



Golf Handicap 101

- ▶ Handicap is a measure of how many strokes will typically need to be removed from a score so that the score equals the par of the course
- ▶ A score before adjusted handicap is called a “gross” score
- ▶ A score after adjusted handicap is called a “net” score
- ▶ If a player has a 1 handicap, it means that he or she will typically score 1 stroke over par, and will subsequently receive one handicap stroke on the hardest hole
- ▶ If a player has an 18 handicap, it means that he or she will typically score 18 strokes over par, and you will subsequently receive 18 handicap strokes.
- ▶ If a player scores better than usual, the net score will be under par because the handicap is based on the player’s average score
- ▶ If a player scores worse than usual, the net score will be over par because the handicap is based on the player’s average score

Example:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| ▶ Course Par: 72 | ▶ Course Par: 72 |
| ▶ Your Handicap: 1 | ▶ Your Handicap: 18 |
| ▶ Your Gross Score: 73 | ▶ Your Gross Score: 90 |
| ▶ Your Net Score: 72 (73-1) | ▶ Your Net Score: 72 (90-18) |

Handicap Index Conversion:

- ▶ Each player has an established handicap index, which is determined by the average of the player’s most recent scores
- ▶ This index can be converted to a course handicap, and this adjustment is determined by the difficulty of the course, which is measured by slope
- ▶ The higher the slope, the more difficult the course
- ▶ The USGA has a Course Handicap Calculator, which allows a handicap index to be converted to a course handicap (<http://www.usga.org/course-handicap-calculator.html>)
- ▶ A course handicap is more likely to be higher on a course with a higher slope

Example:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ▶ Your Handicap Index: 12.1 | ▶ Your Handicap Index: 12.1 |
| ▶ Course Slope: 138 | ▶ Course Slope: 118 |
| ▶ Course Handicap: 15 | ▶ Course Handicap: 13 |

