WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM

in association with

SCGA
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GOLF ASSOCIATION®

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10   Course Handicap Calculation and Application

USGA Handicap System (pre-2020): A Course Handicap represents the number of strokes a player receives in relation to the _Course Rating_ of the tees being played. The formula is:

Course Handicap = Handicap Index x Slope Rating / 113.

Rule Change for 2020: A Course Handicap will represent the number of strokes a player receives in relation to the _Par_ of the tees being played. The formula will include a Course Rating minus Par adjustment:

Course Handicap = Handicap Index × (Slope Rating ÷ 113) + (Course Rating – Par)

Reasons for Change:

➢ Under the USGA Handicap System, when players compete from different tees, a Course Handicap adjustment based on the Course Rating difference must take place to make the game fair.

     o This adjustment is necessary because players competing from different tees are competing with different benchmarks (different Course Ratings).

     o This adjustment, identified and explained in Section 3-5, has generated confusion and there have been challenges with its implementation over the years.

➢ Applying Course Rating minus Par within the Course Handicap calculation will allow players to compete from different tees without any adjustment – unless a difference in Par exists.

➢ Under the USGA Handicap System, it is common for Course Handicap values to change very little from tee to tee.

     o Confusion exists because the Course Handicap value only accounts for the number of strokes needed to play to the respective Course Rating.

➢ Beginning in 2020, Course Handicap values will change more from tee to tee, as they will represent the number of strokes to play to Par.

➢ Par is a term that resonates with golfers, so setting Par as the benchmark for a Course Handicap adds simplicity to handicapping.

     o Players will be able to determine their Target Scores (the score they'll shoot if they play to their handicap) by simply adding their Course Handicap + Par.

➢ A score of Net Par will be used for holes not played, and the maximum hole score for handicap purposes will be a Net Double Bogey. Having a Course Handicap that is relative to Par will ensure that the correct number of strokes are received and applied for both procedures.