Program Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Welcome to the World Handicap System
3. Fundamentals in Handicapping
4. Handicap Formula
5. Additional Changes
6. COVID-19 Guidance for Handicapping
7. Additional Education
Introductions

**Michael Walder**
Director, Handicapping and Member Services
mwalder@vsga.org
Presenter

**Connor Jones**
Manager, Championships and Member Services
ctjones@vsga.org
Moderator
Welcome to the World Handicap System
Six Systems to One

Key
- USGA Handicap System
- CONGU Unified Handicap System
- EGA Handicap System
- Golf Australia Handicap System
- Argentinean Handicap System
- SAGA Handicap System
- Country uses own system / No national system exists
- Unknown (as yet)
Six Systems to One
Governance

There is one World Handicap System, governed by the USGA and The R&A, to be consistent with the other sets of Rules.

The World Handicap System is comprised of the Rules of Handicapping and the Course Rating System.
The program was instituted in 2005 to require authorization for use of the handicap system.

Club authorization represents an annual acknowledgement that the club understands the tenants of the World Handicap System and is fulfilling their duties and responsibilities outlined in the Rules of Handicapping and the USGA Handicap Committee Guide.

A Handicap System that emphasizes integrity is in the best interest of the game.

Only a club that is affiliated with the Allied Golf Association (AGA) can be authorized to use the WHS and deliver a Handicap Index to a golfer.

The AGA plays a key role in the handicap administration and oversight for all clubs within its jurisdiction to ensure reliability, consistency and fairness to all clubs.
The Rules of Handicapping

Rule 1 – Purpose and Authorization; Obtaining a Handicap Index
Rule 2 – Scores Acceptable for Handicap Purposes
Rule 3 – Adjustment of Hole Scores
Rule 4 – Submitting a Score
Rule 5 – Handicap Index Calculation
Rule 6 – Course Handicap and Playing Handicap Calculation
Rule 7 – Committee Actions

Appendix A – Rights and Responsibilities
Appendix B – Player’s Scoring Record
Appendix C – Handicap Allowances
Appendix D – Handicap Review
Appendix E – Stroke Index Calculation
Appendix F – Establishing Par
Appendix G – The Golf Course, Course Rating and Slope Rating
Purpose of the World Handicap System

The World Handicap System includes the Rules of Handicapping and the Course Rating System. Its purpose is to enable as many golfers as possible the opportunity to:

- Obtain and maintain a Handicap Index,
- Use their Handicap Index on any golf course around the world, and
- Compete, or play recreationally, with anyone else on a fair basis.
Key Definitions

- **LOW HANDICAP INDEX**: The lowest Handicap Index achieved by a player over a 365-day (one year) period.

- **HARD AND SOFT CAP PLAYING CONDITIONS CALCULATION**: A reduction or limit on the increase of a player’s Handicap Index over a rolling 12-month period, measured against the player’s Low Handicap Index within that period of time.

- **PLAYING CONDITIONS**: A procedure used to evaluate if course and/or weather conditions on the day of play deviate from normal playing conditions to the extent that they have a significant impact on players’ performance.

- **EXCEPTIONAL SCORE REDUCTION**: A score differential which is at least 7.0 strokes better than the player’s Handicap Index at the time the round was played (see Rule 5.9).

- **NET DOUBLE BOGEY**: The maximum score for a hole for handicap purposes, which is the sum of:
  - Par of the hole,
  - Any handicap strokes applied on that hole, and
  - An additional two strokes

- **NET PAR**: Net Par is the new term for Par Plus used when a hole is not played.
QUESTIONS?
Fundamentals of Handicapping
Course Rating System

The Course Rating System addresses the portability of handicaps by adjusting a player’s Handicap Index according to the relative difficulty of the golf course being played.
What is a Course Rating?

A Course Rating is the evaluation of the playing difficulty of a course for scratch golfers under normal course and weather conditions.

It is expressed as the number of strokes taken to one decimal place and is based on yardage and other obstacles to the extent that they affect the scoring difficulty of the scratch player.
What is a Bogey Rating?

