

The Handicap Index: What Does It All Mean?

What is the Handicap Index?

The Index is a mathematical calculation, which is always expressed in a decimal. The number represents each golfer's playing ability on a 113 Slope golf course, a course of standard difficulty.

If a golfer played every round on a 113 Slope golf course, his Index and his playing handicap would be the same. However, since golfers play courses of widely differing difficulties, the Slope system mathematically converts those differentials into a number that assumes all scores were shot on a 113 Slope course. (see the Index Calculation Formula)

How do I establish an Index?

Once a player has posted 5, 18-hole rounds a Handicap Index will be calculated at the next revision period. Until the golfer has established a Handicap Index, the golfer should use the maximum Index allowable in order to post their Adjusted Gross Score. The maximum Index for a male golfer is 36.4 and 40.4 for female golfers.

How do I use my Index?

Using the Slope chart to the right, we want to find the course handicap for the golfer playing a course where the back tees have a Slope rating of 130. If the golfer's Handicap Index is 11.2 find that number in the range 10.9 to 11.7, which means the course handicap, would be a 13. If the Handicap Index were 16.3, you would find the number in the range 16.1 to 16.9 and would play to a 19 handicap from that set of tees.

What Score do I post?

The golfer always posts the **Adjusted Gross Score**. In order to adjust, the player must use the Equitable Stroke Control Chart. Based on the player's course handicap, for the set of tees which were played, the golfer would reduce any individual hole scores, which exceeded their maximum allowable, based on ESC. As an example, a golfer has a course handicap of 13 which means the maximum they can post on any individual hole is a 7. If the golfer's total gross score (all strokes counted) for the day is 100 but they scored an 8 on one hole the player would adjust that individual hole score to a 7 and post a 99 for handicapping purposes.

Total Gross Score	100
Minus any adjustments	<u>- 1</u>
Posted adjusted gross score	99

SLOPE RATING - 130			
SCGA/USGA Handicap Index	Course HDCP	SCGA/USGA Handicap Index	Course HDCP
+3.5 to +3.1	+4	18.7 to 19.5	22
+3.0 to +2.2	+3	19.6 to 20.4	23
+2.1 to +1.4	+2	20.5 to 21.2	24
+1.3 to +.5	+1	21.3 to 22.1	25
+0.4 to .4	0	22.2 to 23.0	26
0.5 to 1.3	1	23.1 to 23.9	27
1.4 to 2.1	2	24.0 to 24.7	28
2.2 to 3.0	3	24.8 to 25.6	29
3.1 to 3.9	4	25.7 to 26.5	30
4.0 to 4.7	5	26.6 to 27.3	31
4.8 to 5.6	6	27.4 to 28.2	32
5.7 to 6.5	7	28.3 to 29.1	33
6.6 to 7.3	8	29.2 to 29.9	34
7.4 to 8.2	9	30.0 to 30.8	35
8.3 to 9.1	10	30.9 to 31.7	36
9.2 to 9.9	11	31.8 to 32.5	37
10.0 to 10.8	12	32.6 to 33.4	38
10.9 to 11.7	13	33.5 to 34.3	39
11.8 to 12.6	14	34.4 to 35.2	40
12.7 to 13.4	15	35.3 to 36.0	41
13.5 to 14.3	16	36.1 to 36.9	42
14.4 to 15.2	17	37.0 to 37.8	43
15.3 to 16.0	18	37.9 to 38.6	44
16.1 to 16.9	19	38.7 to 39.5	45
17.0 to 17.8	20	39.6 to 40.4	46
17.9 to 18.6	21		

EQUITABLE STROKE CONTROL	
18-Hole Course Handicap	Maximum ESC Number On Any Hole
9 or less	Double Bogey
10 through 19	7
20 through 29	8
30 through 39	9
40 or more	10

* Gross & Net Scores are used for competition purposes only.