

# World Handicap System Summary

## The Olivas Links Men's Golf Club

Olivas Links Golf Course, Ventura, CA  
Ranked #10 Municipal Golf Course in the U.S. by GolfWeek Magazine





Beginning Jan. 1, 2020, the USGA and the R&A will implement major changes to the fabric of our handicap system. This revamped World Handicap System aims to bring the game of golf under a single set of handicapping rules and provide a more consistent measure of players' ability between different regions of the world.

**LEARN MORE AT THE SCGA'S WHS HUB**

### THREE ways to post scores:



**GHIN Mobile App**  
Google Play & App Store



**Online**  
[ghin.com](http://ghin.com) & [scga.org](http://scga.org)



**Facility Kiosk**

January 5, 2020

# 5 Things You Need to Know

(From SCGA Website)

## 1. Your Handicap Index may change.

But that's okay! Finally, players around the world will have an apples-to-apples handicap. Your new Handicap Index will be more responsive to good scores by averaging your [eight best scores](#) out of your most recent 20 (currently, it's 10 out of 20 with a .96 multiplier). In short, your Handicap Index will be determined by your demonstrated ability and consistency of scores. In most cases for golfers in the U.S., it will change less than one stroke.

## 2. You need to know your Course Handicap.

In the new system, your [Course Handicap](#) will be the number of strokes needed to play to par. This will result in greater variance in that number and presents a change, as historically it has represented the number of strokes needed to play to the [Course Rating](#). This is a good thing, as par is an easy number to remember. Target score for the day? Par plus Course Handicap. The Course Rating will now be inherent within the [calculation](#) to be more intuitive and account for competing from different tees.

## 3. Net Double Bogey.

The maximum hole score for each player will be limited to a [Net Double Bogey](#). This adjustment is more consistent from hole to hole than the Equitable Stroke Control procedure. Net Double Bogey is already used in many other parts of the world and the calculation is simple: Par + 2 + any handicap strokes you receive.

## 4. Your Handicap Index will be revised daily.

One way that handicapping is being modernized is a player's Handicap Index will [update daily](#) (which will provide a fairer indication of a player's ability in the moment), if the player submitted a score the day before. On days where the player does not submit a score, no update will take place.

## 5. Safeguards in the new system.

The new system will [limit extreme upward movement](#) of a Handicap Index, automatically and immediately reduce a Handicap Index when an [exceptional score](#) of at least 7 strokes better is posted, and account for [abnormal course or weather conditions](#) to ensure that scores reflect when a course plays significantly different than its established Course Rating and Slope Rating. Things You Need to Know

## **You can find more information and training videos at:**

**<http://www.scga.org/whs-hub?>**

Videos are available for:

- Basic Calculation of Revisions
- Frequency of Revisions
- Handicap Formula
- Course Handicap Calculation
- Playing Handicap
- Net Double Bogey
- Maximum Handicap Index
- Minimum Scores to Obtain a Handicap Index
- Acceptable Scores
- Treatment of Nine-Hole Scores
- Playing Conditions Calculation
- Exceptional Score Reduction
- Handicap Index Caps
- Handicap Review
- Course Rating System
- Certification Resources

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## WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM

### Quick Tips

#### Terminology:

**Caps – Soft and Hard:** is applied to limit the upward movement of a player Handicap Index within a 12-month period.

**Soft Cap** – suppress or limits upward movement by 50% after a 3.0 increase OVER a player's 12-month Low Handicap Index has been reached

EX: Player A has LHI 10.0 Current HI 15.2

$15.2 \text{ HI} - 10.0 \text{ LHI} = 5.2$

$5.2 \text{ divided by } 50\% = 2.6$

$15.2 \text{ HI} - 2.6 \text{ soft cap} = \mathbf{12.6 \text{ new HI}}$

**Hard Cap** – restricts upward movement to 5.0 over LHI from past 12 months. Ex: Player B has LHI 10.0 Current HI 17.4

$7.4 \text{ (difference between HI and LHI)} - 3.0 \text{ (Cap of difference)}$

If result is more than 5.0 above LHI ( $17.4 - 10.0 = 7.4$ ), reduce to LHI + 5.0 = **15.0 new HI**

#### Course Handicap vs. Playing Handicap:

**Course Handicap** – the number of handicap strokes a player receives, before handicap allowances, from a specific set of tees as determined by the Slope Rating and the difference between Course Rating and par.  $(\text{Handicap Index} \times (\text{Slope Rating}/113)) + (\text{Course Rating} - \text{Par})$

**Playing Handicap** – the Course Handicap adjusted for any handicap allowances or Terms of the Competition. It represents the actual number of strokes the player gives or receives for the round being played (see Rule 6.2)

**Demonstrated Scoring ability** – is the term now used for potential scoring ability.

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**ESR (Exceptional Score Reduction):** takes the place of Section 10-3 Reduction of Handicap Based on Exceptional Tournament Scores; is a procedure for dealing with exceptional scores which may indicate the player's true ability. The procedure considers ALL scores, not just Tournament scores.

If a player posts a score that produces a Score Differential 7.0 strokes or better than their Handicap Index at the time the score was submitted, an automatic adjustment is made using the following table:

Score Differential relative to Index	7.0 - 10.0 strokes lower	More than 10.0 Strokes Lower
ESR Adjustment	-1.0	-2.0

When an Exceptional Score is posted, a -1 or -2 adjustment will be applied to each previous 20 score differential in a player's scoring record. The net result will be a 1.0 or 2.0 stroke reduction in their Handicap Index.

**Handicap Index Updated:** Updated daily (if score has been posted) **Maximum**

**Handicap Index:** for Men and Women 54.0

**Minimum number of holes to post an acceptable round** – now 14 (not 13)

**Net Double Bogey (or Double Bogey Plus):** takes the place of Equitable Stroke Control; used when a player's actual score or most likely scores exceeds a maximum number derived using the following formula. Changes with each hole played.

**Net double bogey = par + 2 strokes +/- any Handicap strokes received or given on a hole**

EX: Player has Course Handicap (CH) of 11 receives one stroke on the first 11 allocated stroke holes.

On a par 4 hole with Stroke Index of 6 – player's Net Double Bogey is: 4 (par) + 2 strokes + 1 (strokes received) = 7

If Course Handicap is over 54, then the calculation is par + 5.

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## **WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM**

**PCC (Playing Conditions Calculation):** used when abnormal playing conditions cause scores to be unusually high or low on a given day, the PCC will adjust score differentials to better reflect the player's actual performance. Should be on rare occasions unless there is an issue with course rating. There must be eight scores submitted on a given day.

### **Score Type Changes:**

**N** – combination of Nine-hole scores. (and whenever scaling comes into play).

**E** - Exceptional Score-only the specific exceptional score will be denoted, but all 20 will be impacted differential wise.

**C** - reserved for competition, **replacing T**. Clubs will be eligible to designate more scores as **C** scores, recognizing there is **no 10-3**. Those c scores can be used in a handicap review.

**H, A, and P** remain as score types. (**Home, Away and Penalty**)

**Stroke Index** – is the term now used for Allocated Stroke Hole