A Bogey Rating is the evaluation of the playing difficulty of a course for bogey golfers under normal course and weather conditions.

It is expressed as the number of strokes taken to one decimal place and is based on yardage and other obstacles to the extent that they affect the scoring difficulty of the bogey player.
To calculate Slope Rating for any set of tees, we need two measures:

- Course Rating
- Bogey Rating

It is the combination of these measures that allow us to calculate the Slope Rating for a set of tees.
Course Handicap

Under the *Rules of Handicapping*, a Course Handicap will be the number of strokes a player receives to play down to the *Par* of the tees being played. The formula is:

\[
\text{Course Handicap} = \left( \frac{\text{Handicap Index} \times \text{Slope Rating}}{113} \right) + (\text{CR} - \text{PAR})
\]
Course Handicap

\[
\text{CH USGA} = \frac{\text{Handicap Index} \times \text{Slope Rating}}{113}
\]

\[
\text{CH WHS} = \left(\frac{\text{Handicap Index} \times \text{Slope Rating}}{113}\right) + (\text{CR} - \text{PAR})
\]

River Bend Club - Male Golfer with a Handicap Index of 15.0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tee</th>
<th>Yardage</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Course Rating</th>
<th>Slope Rating</th>
<th>Par</th>
<th>Handicap Index</th>
<th>CH USGA</th>
<th>CH WHS</th>
<th>Target Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>6,934 yds</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>73.9</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>71 + 22 = 93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue</td>
<td>6,470 yds</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>71.8</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>71 + 19 = 90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>6,217 yds</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>70.6</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>71 + 17 = 88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>5,870 yds</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>69.1</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>71 + 15 = 86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red</td>
<td>5,209 yds</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>66.2</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>71 + 12 = 83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Course Handicap

\[
CH\ USGA = \text{Handicap Index} \times \text{Slope Rating} / 113
\]

\[
CH\ WHS = (\text{Handicap Index} \times \text{Slope Rating} / 113) + (\text{CR} - \text{PAR})
\]

River Bend Club - Female Golfer with a Handicap Index of 31.3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tee</th>
<th>Yardage</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Course Rating</th>
<th>Slope Rating</th>
<th>Par</th>
<th>Handicap Index</th>
<th>CH USGA</th>
<th>CH WHS</th>
<th>Target Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>6,217 yds</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>76.9</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>31.3</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>71 + 44 = 115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>5,870 yds</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>75.0</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>31.3</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>71 + 41 = 112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blended</td>
<td>5,573 yds</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>73.3</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>31.3</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>71 + 38 = 109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red</td>
<td>5,209 yds</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>71.3</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>31.3</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>71 + 35 = 106</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Playing Handicap

The term Playing Handicap was introduced under the WHS and represents the number of strokes a player actually receives during a round.

\[
\text{Playing Handicap} = \text{Course Handicap} \times \text{Handicap Allowance}
\]

For example, in a four-ball stroke play competition played at 85% of Course Handicap, a player may have a Course Handicap of 15 and a Playing Handicap of 13.
Handicap Allowances

Handicap Allowances are recommended to provide equity for various forms of team competition.

Under the Rules of Handicapping, the allowance recommendations will be the same for men and women.

### STROKE PLAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format:</th>
<th>Allowance:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Singles Stroke Play/ Stableford</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four-ball Stroke Play</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Score Form of Stroke Play</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best 1 of 4 Stroke Play</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best 2 of 4 Stroke Play</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best 3 of 4 Stroke Play</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All 4 of 4 Stroke Play</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Score of 2</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foursomes</td>
<td>50% combined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selected Drive (Greensomes)</td>
<td>60% Low + 40% High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinehurst/Chapman</td>
<td>60% Low + 40% High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scramble (4 players)</td>
<td>25%/20%/15%/10% from lowest to highest handicap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scramble (2 players)</td>
<td>35% Low, 15% High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### MATCH PLAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format:</th>
<th>Allowance:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head to Head</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four-ball</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Score of 2 Match Play</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foursomes</td>
<td>50% Combined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selected Drive (Greensomes)</td>
<td>60% Low + 40% High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinehurst/Chapman</td>
<td>60% Low + 40% High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Minimum Scores to Obtain a Handicap Index

54 holes made up of any combination of 9- or 18-hole rounds.

