

The World Handicap System

COMING INTO PLAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2020



This time we learn about Course Rating

Course Rating



Course Rating is carried out by a highly trained, dedicated team of volunteers, based in the County. It is:-

- The evaluation of the playing difficulty of a course for scratch golfers under normal course and weather conditions.
- Based on yardage and other obstacles to the extent that they affect the scoring difficulty for the scratch golfer.
- Expressed as the number of strokes expected taken to one decimal place.



A scratch golfer(handicap 0.0} would be expected to play this course example in 72 strokes.

What is a Bogey Rating?- It is:-

- The evaluation of the playing difficulty of a course for bogey golfers under normal course and weather conditions.
- Based on yardage and other obstacles to the extent that they affect the scoring difficulty for the bogey golfer.
- Expressed as the number of strokes expected taken to one decimal place.



A bogey golfer(handicap 20 for men & 24 for women} would be expected to play this course example in 95 strokes.

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Course Rating assesses 2 types of challenges, the effective playing length of the course and the Obstacles that a player may encounter.

Length is the measured length of the hole from your measurement certificate along with:

- The effect of Roll
- Changes in Elevation
- Hole Structure (for e.g. Dog Legs)
- The effect Wind has on the playing of the hole
- And Altitude (which doesn't really affect courses in England)

Obstacles represent the difficulties and challenges posed to scratch and bogey golfers.

- Obstacles are assessed within each landing zone and around each green.

- The list includes, "Penalty Areas" as introduced within the 2019 Rules of Golf

Penalty Areas include what used to be called Water Hazards as well as Out of Bounds and Extreme Rough.

These obstacles are assessed from both a Crossing and Lateral perspective.

- Topography - local geography
- Fairway - width etc.
- Trees
- Bunkers
- Recoverability from Rough
- Green target size and surface.
- The last obstacle is Psychological - it is automatically calculated (relative to how many of the other obstacles have been rated 5 or greater.)

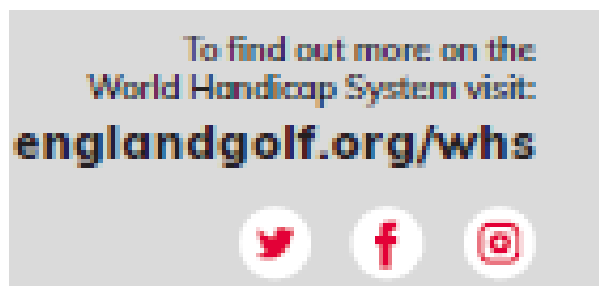
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It is *Course Rating* that makes a player's handicap portable as it measures how many strokes a player should take on any given course and through a calculation that considers the player's Handicap Index and the difficulty of the golf course being played.

Knowing the *Course Rating* and *Bogey Rating* allows the WHS to assess and rationalise the relationship between the two. From this, the difficulty of the course for all other levels of ability can be deduced.

This is where *Slope Rating* comes in, we shall learn about this next time.

In the meantime, please visit the *England Golf Website*



Press **Ctrl +Click** on the link below to learn about *Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC)*- this will replace the *Competition Scratch Score (CSS)* that we use today.

**Course Rating:
Key Features Video from
the R&A and USGA**
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If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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