

10 Things for Golfers to Know After Signing Up for a Handicap Index®

1 A Handicap Index represents...

your demonstrated playing ability. Your number is based on your scores relative to the course and tees played during those rounds.

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2 After you post a score, it is converted into...

a Score Differential™ - which accounts for the Course Rating™ and Slope Rating® of the tees played.

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- 9-hole scores are combined in the order they are received to form 18-hole Score Differentials.

3 A Handicap Index is calculated by...

averaging your 8 best Score Differentials from your most recent 20 scores. There are also built-in safeguards applied when:

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- you post an exceptional score, or
- there is extreme upward movement in your Handicap Index.

A Handicap Index can be calculated with as few as three 18-hole scores. When less than 20 scores are in your scoring record, a fewer number of scores are used to calculate your Handicap Index.

4 Your first Handicap Index will be issued...

the day after you have posted scores from 54-holes to your scoring record. These scores can be made up of any combination of 9- or 18-hole rounds.

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5 A Handicap Index is updated...

at midnight local time the day after you post a score.

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- As a result, it's important to post your scores on the same day of play.

6 A Course Handicap™ is...

the number of strokes needed to play to par of the tees being played.

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- You will have a Course Handicap once a Handicap Index has been established (see #4).

7 The max hole score for handicap purposes is...

a net double bogey, equal to double bogey + any handicap strokes received based on your Course Handicap.

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- Until a Handicap Index is established, the max hole score is 5 over par.
- If using the hole-by-hole option, the adjustment for max hole score is made automatically.

8 If you don't play a hole...

for instance, due to darkness - the score recorded is net par, equal to par + any handicap strokes received based on your Course Handicap.

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- You must play at least 7 holes to post a 9-hole score and 14 holes to post an 18-hole score.

9 If you start but don't finish a hole...

for instance, because a putt is conceded during match play - the score recorded for handicap purposes is your most likely score.

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10 It's important to post all acceptable scores so...

your Handicap Index continues to accurately reflect your game.

[Learn more](#)

A popular method for posting scores is through a mobile app. For additional ways to post a score, or for help with correcting a score posted in error, contact a member of the Handicap Committee at your club or your local Allied Golf Association.