

WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM

Rules of Handicapping

Presenter: Paul Ogawa, PGA & Barry Amorin



Workshop Content

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Welcome to the WHS
- 3) Fundamentals in Handicapping
- 4) Handicap Formula
- 5) Club Handicap Committee Responsibilities
- 6) Competition Committee Responsibilities
- 7) AGA Responsibilities – Administration of a Handicap Index

Welcome to the **WHS**

World Handicap System

Effective Jan 1, 2020

Six Systems to One








Key	
	USGA Handicap System
	CONGU Unified Handicap System
	EGA Handicap System
	Golf Australia Handicap System
	Argentinian Handicap System
	SAGA Handicap System
	Country uses own system / No national system exists
	Unknown (as yet)



In association with **USGA**

Governance

There will be one World Handicap System to be consistent with other Governance functions.

The World Handicap System will be comprised of the Rules of Handicapping and the Course Rating System.

Governance Structure



Hierarchy

The USGA and The R&A	Are joint governing authorities and are responsible for authorizing use of the World Handicap System.
National Associations	Have the exclusive rights to implement and administer the World Handicap System within its jurisdiction, including the issuance of a Handicap Index.
Allied Golf Associations	AGAs are affiliated to the USGA and comprised of golf clubs and/or golfers within a defined area.
Golf Club/Handicap Committee	Is affiliated to its AGA and is responsible for ensuring the Handicaps of its members are administered in accordance with the requirements of the Rules of Handicapping.
Player	Attempts to make the best score possible at each hole and submits scores for handicap purposes as soon as possible after the round is completed.



Fundamentals of Handicapping

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**
-  **HARD AND SOFT CAP**
-  **PLAYING CONDITIONS CALCULATION**
-  **EXCEPTIONAL SCORE REDUCTION**
-  **NET DOUBLE BOGEY**
-  **NET PAR**

The lowest Handicap Index achieved by a player within the last 12 months.

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.

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.

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).

The maximum score for a hole for handicap purposes, which is the sum of:

- The Par of the hole,
- Any handicap strokes applied on that hole, and
- An additional two strokes

Net Par is the new term for Par Plus used when a hole is not played.



Course Rating System

The USGA Course Rating System is already in use not only in connection with the USGA Handicap System, but also with other existing Handicap systems.

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.



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:

$$\text{Course Handicap} = (\text{Handicap Index} \times \text{Slope Rating} / 113) + (\text{CR} - \text{PAR})$$



Course Handicap Calculation (without CR-Par)

Handicap Index - 0.0

TEE	YARDS	RATING	SLOPE	PAR	CH
BLACK	7033	74.2	135	72	0
BLUE	6684	72.8	131	72	0
WHITE	6414	71.7	128	72	0
SILVER	6021	69.9	125	72	0
WHITE/SILVER/RED	5886	68.8	123	71	0
RED	5637	67.8	121	71	0
GREEN	5385	66.5	118	70	0
GOLD	4957	64.4	113	69	0

Handicap Index - 15.0

TEE	YARDS	RATING	SLOPE	PAR	CH
BLACK	7033	74.2	135	72	18
BLUE	6684	72.8	131	72	17
WHITE	6414	71.7	128	72	17
SILVER	6021	69.9	125	72	17
WHITE/SILVER/RED	5886	68.8	123	71	16
RED	5637	67.8	121	71	16
GREEN	5385	66.5	118	70	16
GOLD	4957	64.4	113	69	15



Course Handicap Comparison (Scratch Player)

**Handicap Index - 0.0
Without CR - Par**

**Handicap Index - 0.0
Using CR - Par**

TEE	YARDS	RATING	SLOPE	PAR	CH	TEE	YARDS	RATING	SLOPE	PAR	CH
BLACK	7033	74.2	135	72	0	BLACK	7033	74.2	135	72	2
BLUE	6684	72.8	131	72	0	BLUE	6684	72.8	131	72	1
WHITE	6414	71.7	128	72	0	WHITE	6414	71.7	128	72	0
SILVER	6021	69.9	125	72	0	SILVER	6021	69.9	125	72	+2
WHITE/SILVER/RED	5886	68.8	123	71	0	WHITE/SILVER/RED	5886	68.8	123	71	+2
RED	5637	67.8	121	71	0	RED	5637	67.8	121	71	+3
GREEN	5385	66.5	118	70	0	GREEN	5385	66.5	118	70	+4
GOLD	4957	64.4	113	69	0	GOLD	4957	64.4	113	69	+5



