31.1 to 31.9	34	1.4 to 2.2	2	30.3 to 31.1	34
2.3 to 3.1	3	31.5 to 32.3	35	2.4 to 3.2	3	32.0 to 32.8	35	2.3 to 3.1	3	31.2 to 32.0	35
3.3 to 4.1	4	32.4 to 33.2	36	3.3 to 4.1	4	32.9 to 33.8	36	3.2 to 4.0	4	32.1 to 32.9	36
4.2 to 5.0	5	33.3 to 34.1	37	4.2 to 5.0	5	33.9 to 34.7	37	4.1 to 4.9	5	33.0 to 33.8	37
5.1 to 5.9	6	34.2 to 35.0	38	5.1 to 6.0	6	34.8 to 35.6	38	5.0 to 5.8	6	33.9 to 34.8	38
6.0 to 6.8	7	35.1 to 35.9	39	6.1 to 6.9	7	35.7 to 36.5	39	5.9 to 6.7	7	34.9 to 35.7	39
6.9 to 7.7	8	36.0 to 36.9	40	7.0 to 7.8	8	36.6 to 37.5	40	6.8 to 7.6	8	35.8 to 36.6	40
7.8 to 8.6	9	37.0 to 37.8	41	7.9 to 8.7	9	37.6 to 38.4	41	7.7 to 8.5	9	36.7 to 37.5	41
8.7 to 9.5	10	37.9 to 38.7	42	8.8 to 9.7	10	38.5 to 39.3	42	8.6 to 9.4	10	37.6 to 38.4	42
9.6 to 10.4	11	38.8 to 39.6	43	9.8 to 10.6	11	39.4 to 40.2	43	9.5 to 10.3	11	38.5 to 39.3	43
10.5 to 11.3	12	39.7 to 40.5	44	10.7 to 11.5	12	40.3 to 41.2	44	10.4 to 11.2	12	39.4 to 40.2	44
11.5 to 12.3	13	40.6 to 41.4	45	11.6 to 12.5	13	41.3 to 42.1	45	11.3 to 12.2	13	40.3 to 41.1	45
12.4 to 13.2	14	41.5 to 42.3	46	12.6 to 13.4	14	42.2 to 43.0	46	12.3 to 13.1	14	41.2 to 42.0	46
13.3 to 14.1	15	42.4 to 43.2	47	13.5 to 14.3	15	43.1 to 43.9	47	13.2 to 14.0	15	42.1 to 42.9	47
14.2 to 15.0	16	43.3 to 44.1	48	14.4 to 15.2	16	44.0 to 44.9	48	14.1 to 14.9	16	43.0 to 43.8	48
15.1 to 15.9	17	44.2 to 45.1	49	15.3 to 16.2	17	45.0 to 45.8	49	15.0 to 15.8	17	43.9 to 44.7	49
16.0 to 16.8	18	45.2 to 46.0	50	16.3 to 17.1	18	45.9 to 45.7	50	15.9 to 16.7	18	44.8 to 45.6	50
16.9 to 17.7	19	46.1 to 46.9	51	17.2 to 18.0	19	46.8 to 47.7	51	16.8 to 17.6	19	45.7 to 46.5	51
17.8 to 18.6	20	47.0 to 47.8	52	18.1 to 18.9	20	47.8 to 48.6	52	17.7 to 18.5	20	46.6 to 47.4	52
18.7 to 19.5	21	47.9 to 48.7	53	19.0 to 19.9	21	48.7 to 49.5	53	18.6 to 19.4	21	47.5 to 48.3	53
19.6 to 20.5	22	48.8 to 49.6	54	20.0 to 20.8	22	49.6 to 50.4	54	19.5 to 20.3	22	48.4 to 49.2	54
20.6 to 21.4	23	49.7 to 50.5	55	20.9 to 21.7	23	50.5 to 51.4	55	20.4 to 21.2	23	49.3 to 50.1	55
21.5 to 22.3	24	50.6 to 51.4	56	21.8 to 22.6	24	51.5 to 52.3	56	21.3 to 22.1	24	50.2 to 51.0	56
22.4 to 23.2	25	51.5 to 52.3	57	22.7 to 23.6	25	52.4 to 53.2	57	22.2 to 23.0	25	51.1 to 51.9	57
23.3 to 24.1	26	52.4 to 53.3	58	23.7 to 24.5	26	53.3 to 54.0	58	23.1 to 23.9	26	52.0 to 52.8	58
24.2 to 25.0	27	53.4 to 54.0	59	24.6 to 54.4	27			24.0 to 24.8	27	52.9 to 53.7	59
25.1 to 5.9	28			25.5 to 26.3	28			24.9 to 25.7	28	53.8 to 54.0	60