No time limit on completing the submission of these scores.

Strong recommendation that initial scores are submitted hole-by-hole to better assess the potential of the player.
Maximum Handicap Index

The maximum Handicap Index that can be allocated to a golfer is 54.0.

This speaks to two key principles of the World Handicap System.

1. To be as inclusive and accessible as possible.

2. To make it as easy as possible for golfers to obtain and maintain a Handicap Index.
Maximum Score for Handicap Purposes

Net double bogey = Par + 2 +/− Handicap strokes received or given on a hole

A player with a Course Handicap of 11 receives one stroke on the first 11 allocated stroke holes.

On a par-4 hole with a stroke index of 6, the player’s net double bogey score is calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Par</th>
<th>Two Strokes (Double Bogey)</th>
<th>Stroke(s) Received</th>
<th>Max</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Application of Net Double Bogey Adjustment

Sunnyside Golf Club
Bronze Tees Course Rating: 72.1 Slope Rating: 122
Name of Player: Janet Smith
Course Handicap: 18

Hole Par S.I. Score
1 4 7 5
2 4 13 6
3 5 9 5
4 3 15 4
5 5 11 6
6 4 5 4
7 5 17 5
8 3 5 6
9 3 17 4
Out 37

Hole Par S.I. Score
10 4 8 5
11 4 12 4
12 3 18 6
13 5 4 7
14 3 10 8
15 5 16 5
16 4 2 4
17 4 6 9
18 3 14 8
In 36
Total 436 73

7 Net double bogey adjustment of -1

94
Guidelines for Most Likely Score

When a player starts, but does not complete a hole, the score recorded for handicap purposes is the Most Likely Score.

The Rules of Handicapping includes the following guidelines for determining a most likely score:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position of the ball:</th>
<th>Strokes to be added:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On the putting green within 5 feet of the hole</td>
<td>Add 1 additional stroke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 5 feet and 20 yards from the hole</td>
<td>Add 2 or 3 additional strokes, <em>depending on the position of the ball, the difficulty of the green and the ability of the player</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beyond 20 yards from the hole</td>
<td>Add 3 or 4 additional strokes, <em>depending on the position of the ball, the difficulty of the green and the ability of the player</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hole Not Played

When a player does not play a hole, the score recorded for handicap purposes is *net par*.

For example:

A hole being declared out of play by the Committee for maintenance or reconstruction purposes.
Fewer than 9 or 18 Holes Played

For a 9-hole score to be acceptable for handicap purposes, a minimum of 7 holes must be played.

For an 18-hole score to be acceptable for handicap purposes, a minimum of 14 holes must be played.

A score of Net Par must be recorded for the remaining hole(s).
QUESTIONS?
Handicap Formula
Handicap Index Calculation

There are **five significant changes** to the Handicap Index calculation for 2020:

1) The **minimum** number of scores required.

2) The **number of differentials** used.

3) A Playing Conditions Calculation.

4) An Exceptional Score Reduction that considers **all scores**.

5) The **addition** of a Soft Cap and Hard Cap to limit upward movement.
For an 18-hole Score, a Score Differential is calculated as follows:

\[
\text{Score Differential} = \frac{113}{\text{Slope Rating}} \times (\text{Adjusted Gross Score} - \text{Course Rating} - \text{PCC adjustment})
\]
A lower score may not always produce a lower Score Differential:

$$\frac{(95 - 71.5) \times 113}{125} = \frac{21.2}{1}$$

$$\frac{(97 - 73.8) \times 113}{140} = \frac{18.7}{1}$$

$$\frac{(90 - 66.1) \times 113}{105} = \frac{25.7}{1}$$
Calculation of a Handicap Index

For 20 Scores

Average the lowest 8 of the most recent 20 Score Differentials and round to the nearest tenth.
Number of Differentials Used