Course Handicap Comparison (15.0 Player)

**Handicap Index - 15.0
Without CR - Par**

**Handicap Index - 15.0
Using CR - Par**

TEE	YARDS	RATING	SLOPE	PAR	CH	TEE	YARDS	RATING	SLOPE	PAR	CH
BLACK	7033	74.2	135	72	18	BLACK	7033	74.2	135	72	20
BLUE	6684	72.8	131	72	17	BLUE	6684	72.8	131	72	18
WHITE	6414	71.7	128	72	17	WHITE	6414	71.7	128	72	17
SILVER	6021	69.9	125	72	17	SILVER	6021	69.9	125	72	15
WHITE/SILVER/RED	5886	68.8	123	71	16	WHITE/SILVER/RED	5886	68.8	123	71	14
RED	5637	67.8	121	71	16	RED	5637	67.8	121	71	13
GREEN	5385	66.5	118	70	16	GREEN	5385	66.5	118	70	13
GOLD	4957	64.4	113	69	15	GOLD	4957	64.4	113	69	10



Playing Handicap

When *handicap allowances* are used in various formats of play, *Course Handicaps* are adjusted to make the competition equitable.

Within the *Rules of Handicapping*, the adjusted Course Handicap will be referred to as a **Playing Handicap**.

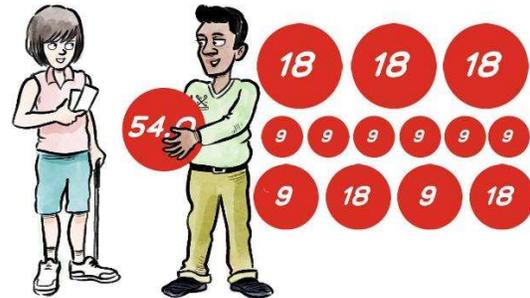
$$\text{Playing Handicap} = \text{Course Handicap} \times \text{Handicap Allowance}$$

If different tees are in use, a player's Playing Handicap is adjusted by the difference in Par.



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.

- To be as inclusive and accessible as possible.
- To make it as easy as possible for golfers to obtain and maintain a Handicap Index.



Maximum Score for Handicap Purposes

Net Double Bogey

A player's maximum hole score for handicap purposes, ensuring bad holes don't impact a player's handicap too severely.



Maximum Score for Handicap Purposes

$$\text{Net double bogey} = \text{Par} + 2 + /- \text{Handicap strokes received or given on a hole}$$

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:

Par	+	Two Strokes (Double Bogey)	+	Stroke(s) Received	=	Max
4		2		1		7



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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	
Par	4	4	5	4	3	5	4	5	3	37	
S.I.	7	13	3	9	15	1	11	5	17		
Score	5	5	6	5	4	6	5	6	4	46	

Hole	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Par	4	4	3	5	4	3	5	4	4	36	73
S.I.	8	12	18	4	10	16	2	6	14		
Score	5	5	4	6	5	4	7	8	5	49	95



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↓
7 → = Net double bogey adjustment of -1



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→ 94

↓
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Application of Net Double Bogey Adjustment

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 Course Handicap: 18

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Par	4	4	5	4	3	5	4	5	3	37
S.I.	7	13	3	9	15	1	11	5	17	
Score	5	5	6	5	4	6	5	6	4	46

Score for Competition = 95

Score for Handicap Purposes = 94

Hole	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total
Par	4	4	3	5	4	3	5	4	4	36	73
S.I.	8	12	18	4	10	16	2	6	14		
Score	5	5	4	6	5	4	7	8	5	49	95

→ 94

7 → = Net double bogey adjustment of -1



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.



Treatment of 9-Hole Scores – Combining

Combine two 9-hole scores to create an 18-hole *score differential*.