How do you use the SLOPE TABLE?

1. Decide which set of tees you are playing from. Here at St Austell it will generally be white or yellow for men and red for ladies. However, all sets of tees have been rated for both genders so, for instance, if the men wished to play a competition from the red tees the SLOPE RATING is 115.
2. Look down the columns to find the range that includes your HANDICAP INDEX.
3. Read across the table to where your COURSE HANDICAP is shown in **BOLD** type.

Continuing the example used above, the range that contains the HANDICAP INDEX of 12.4 has been ringed on each set of tees. These show that a man playing from the white tees will have a COURSE HANDICAP of 14, but if playing from the yellow tees his COURSE HANDICAP will be 13. A lady playing from the red tees would also have a COURSE HANDICAP of 14.

PLAYING HANDICAP

Having established your COURSE HANDICAP, your final act before stepping onto the first tee is to calculate your PLAYING HANDICAP. As we covered last time, this is done in the same way as it is now, although some of the recommended allowances have changed, most notably for individual competitions when your PLAYING HANDICAP will be 95% of your COURSE HANDICAP.

SCORE DIFFERENTIAL

Having completed your pre-round administration, it is now time to play your round and you will be pleased to know that nothing has changed here. Your 36 points in a stableford is still 36 points, and your nett 73 in a medal is still a nett 73. The changes occur in the way your score is recorded in your HANDICAP RECORD. The first change is that all your handicap data will be stored and calculated centrally and not at, or by, the club. As we have already explained, your HANDICAP INDEX will be the average of your best eight scores from the last 20. However, it is not the score you record on the card, but the SCORE DIFFERENTIAL, which is used for the calculation. Before we show these calculations, a couple of explanations are required:

1. Adjusted Gross Score - for handicap purposes only, gross scores will be capped to a maximum of a nett double bogey (Par of Hole + 2 Strokes + Handicap Strokes Received)
2. Playing Conditions Calculation - the difficulty of the golf course on a daily basis due to course and/or weather conditions, and course set-up. Similar to the current CSS calculation, it can vary between -1.0 and +3.0

Your SCORE DIFFERENTIAL is calculated as follows:

(113/SLOPE RATING)x(ADJUSTED GROSS SCORE–COURSE RATING–PCC CALCULATION)

Therefore, a player scoring an 83 at St Austell off the white tees with nothing worse than a double bogey on the card and a PCC of 0, will have a SCORE DIFFERENTIAL calculated thus: (113/124) x (83-70.1-0) = SCORE DIFFERENTIAL

0.911 x 12.9 = 11.8

Taking this as card one of this player's HANDICAP RECORD, then adding his subsequent scores from various courses, that record would look like this:

Score	Course Rating	Slope Rating	Score Differential	Score	Course Rating	Slope Rating	Score Differential
83	70.1	124	11.8	86	71.8	127	12.6
86	71.8	127	12.6	87	70.1	134	14.3
82	69.0	125	11.8	79	69.8	128	8.1
79	69.8	128	8.1	83	70.7	125	11.1
87	70.1	134	14.3	88	71.5	129	14.5
90	70.0	128	17.7	92	71.7	130	17.6
89	71.8	131	14.8	80	69.1	120	10.3
88	71.5	129	14.5	86	71.8	127	12.6
81	69.4	127	10.3	82	69.4	127	11.2
92	71.7	130	17.6	90	70.0	128	17.7

The best eight scores in this record are highlighted in yellow:

(11.8+11.8+8.1+10.3+8.1+11.1+10.3+11.2) = 82.7 / 8 = 10.3375 which, when rounded to one decimal place, gives a HANDICAP INDEX of 10.3 – if his next score is a SCORE DIFFERENTIAL of 20.8 the first score of 11.8 will drop out to be replaced with the next best score of 12.6 giving a best eight average of 83.5 / 8 = 10.4375 and a HANDICAP INDEX of 10.4 so, although he has clearly had a bad day at the office his HANDICAP INDEX has only gone up by 0.1

That completes the second edition of our introduction to the Worldwide Handicap System. The final part will be with you in a couple of weeks and will deal with Exceptional Scores, the Soft and Hard Cap, and anything else we may have forgotten so far. In the meantime, if you haven't yet given us you date of birth please do so ASAP – remember:

No DATE of BIRTH = No HANDICAP INDEX – No HANDICAP INDEX = No COMPETITIONS

England Golf have issued the following timetable in the lead up to go live:

- From 5th October 2020 – Transfer of data from ISVs and calculation of your HANDICAP INDEX by England Golf.
- w/c 12th October 2020 – Golf clubs will have access to the England Golf WHS platform to view and update member data and view functionality of system.
- w/c 19th October2020 – Golfers will have access to the England Golf WHS platform to view their predicted WHS HANDICAP INDEX and view functionality of system.
- 2nd November 2020 – WHS launch date.

The following links to England Golf's website may also provide some useful information.

FAQs: https://www.englandgolf.org/world-handicap-system-data-faqs/?utm_campaign=1558826_2.10.20%20%20World%20Handicap%20System%20%20Data%20email%20for%20clubs%2Fcounties&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20England%20Golf%20Union%20Limited&dm_i=4ON0,XESQ,31L4R0,459AV,1

Privacy Statement: https://i.emlfiles4.com/cmpdoc/6/5/5/8/1/2/files/64283_world-handicap-system-whs-privacy-notice.pdf?utm_campaign=1540993_16.09.20%20%20World%20Handicap%20System

Finally, on the next page is your own copy of the WHS Slope Tables.

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WHS Slope Tables

How to use these tables to find your COURSE HANDICAP:

1 - Decide which set of tees you are playing from (Men - White/Yellow, Women - Red).

2 - Look down the columns to find the range that includes your HANDICAP INDEX.

3 - Read across the table to where your COURSE HANDICAP is shown in **BOLD** type.

