



FGCC Handicap Committee News & Briefs

Competing from different tees

So far in the first two articles we have talked about at least six different subjects and definitions.

1. Handicap Index
2. Course Handicap
3. Equitable Stroke Control (ESC)
4. Slope Rating
5. Target Score
6. Course Rating

The purpose of the USGA Handicap System is to make the game of golf more enjoyable by enabling players of different abilities to compete on an equitable basis. The System provides a fair Course Handicap for each player, regardless of ability, and adjusts the player's Handicap Index up or down as the player's game changes.

Therefore;

- ✓ A player in the System is issued a Handicap Index
- ✓ A player in the System uses the Slope conversion chart to determine a Course Handicap
- ✓ A player posts his/her Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) adjusted score to GHIN
- ✓ A player can determine his/her Target Score by adding the Course Handicap and the Course Rating

But, what if two players are competing from different tees?

Bill has an index of 10.2 and John has an index of 14.7. They will be playing the Brae but Bill will be playing the white tees and John will be playing the gold tees.

Different tees usually have different Ratings. Because a USGA Course Rating reflects the probable score of a scratch golfer, the higher-rated course is more difficult.

The player playing from a set of tees with the higher USGA Course Rating receives additional stroke(s) equal to the difference between each USGA Course Rating. The additional stroke(s) are added to the Course Handicap of the player playing from the higher-rated set of tees.

Bill's Index of 10.2 converts to a Course Handicap of 11 on the white tees (slope of 122).
John's Index of 14.7 converts to a Course Handicap of 14 on the gold tees (slope of 109).

The white tees have a Course Rating of 68.7 and the gold tees have a Course Rating of 64.3. The difference of $68.7 - 64.3$ equals 4.4, which rounds to 4 shots.

This means that to compete fairly from different tees, Bill will add 4 to his Course Handicap of 11 to equal 15 from the white tees, versus John with 14 from the gold tees.

Summary;

- ✓ A player in the System is issued a Handicap Index
- ✓ A player in the System uses the Slope conversion chart to determine the Course Handicap from the tees that he/she will play
- ✓ When players are competing from different tees, the difference between the Course Rating from each set of tees is figured
- ✓ The player playing from a set of tees with the higher USGA Course Rating receives additional stroke(s) equal to the difference between each USGA Course Rating.