If a player plays 7 or more holes but fewer than the minimum number of holes for an 18-hole score to be acceptable, then the 9-hole score will be posted and then combined with next 9-hole score.

$$9 + 9 = 18$$

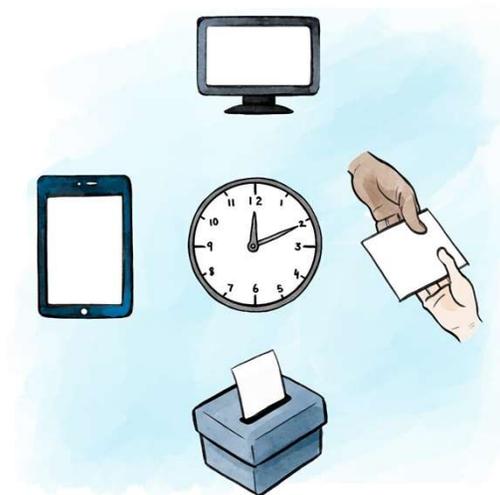


Timeframe for Submitting a Score

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.



Handicap Formula

Handicap Index Calculation

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

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

3

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

8 of 20

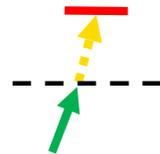
3) A Playing Conditions Calculation.



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



5) The **addition** of a Soft Cap and Hard Cap to limit upward movement.



Calculation of a Score Differential

For an 18-hole Score, a Score Differential is calculated as follows:

Score Differential =

$$(113 / \text{Slope Rating}) \times (\text{Adjusted Gross Score} - \text{Course Rating} - \text{PCC adjustment})$$



Calculation of a Score Differential

A lower score may not always produce a lower Score Differential:

$$(95 - 71.5) \times 113 / 125 = 21.2$$

$$(97 - 73.8) \times 113 / 140 = 18.7 \leftarrow$$

$$(90 - 66.1) \times 113 / 105 = 25.7$$



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.

Your Handicap Index is based on:



Sample Calculation

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

USGA Handicap System: 12.9

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

World Handicap System: 13.3

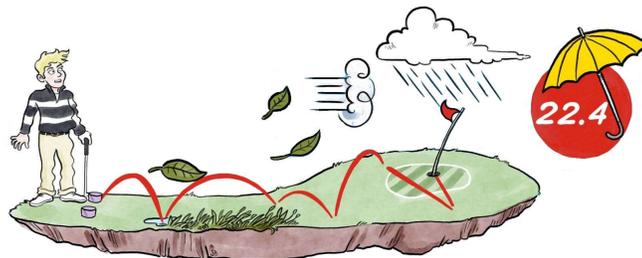


Playing Conditions Calculation

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



Playing Conditions Calculation

Is performed only once for a day.

Considers acceptable scores submitted on a golf course, including all rated tees and both genders.

Requires at least eight acceptable scores submitted by players with a Handicap Index of 36.0 or below.

Is applied in the calculation of score differentials for all players.

Includes both 9-hole and 18-hole acceptable scores.



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:

Score Differential Relative to Index	7.0 – 9.9 strokes lower	10.0+ strokes lower
ESR Adjustment	-1.0	-2.0

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



Limit on Upward Movement of a Handicap Index

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.



Your Handicap Index should NEVER increase more than five strokes above your Low Handicap Index over a rolling twelve-month period



Cap Procedure

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.

The soft cap and hard cap procedures only start to take effect once a player has at least 20 acceptable scores in their scoring record.



Soft cap



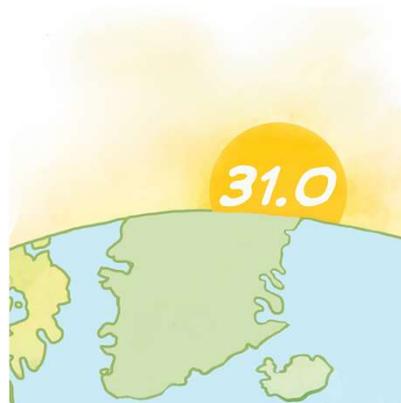
Hard cap



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.



Club Handicap Committee Responsibilities

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.