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+3.0 to +2.3	+3	26.0 to 26.8	29	+3.0 to +2.4	+3	26.4 to 27.3	29	+3.0 to +2.3	+3	25.8 to 26.6	29
+2.2 to +1.4	+2	26.9 to 27.7	30	+2.3 to +1.4	+2	27.4 to 28.2	30	+2.2 to +1.4	+2	26.7 to 27.5	30
+1.3 to +0.5	+1	27.8 to 28.7	31	+1.3 to +0.5	+1	28.3 to 29.1	31	+1.3 to +.5	+1	27.6 to 28.4	31
+0.4 to 0.4	0	28.8 to 29.6	32	+0.4 to 0.4	0	29.2 to 30.1	32	+0.4 to 0.4	0	28.5 to 29.3	32
0.5 to 1.3	1	29.7 to 30.5	33	0.5 to 1.3	1	30.2 to 31.0	33	0.5 to 1.3	1	29.4 to 30.2	33
1.4 to 2.2	2	30.6 to 31.4	34	1.4 to 2.3	2	31.1 to 31.9	34	1.4 to 2.2	2	30.3 to 31.1	34
2.3 to 3.1	3	31.5 to 32.3	35	2.4 to 3.2	3	32.0 to 32.8	35	2.3 to 3.1	3	31.2 to 32.0	35
3.3 to 4.1	4	32.4 to 33.2	36	3.3 to 4.1	4	32.9 to 33.8	36	3.2 to 4.0	4	32.1 to 32.9	36
4.2 to 5.0	5	33.3 to 34.1	37	4.2 to 5.0	5	33.9 to 34.7	37	4.1 to 4.9	5	33.0 to 33.8	37
5.1 to 5.9	6	34.2 to 35.0	38	5.1 to 6.0	6	34.8 to 35.6	38	5.0 to 5.8	6	33.9 to 34.8	38
6.0 to 6.8	7	35.1 to 35.9	39	6.1 to 6.9	7	35.7 to 36.5	39	5.9 to 6.7	7	34.9 to 35.7	39
6.9 to 7.7	8	36.0 to 36.9	40	7.0 to 7.8	8	36.6 to 37.5	40	6.8 to 7.6	8	35.8 to 36.6	40
7.8 to 8.6	9	37.0 to 37.8	41	7.9 to 8.7	9	37.6 to 38.4	41	7.7 to 8.5	9	36.7 to 37.5	41
8.7 to 9.5	10	37.9 to 38.7	42	8.8 to 9.7	10	38.5 to 39.3	42	8.6 to 9.4	10	37.6 to 38.4	42
9.6 to 10.4	11	38.8 to 39.6	43	9.8 to 10.6	11	39.4 to 40.2	43	9.5 to 10.3	11	38.5 to 39.3	43
10.5 to 11.3	12	39.7 to 40.5	44	10.7 to 11.5	12	40.3 to 41.2	44	10.4 to 11.2	12	39.4 to 40.2	44
11.5 to 12.3	13	40.6 to 41.4	45	11.6 to 12.5	13	41.3 to 42.1	45	11.3 to 12.2	13	40.3 to 41.1	45
12.4 to 13.2	14	41.5 to 42.3	46	12.6 to 13.4	14	42.2 to 43.0	46	12.3 to 13.1	14	41.2 to 42.0	46
13.3 to 14.1	15	42.4 to 43.2	47	13.5 to 14.3	15	43.1 to 43.9	47	13.2 to 14.0	15	42.1 to 42.9	47
14.2 to 15.0	16	43.3 to 44.1	48	14.4 to 15.2	16	44.0 to 44.9	48	14.1 to 14.9	16	43.0 to 43.8	48
15.1 to 15.9	17	44.2 to 45.1	49	15.3 to 16.2	17	45.0 to 45.8	49	15.0 to 15.8	17	43.9 to 44.7	49
16.0 to 16.8	18	45.2 to 46.0	50	16.3 to 17.1	18	45.9 to 45.7	50	15.9 to 16.7	18	44.8 to 45.6	50
16.9 to 17.7	19	46.1 to 46.9	51	17.2 to 18.0	19	46.8 to 47.7	51	16.8 to 17.6	19	45.7 to 46.5	51
17.8 to 18.6	20	47.0 to 47.8	52	18.1 to 18.9	20	47.8 to 48.6	52	17.7 to 18.5	20	46.6 to 47.4	52
18.7 to 19.5	21	47.9 to 48.7	53	19.0 to 19.9	21	48.7 to 49.5	53	18.6 to 19.4	21	47.5 to 48.3	53
19.6 to 20.5	22	48.8 to 49.6	54	20.0 to 20.8	22	49.6 to 50.4	54	19.5 to 20.3	22	48.4 to 49.2	54
20.6 to 21.4	23	49.7 to 50.5	55	20.9 to 21.7	23	50.5 to 51.4	55	20.4 to 21.2	23	49.3 to 50.1	55
21.5 to 22.3	24	50.6 to 51.4	56	21.8 to 22.6	24	51.5 to 52.3	56	21.3 to 22.1	24	50.2 to 51.0	56
22.4 to 23.2	25	51.5 to 52.3	57	22.7 to 23.6	25	52.4 to 53.2	57	22.2 to 23.0	25	51.1 to 51.9	57
23.3 to 24.1	26	52.4 to 53.3	58	23.7 to 24.5	26	53.3 to 54.0	58	23.1 to 23.9	26	52.0 to 52.8	58
24.2 to 25.0	27	53.4 to 54.0	59	24.6 to 54.4	27			24.0 to 24.8	27	52.9 to 53.7	59
25.1 to 5.9	28			25.5 to 26.3	28			24.9 to 25.7	28	53.8 to 54.0	60