The World Handicap System

This time we learn about **COURSE HANDICAP**

Before any player goes out to play they must establish their Course Handicap. Knowing your Course Handicap is important for your round and is also a Rule of Golf.

- For a Handicap Index to be portable across courses, it must be converted into a Course Handicap to determine the number of strokes a player receives for the golf course being played.

Remember, last time we learned that your handicap Index Is an average of your best 8 score differentials from the last 20 scores in your handicap record.

Remember also, a score differential is calculated by de-sloping the gross score back to a score for a standard relative difficulty course with a slope rating of 113. This means that your Handicap Index represents the number of shots you need to play a standard course with a slope rating of 113.

Therefore, it follows that for a course with a different slope rating you will need a different number of shots.

- A Course Handicap look up table will be available at each club, or you could use an App or the club handicap software.

- You simply select the tees you want to play and look up your Handicap index to ascertain your Course Handicap

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Below is an example of what a Course Handicap chart may look like. I appreciate you cannot read the numbers but you will see there is a list for each set of tees on the course. Look under the heading for the tee you are playing and the left hand column gives a range of handicap Indexes from which you find your own Index and right next to it will be your Course Handicap figure.

Not every Club will have a chart like this, they may only have paper copies which will be available for you to look at. You just have to remember to check you are looking at the right chart for your gender and your tee. Not all courses have been rated for both genders from all tees, so if a lady plays from the yellow tees on a course which has not been rated for ladies then that score is not an acceptable score for handicap purposes.

We are expecting that the computer software will work out your Course Handicap and will show up when you sign in for your competition but as yet, we have not been advised what the new system will do.

I am also expecting to see various apps popping up which may be useful to you.

For those of you who like figures and want to know how the Course Handicap is calculated see example below:-

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Course Handicap Calculation

| Handicap Index | X | (Slope Rating ÷ 113) | = | Course Handicap |

A Player with a Handicap Index of 24.3 decides to play the yellow tees with a Slope rating of 127

Handicap Index	X	(127 ÷ 113)	=	Course Handicap
24.3		1.124		27.3 (27)

A Player with a Handicap Index of 24.3 decides to play the white tees with a Slope rating of 134

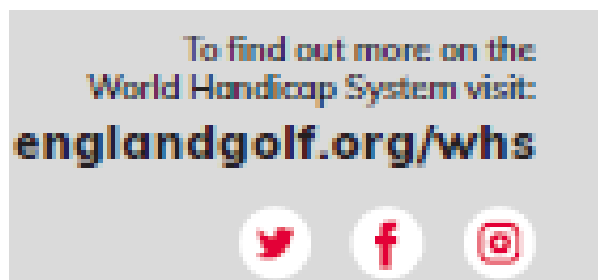| Handicap Index	X	(134 ÷ 113)	=	Course Handicap
24.3		1.186		28.8 (29)

You may have realised that a golfer with a 54.0 Handicap Index would have a Course Handicap of 61 for playing off the yellow tees or 64 for playing off the white tees. There is no limit for a Course Handicap.

If you are playing in a competition, the "CONDITIONS of the COMPETITION" will state which tees are to be used and there will probably be a Handicap Allowance to be applied which will turn your Course Handicap into a Playing Handicap. That explanation will come next time.

Course Handicap: Key Features Video from the R&A and USGA

⊕ Download here

In the meantime, please visit the England Golf Website

To find out more on the World Handicap System visit:

englandgolf.org/whs

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.