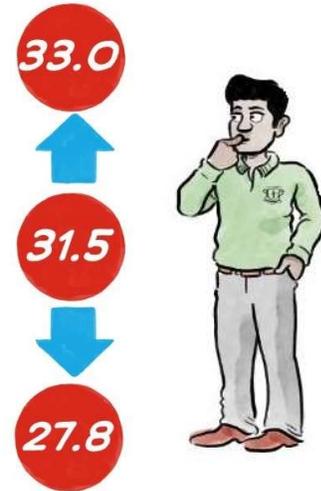
Adjusting a Handicap Index

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.

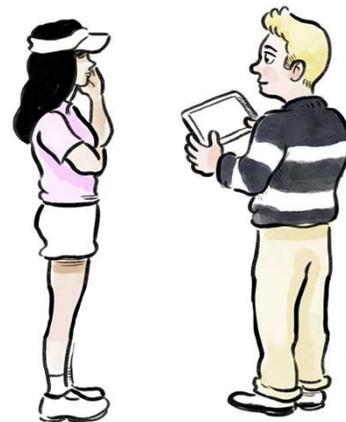


Adjusting a Handicap Index

The Handicap Committee can adjust a player's Handicap Index to ensure that it reflects their demonstrated ability. In doing so, the Handicap Committee should consider all available information relating to the player's demonstrated ability, including:

- The player's scoring potential,
- Any handicap(s) previously held by the player, and
- Whether the player is an improver, a steady player or a declining player.

The Handicap Committee should consult with, or have ratified, any player's handicap adjustment by the **Allied Golf Association**.



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, reset the player's Handicap Index or consider other disciplinary procedures.

If you fail
to submit
score when
required



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.



Terms of Competition Example

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 in determining the score to post for handicap purposes.



AGA Responsibilities

Administration of a Handicap Index

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.



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.

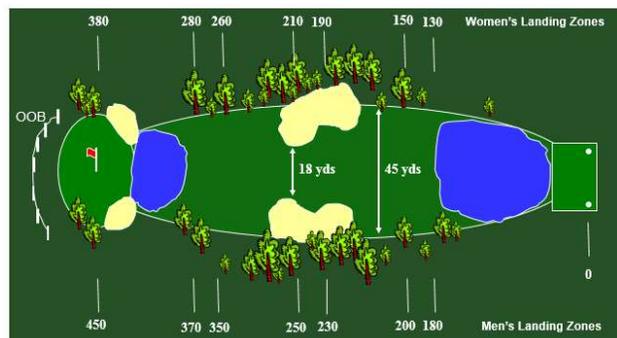
A Home Club is determined by the player and is typically determined by where the player submits the most scores or demonstrates regularity of play.



Permanent Modification of Courses

The club must notify the AGA when permanent changes are made to the course.

Permanent changes to the course require the AGA to review the current Course Rating and Slope Rating and to determine whether a re-rating is necessary.



Other Provided Services

1. Adjudicating Hole Par
2. Stroke Index Allocation
3. Temporary Ratings for Unrated Tees

For questions and additional information regarding these issues, please call our HSGA office.



Additional Education

Education Overview

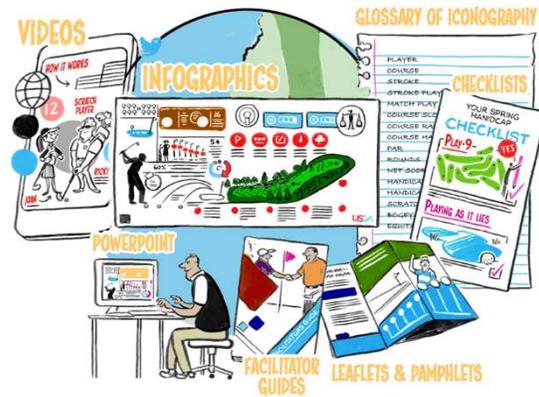
Rules of Handicapping Quiz

- Take approximately 20 minutes
- Passing score 80 or higher
- Complete by Dec 30, 2019

Tools and Resources

The following resources are being developed to enable golfers and golf clubs to learn about the Rules of Handicapping.

- The Rules of Handicapping book
- Player's Guide/Booklet
- Committee Guide (digital)
- Videos
- Video Snippets/Snackable pieces
- Infographics/Posters
- Online articles & common FAQs to enhance learning



USGA

QUESTIONS?

WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM

Thank you for attending!

