

Conducting a Competition under the World Handicap System™

Which terms of the competition should the Committee communicate in advance?

→ Handicap Index® eligibility and limits

- Is there a maximum Handicap Index for eligibility or use in the competition?
- When is the effective date for the Handicap Index to be used during the competition?
 - It is strongly recommended that the same Handicap Index is used when the competition consists of multiple rounds over consecutive days.

→ The handicap allowance to be used

- Is there a handicap allowance being applied to create equity based on the format of play?
 - Appendix C, Rules of Handicapping

→ The tees to be played

- Is everyone playing from the same set of tees or are multiple tees in use?
 - If par is not the same for all players, those playing from the tees with a higher par may receive additional stroke(s) depending on the format of play.

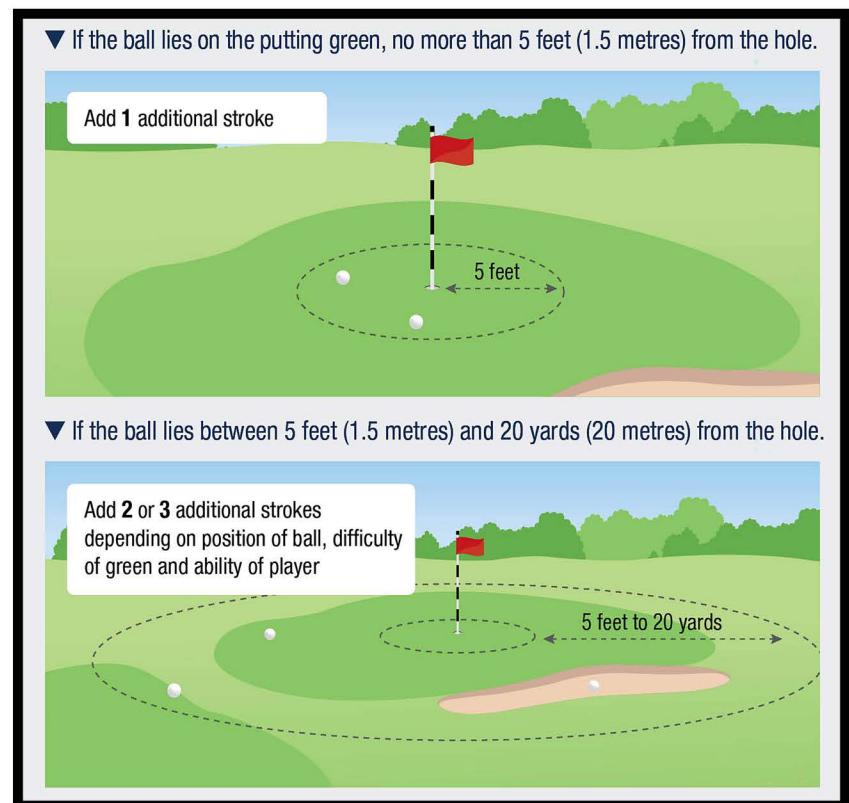
→ The stroke index allocation

- Are stroke index values relevant for the format of play (for example: Four-Ball stroke play)
 - In mixed competitions where players play their own ball, players receive strokes based on their respective stroke index allocation.

How are competition scores posted?

The Committee should announce who is responsible for posting scores for handicap purposes and whether the score will be identified by the letter "C" when posted. It is strongly recommended that scores are posted on the day of play to be included in the daily playing conditions calculation.

In formats in which all players are required to hole out, such as Individual stroke play, the USGA recommends that the Committee posts scores for all players. In formats, such as match play or Four-Ball stroke play, where holing out is not always required under the Rules of Golf, players should post their own scores for handicap purposes. When such formats are played, the Committee should provide instructions on how to apply most likely score when a hole is started but not completed for a valid reason (Rule 3.3, Rules of Handicapping).



Where does rounding take place in the Playing Handicap™ calculation?

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|------------|-----------------|---|------------------|---|------|----------|---|---|-----|
| Name | John Smith | Course Handicap | 5 | Playing Handicap | 4 | Date | 07/16/25 | | | |
| HOLE | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | Out |
| PAR | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 37 |
| SCORE | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 39 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| HOLE | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | In | Total |
| PAR | 3 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 35 | 72 |
| SCORE | 3 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 38 | 77 |

NET: 73

Marker's Signature: 

Player's Signature: 

COURSE HANDICAP (UNROUNDED)
4.634513
x 90%
= PLAYING HANDICAP
4

To avoid multiple rounding points when converting a Handicap Index to a Playing Handicap, any handicap allowances should be applied to the unrounded Course Handicap™.

The rounded Course Handicap should still be used for the purpose of applying net double bogey adjustments.

For more information or to learn more about the WHS, visit usga.org/whs