The following table is used to determine the number of score differentials used in the Handicap Index calculation, as well as any additional adjustment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of score differentials in scoring record</th>
<th>Score differential(s) to be used in calculation of Handicap Index</th>
<th>Adjustment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Lowest 1</td>
<td>-2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Lowest 1</td>
<td>-1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Lowest 1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Average of lowest 2</td>
<td>-1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 or 8</td>
<td>Average of lowest 2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 to 11</td>
<td>Average of lowest 3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 to 14</td>
<td>Average of lowest 4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 or 16</td>
<td>Average of lowest 5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 or 18</td>
<td>Average of lowest 6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Average of lowest 7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Average of lowest 8</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Sample Calculation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Ratings</th>
<th>Used</th>
<th>Diff.</th>
<th>Course Played</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>8/14/2019</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>68.7/126</td>
<td></td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>Twin Pines Country Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>8/11/2019</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>70.5/127</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>The Crossings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>8/8/2019</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>68.8/127</td>
<td>22.4</td>
<td>Warren Golf Course</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>8/7/2019</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>68.8/127</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Warren Golf Course</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>8/5/2019</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>71.4/125</td>
<td>15.9</td>
<td>Red River Country Club</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>7/30/2019</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>68.8/127</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>Warren Golf Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>7/29/2019</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>68.8/127</td>
<td></td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>Warren Golf Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>7/28/2019</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>68.8/127</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Warren Golf Course</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>7/20/2019</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>72.4/138</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>Lost Valley Country Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>7/15/2019</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>68.0/114</td>
<td></td>
<td>19.8</td>
<td>Spooky Point Golf Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>7/7/2019</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>71.0/135</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>Peninsula Golf Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>7/6/2019</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>71.0/135</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>Peninsula Golf Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>7/4/2019</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>68.8/124</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>Twin Pines Country Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>6/20/2019</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>71.9/130</td>
<td></td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>The National Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>5/20/2019</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>72.3/134</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>Red River Country Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>5/19/2019</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>72.3/134</td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>Red River Country Club</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>5/15/2019</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>71.0/135</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>Peninsula Golf Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>5/1/2019</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>70.0/128</td>
<td>22.1</td>
<td>Warren Golf Course</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>4/10/2019</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>67.8/122</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>Warren Golf Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>4/2/2019</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>68.5/124</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>14.1</td>
<td>Warren Golf Course</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**USGA Handicap System:** 12.9

**World Handicap System:** 13.3
Playing Conditions Calculation

When adverse weather conditions or abnormal course set-up causes scores to be unusually high or low on a given day, a Playing Conditions Calculation will adjust Score Differentials to better reflect the player’s actual performance.

The ‘PCC’ will be simple and conservative in nature and will be adjusted in integer values.

Range: -1 to +3
A player should submit their score as soon as possible on the day of play and preferably before midnight (local time).

If a player does not submit their score on the day of play, their score will not be included within the daily playing conditions calculation.

When the score is subsequently posted to the player’s scoring record, the published playing conditions calculation for the day should be applied to the player’s score differential calculation.
Daily Revisions

Under the Rules of Handicapping, a Handicap Index will update the day after a score(s) is posted.

Players should submit their scores as soon as possible after the round is completed, and before midnight.

This is to ensure the score will be used for the Playing Conditions Calculation.

A player’s Handicap Index can also be revised by a Committee adjustment.
Exceptional Score Reduction

ESR is a procedure for dealing with exceptional scores which may indicate the player’s true ability. The procedure considers all scores, rather than only Tournament scores.

*How does it work?*

1. Calculate Score Differential once score is posted and Playing Conditions Calculation is applied (when appropriate).

2. Calculate new Handicap Index.

3. If Score Differential is -7.0 strokes or better than the Handicap Index from when the round was played, apply ESR table reduction to new Handicap Index.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Differential Relative to Index</th>
<th>7.0 – 9.9 strokes lower</th>
<th>10.0+ strokes lower</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESR Adjustment</td>
<td>-1.0</td>
<td>-2.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* This is in addition to any reduction caused by the score being used in the updated 8 of 20 calculation.
Memory of Low Handicap Index

The *Low Handicap Index* represents the demonstrated ability of a player over the 365-day period preceding the most recent score in the player’s scoring record and provides a reference point against which the current Handicap Index can be compared.
There is no limit on the amount by which a player’s Handicap Index can decrease.

