

Changes to the World Handicap System 1-April-2024

Course & Playing Handicap Calculation Changes

Most players will see a 2 shot difference when playing from the Yellow Tees.

Some players will see a 1 shot difference when playing from the White Tees.

Handicap Index	Course Handicap Yellow Tees	Playing Handicap Yellow Tees	Course Handicap White Tees	Playing Handicap White Tees
Before April 2024				
5.6	6	6	6	6
9.8	10	10	11	10
14.4	15	14	16	15
18.5	20	19	20	19
22.3	24	23	24	23
27.5	29	28	30	29
32.7	35	33	36	34
From April 1st 2024				
5.6	4	4	5	5
9.8	8	8	10	10
14.4	13	13	15	14
18.5	18	17	20	19
22.3	22	21	24	23
27.5	27	26	29	28
32.7	33	31	35	33

To align Great Britain & Ireland to the rest of the World, Course Rating minus Par will be included in the calculation of **Course Handicap**.

Prior to April 2024:

Course Handicap = Handicap Index x (Slope Rating / 113)

From April 1st 2024:

Course Handicap = (Handicap Index x (Slope Rating / 113)) + (Course Rating - Par)

The calculation of **Playing Handicap** will also change. Up to now, the Playing Handicap for singles S/ford and strokeplay was calculated @ 95% of the rounded Course Handicap. From April 1st 2024, the playing handicap will be 95% of the Course Handicap before rounding.

Four-ball Scores

From April 1st 2024, scores returned in a four-ball competition on a measured course in acceptable scoring conditions **can be** recorded for handicap purposes.

The following conditions must be met for the score to count towards a player's handicap:

1. Total score must be 42 pts or greater
2. An individual must have scored on at least 9 holes
3. An individual must have scored at least 36 points (based on course handicap). If not recorded on the scorecard, an approximation of the individual's score will be made based on his partner's recorded score.

Non-standard Number of Holes

Prior to April 2024, for the round to count towards handicap, a round of golf must be 9 or 18 holes. From April 1st 2024, competitions can be played over a non-standard number of holes, e.g. 12, 14 or 16 holes.

Scaling up of 9 Hole Scores

The gross differential for a 9 hole round is calculated by scaling the 9 hole score up to 18 holes. Prior to April 2024, 9 hole scores were scaled up by assuming 17 s/ford points for the other 9 holes.

From April 1st 2024, the scaling up will be calculated by working out an Expected Score. The Expected Score will be based on the individual's handicap index. The formula for working out Expected Score will not be disclosed, but it is based on 3 years worth of scores recorded Worldwide.

Similarly, rounds of a non-standard number of holes will be scaled up by the Expected Score method. And this also applies to incomplete rounds, where a hole or a number of holes have not been attempted, instead of assuming nett par, the Expected Score method will be used to scale up.

Short Courses

USGA/R&A has changed the minimum length for rating golf courses from 3,000 yds to 1,500 yds.