

I. World Handicap System Terms

Par: Par is the target score for each hole indicated on the scorecard—the number a good player expects to achieve.

Net Par: A player's allowable score for any holes not played—the equivalent of Par plus any Handicap Strokes a player is entitled to on a given hole based on their Course Handicap. **No longer in effect as of 1/01/2024.**

Gross Score: The player's actual number of strokes used to complete 18 holes (including penalty strokes).

Net Score: A player's Gross Score minus the player's Course Handicap.0

Double Bogey: A player's score of two strokes over Par for a hole.

Net Double Bogey: A score of two strokes over Par for a hole *plus* any Handicap Strokes a player receives on a given hole based on their Course Handicap.

Hole Handicap: Each hole is rated by difficulty, with the one being the hardest on the course, and 18 the easiest. These numbers are listed in a row titled “handicap” or HDCP. (Sometimes called Handicap Holes.)

Handicap Strokes (Pops): When the Net Score on each hole matters, as in Match Play, a player's handicap is allocated on a hole-by-hole basis based on Hole Handicap to allow a player to compute a net score for each hole based on his Course Handicap. If a player's Course Handicap is 12, they will receive Handicap Strokes on the 12 most difficult holes, subtracting one stroke on each of these holes to compute their Net Score. If a player's Course Handicap is 20, they will receive two strokes each on the number 1- and 2-rated Handicap Holes and one stroke on Handicap Holes 3 through 18.

Course Rating: The measurement of the course's difficulty from each set of tees, designed to indicate what a scratch golfer—one who is capable of shooting around par and a handicap index around 0—would score on an average day. The Course Rating can be higher or lower than Par depending on yardage, penalty areas and other course conditions. The higher the Course Rating, the more difficult the course will play for a scratch golfer. The Course Rating number is usually expressed as a decimal number, e.g., Westchester's Blue Tee Course Rating for females is 62.6.

Slope Rating: The measurement of the difficulty of a golf course for bogey golfers, in this case defined as female players with a Course Handicap of 24 on a course of standard difficulty. Course Rating tells scratch golfers how difficult the course will be; Slope Rating tells bogey golfers how difficult it will be. Slope Rating is always expressed as a whole number.

Handicap Index: The measurement of a player's potential ability, or skill level, on a course of standard playing difficulty. The golfer uses the Handicap Index to determine his Course Handicap at a particular course, based on the Slope Rating of that course.

Course Handicap: The number of strokes needed to play to the level of a scratch golfer—or to the Course Rating—from a particular set of tees. A Course Handicap is expressed as a whole number (e.g. 12). Using one's Handicap Index, a player can determine their Course Handicap by using charts located at the golf course where the round is to be played or by using the Course Handicap calculator: <https://www.usga.org/course-handicap-calculator.html>

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WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM

Posting Your Score

ADJUSTING YOUR SCORE: The maximum hole score for each player will be limited to a Net Double Bogey. Net Double Bogey calculation is simple: Par + 2 + any handicap strokes, or pops, you receive.

NEW! **POSTING YOUR SCORE:** You must play a minimum of nine holes *and* post a nine-hole score. (*If you play less than nine holes, you cannot post a score.*) GHIN will automatically calculate and create an 18-hole differential from the 9 holes played. **And coming soon:** If you play 10- 17 holes, you will post a 10- 17-hole score hole by hole and leave the holes not played blank. The GHIN will calculate and establish a score differential based on holes played plus the expected score differential for holes not played.

MOST LIKELY SCORE: When a player starts, but does not complete a hole, the score recorded for handicap purposes is *Most Likely Score* using the following guidelines:

Position of the ball:	Strokes to be added:
On the putting green within 5 feet of the hole	Add 1 additional stroke
Between 5 feet and 20 yards from the hole	Add 2 or 3 additional strokes, <i>depending on the position of the ball, the difficulty of the green and the ability of the player.</i>
Beyond 20 yards from the hole	Add 3 or 4 additional strokes, <i>depending on the position of the ball, the difficulty of the green and the ability of the player.</i>

The Hierarchy of Golf

The USGA and the Royal and Ancient

The joint governing authorities responsible for authorizing use of the World Handicap System (WHS) which, in 2020, unified the six different handicap systems used around the world into a single system. The WHS encompasses both the Rules of Handicapping and the Course Rating System.

National Association

Exclusively implement and administer the WHS within its jurisdiction, including the issuance of a Handicap Index. Our club's National Association is the United States Golf Association (USGA).

Allied Golf Association

Affiliated to its National Association and comprised of golf clubs and/or golfers within a defined area. Our club's AGA is the *Southern California Golf Association (SCGA)*.

Golf Club / Handicap Committee (Westchester Women's Golf Association [WWGA])

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 through means of its score posting product.

Score Posting Products

A service providing Handicap management tools. The *Golf Handicap & Information Network® (GHIN)* is the Score Posting Product utilized by USGA and offered for use to its National Associations and associations worldwide.

Player

An individual golfer who shall attempt to make the best score possible at each hole and submits scores for handicap purposes as soon as possible after the round is completed.