

Glossary of Key Terms

World Handicap System

Course Rating

Measures how many strokes a Scratch Player should take on any given course and it is used to calculate the difficulty of a golf course

Slope Rating

Is the number which indicates the relative playing difficulty of a course for Bogey Golfers, compared to Scratch Golfers. The combination of the Course Rating and the Bogey Rating is used to calculate the Slope Rating of a particular set of tees

Handicap Index

The measurement of a player's potential ability on a course of standard playing difficulty, calculated by taking the best 8 of their previous 20 rounds. It is transferrable to take to any golf course around the world

Course Handicap

The number of strokes a player will receive for a specific set of tees on the golf course being played

Playing Handicap

Represents the number of strokes a player receives when playing with or against other players in a competition round

Handicap Allowance

The stroke allowance applied to the Course Handicap to determine the Playing Handicap.

Score Differential

The difference between a player's adjusted gross score and the Course Rating, reflecting the Slope Rating and the Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC). It is a numerical value attributed to a score achieved on a golf course on a specific day that is posted into the player's scoring record

Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC)

PCC is used to adjust Score Differentials to better reflect a player's actual performance when adverse weather conditions or abnormal course set-up causes scores to be unusually high or low on a given day

Net Double Bogey

The maximum score on any hole for any player

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Low Handicap Index

Represents the demonstrated ability of a player over a 12-month period, preceding the most recent score in the player's scoring record. It provides a reference point against which the current Handicap Index can be compared

Soft Cap

Soft Cap will suppress movement of the Handicap Index by 50% after a 3.0 stroke increase over the Low Handicap Index has been reached

Hard Cap

Hard Cap will restrict upward movement to 5.0 strokes over the Low Handicap Index

Exceptional Score Reduction (ESR)

ESR is a procedure for dealing with exceptional scores which may indicate a player's ability is rapidly improving

Handicap Committee

A Handicap Committee, consisting of at least three people and the majority being club members, are responsible for ensuring compliance with the golf club's specified obligations and responsibilities under the Rules of Handicapping

Scratch Golfer

A player who can play to a course handicap of zero on any and all rated golf courses

Bogey Golfer

A player that averages a handicap of between 20 for men and 24 for women

Bogey Rating

Bogey Rating is the measure of the playing difficulty of a set of tees for a Bogey Golfer

Competition Rounds

Any singles competition rounds both 9 or 18 holes, whether played home or away, that has been organised by the Handicap Committee

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Recreational Rounds

All General Play 'Social' rounds that have been pre-registered will be acceptable for handicap purposes.

Home Club

Is the club nominated by a player, usually one determined by where a player submits the most scores or demonstrates regularity of play

Away Club

Any golf club that has not been nominated by a player as their home golf club of choice

The R&A

The R&A, together with the USGA, governs the game of golf worldwide, operating in separate jurisdictions whilst sharing a commitment to Rules of Golf and are responsible for the Rules of Handicapping and the Course Rating System

The USGA

The USGA is a non-profit organisation that, together with The R&A, are responsible for the Rules of Handicapping and the Course Rating System

CONGU

The Council of National Golf Unions, originally the British Golf Unions Joint Advisory Committee

Terms of Competition

The rules published by the Handicap Committee before a competition that outline details such as dates, entry process, format of play, handicap allowance, tees to be used etc