

The Index: What does it all mean?

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An overview of how your Index is calculated, how it's used and what scores to post.

What is the Handicap Index?

The Index is a mathematical calculation that is always expressed in a decimal. The number represents each golfer's playing ability on a 113 Slope golf course, which is classified as a course of standard difficulty. If a golfer played every round on a 113 Slope golf course, his or her Index and playing handicap would be the same. However, since golfers play courses of widely differing difficulties, the Slope system mathematically converts those differentials into a number that assumes all scores were shot on a 113 Slope course.

How do I establish an index?

Once a player has posted five 18-hole rounds, a Handicap Index is calculated for the next revision period. Until the golfer has established a Handicap Index, he or she should use the maximum index allowable in order to post their Adjusted Gross Score. **The maximum index for a male golfer is 36.4 and 40.4 for female golfers.**

How do I use my Index?

Using the Slope chart below as an example, find the course handicap for the golfer playing a course with a set of tees that have a Slope rating of 130. If the golfer's Handicap Index is 11.2, find that number in the range 10.9 to 11.7, which means the course handicap would be a 13. If the Handicap Index was 16.3, you would find the number in the range 16.1 to 16.9 and would play to a 19 handicap from that set of tees.

SLOPE RATING: 130

SCGA/USGA Handicap Index	Course Handicap	SCGA/USGA Handicap Index	Course Handicap
+3.5 to +3.1	+4	18.7 to 19.5	22
+3.0 to +2.2	+3	19.6 to 20.4	23
+2.1 to +1.4	+2	20.5 to 21.2	24
+1.3 to +0.5	+1	21.3 to 22.1	25
+0.4 to 0.4	0	22.2 to 23.0	26
0.5 to 1.3	1	23.1 to 23.9	27
1.4 to 2.1	2	24.0 to 24.7	28
2.2 to 3.0	3	24.8 to 25.6	29
3.1 to 3.9	4	25.7 to 26.5	30
4.0 to 4.7	5	26.6 to 27.3	31
4.8 to 5.6	6	27.4 to 28.2	32
5.7 to 6.5	7	28.3 to 29.1	33
6.6 to 7.3	8	29.2 to 29.9	34
7.4 to 8.2	9	30.0 to 30.8	35
8.3 to 9.1	10	30.9 to 31.7	36
9.2 to 9.9	11	31.8 to 32.5	37
10.0 to 10.8	12	32.6 to 33.4	38
10.9 to 11.7	13	33.5 to 34.3	39
11.8 to 12.6	14	34.3 to 35.2	40
12.7 to 13.4	15	35.3 to 36.0	41
13.5 to 14.3	16	36.1 to 36.9	42
14.4 to 15.2	17	37.0 to 37.8	43
15.3 to 16.0	18	37.9 to 38.6	44
16.1 to 16.9	19	38.7 to 39.5	45
17.0 to 17.8	20	39.6 to 40.4	46
17.9 to 18.6	21		

What score do I post?

*For handicap purposes, a golfer always posts the **Adjusted Gross Score** (net scores and gross scores are for competition purposes only).*

In order to adjust, the player must use the Equitable Stroke Control chart (see below). Based on the player's course handicap for the set of tees that were played, the golfer would reduce any individual hole scores that exceeded their maximum allowable, based on ESC. As an example, a golfer has a course handicap of 13, which means the maximum they can post on any individual hole is a 7. If the golfer's total gross score (all strokes counted) for the day is 100 but they scored an 8 on one hole, the player would adjust that individual hole score to a 7 and post a 99 for handicapping purposes.

Total gross score	100
Minus any adjustments	-1
Adjusted gross score	99

EQUITABLE STROKE CONTROL (ESC)	
18-Hole Course Handicap	Max ESC Number on Any Hole
9 or less	Double Bogey
10 through 19	7
20 through 29	8
30 through 39	9
40 or more	10