There are two trigger points that will limit extreme upward movement of a Handicap Index.
A Soft Cap and Hard Cap will be implemented to limit the extreme upward movement of a player’s Handicap Index within a 12-month period.

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

*The Hard Cap will *restrict* upward movement to 5.0 strokes over the Low Handicap Index.*
**Soft Cap Example**

Player A has a Low H.I. of **10.0**. His current 8 of 20 average is **15.2**

**Step 1:** Subtract the Low H.I. from current 8 of 20 average:

\[ 15.2 - 10.0 = 5.2 \]

**Step 2:** Determine how much greater than 3.0 the result is:

\[ 5.2 - 3.0 = 2.2 \]

**Step 3:** Subtract 50% of the resulting value from 8 of 20 average:

Current 8 of 20 average: \[ 15.2 - \]

50% of 2.2: \[ 1.1 \]

**Handicap Index:** **14.1**
Player A has a Low H.I. of **10.0**. His current 8 of 20 average is **17.4**

**Step 1:** Subtract the Low H.I. from current 8 of 20 average:

$$17.4 - 10.0 = 7.4$$

**Step 2:** Determine how much greater than 3.0 the result is:

$$7.4 - 3.0 = 4.4$$

**Step 3:** Subtract 50% of the resulting value from 8 of 20 average:

Current 8 of 20 average: 17.4

50% of 4.4: 2.2

**Handicap Index:** $15.0$
QUESTIONS?
Handicap Committee Responsibilities
Adjusting a Handicap Index

When a handicap review has been completed, the Handicap Committee can adjust a player’s Handicap Index to better reflect their demonstrated ability, based on the results of the analysis.

The adjustment must satisfy the following criteria:

• Be a minimum of 1 full stroke; and
• Except in exceptional circumstance, only increase a player’s Handicap Index by up to 5.0 strokes above their Low Handicap Index.

There is no limit as to how far downwards a Handicap Index can be adjusted.
The adjustment, upward or downward, must have the effect of:

- Freezing/modifying the Handicap Index for a defined period of time as determined by the Handicap Committee, or

- Resetting the Handicap Index by applying an adjustment to each of the most recent 20 score differentials in the scoring record, to achieve the chosen Handicap Index.
Handicap Review

It is strongly recommended that the Handicap Committee conducts a handicap review at least once a year, for all players for which it is responsible.

WHS compliant technology should provide reports to assist Handicap Committees identify those players requiring a handicap review.

A player can request a handicap review if they believe their Handicap Index no longer reflects their demonstrated ability.

A player must be made aware of, and be involved in, the handicap review process and be able to appeal a decision.
Applying a Penalty Score

If a player fails to submit a score from an authorized format of play, the Handicap Committee should investigate and take appropriate action.

- If the reason was valid and an acceptable score is still discoverable, that score will be posted.
- If there was no valid reason and an acceptable score is discoverable, that score will be posted.
- If the score is not discoverable, a penalty score may be posted.
- In the most serious cases, such as repeated failure to submit acceptable scores, the Committee has discretion to apply additional penalty scores as well adjust or withdraw the player’s Handicap Index.
Withdrawing a Handicap Index

The Handicap Committee, or AGA, should withdraw the Handicap Index of a player who deliberately or repeatedly fails to comply with the player’s responsibilities under the Rules of Handicapping.

The withdrawal of a player’s Handicap Index should be applied only after the player has been informed and has had an opportunity to respond to the Handicap Committee and/or AGA.

A player must be notified of the period of Handicap Index withdrawal and any additional conditions.
Competition Committee Responsibilities
Competition Committee

The Committee in charge of a competition may set a maximum limit for play within their Terms of the Competition.

For example:

- A maximum Handicap Index for entry.
- A maximum Handicap Index a player is permitted to use.
- A maximum Course Handicap.
- A maximum Playing Handicap.
For example, a limit of 18.0 may be set by Committee, with higher Handicap Index players being restricted to playing from a Handicap Index of 18.0 for the purposes of that competition.

Even though higher handicap players are restricted to playing from a Handicap Index of 18.0 in this example, their full Course Handicap should be used for determining the score to post for handicap purposes.
The Committee in charge of a competition may reserve the right to adjust the Playing Handicap of an entrant within its Terms of the Competition, where they have evidence that the player’s Handicap Index does not reflect their demonstrated ability.
For multi-round competitions which are played during the same or consecutive days, it is strongly recommended that a term of competition is introduced to state that the Handicap Index used at the start of the competition be used for the duration of the event, for ease of competition administration purposes. Scores should still be posted by the end of each day.

In a situation when a new round is played before the player’s Handicap Index has been updated, the Committee in charge of the competition or the Handicap Committee has the discretion to decide the Playing Handicap the player should use (see Rule 7-2).
AGA Responsibilities
Home Club

To ensure that a player has only one Handicap Index, and to easily identify the golf club or AGA with authority should issues arise, a player should have one Home Club.

A Home Club is determined by the player and is typically determined by where the player submits the most scores or demonstrates regularity of play.
Who Issues the Handicap Index

In order to use the World Handicap System, an Association must be authorized by the USGA and The R&A. Within its area of jurisdiction, an Authorized National Association can:

- Use the Rules of Handicapping and the Course Rating System.
- Use the registered marks of the World Handicap System.
- Issue a Handicap Index either directly or, where delegated, through a golf club.
## Stroke Index Allocation

The Rules of Handicapping will recommend using Course Rating data to rank the holes for Stroke Index allocation. The recommendation is to allocate odd strokes on the front and even strokes on the back.

Specific strokes will be allocated using three-hole clusters, with the #1 and #2 stroke holes in the middle cluster.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hole Number</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Front 9</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample Table</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Back 9</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample Table</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
QUESTIONS?
COVID-19 Guidance for Handicapping
Modified Holes and Score Posting

On March 20, 2020, the USGA announced a temporary measure within the United States to accept scores played when holes have been modified using the most likely score guidelines.

When using most likely score, the player should consider the number of strokes most likely required to complete the hole, and determine whether the ball would have been holed out or not.

Most likely score is at the player’s best judgement and should not be used to gain an unfair advantage.
COVID-19 Rules and Handicapping
(Updated: March 20, 2020)

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced clubs in Virginia and across the country to think outside the box to limit touchpoints both on and off the golf course. Specifically, on the putting green, many clubs have chosen to make modifications to the hole, including raising hole liners above ground level or placing PVC, pool noodles or other objects in the hole so the ball can be more easily removed.

The USGA has just announced a temporary measure within the United States to accept scores played under these conditions for handicap purposes using the most likely score guidelines (Rule 3.3 in the Rules of Handicapping), even though the player has not held out. This temporary measure is now in effect within the United States until advised otherwise by the USGA.

- If the ball lies on the putting green, no more than 5 feet (1.5 meters) from the hole.
- If the ball lies between 5 feet (1.5 meters) and 29 yards (20 meters) from the hole.
- If the ball lies more than 29 yards (20 meters) from the hole.

Rules and Handicapping Resources:
- Rules and Handicapping Guidance During COVID-19 Era
- COVID-19 Rules and Handicapping FAQs
- Posting Scores with Modified Holes on the Putting Green
- MVUSGA – Your Own Digital Scoring App
QUESTIONS?
Additional Education
Education Overview

**Tools and Resources**

The following resources have been developed to enable golfers and golf clubs to learn about the Rules of Handicapping. Check them out on VSGA.org!

- Rules of Handicapping
- Player’s Guide
- Committee Guide
- Videos
- Infographics/Posters
QUESTIONS?
Thank you for attending!