Converting your Handicap Index to a Course Handicap: How does it work?

Your Handicap Index is a portable representation of your demonstrated ability over a golf course of standard difficulty. But, some golf courses are harder than others.

That is why, when you go out on the course, your Handicap Index will be converted into a Course Handicap – taking into account relative difficulty of the golf course for all players.

For an 18-hole round, this is done by adjusting your Handicap Index in accordance with the Slope Rating of the course you are playing using the following formula:

\[(\text{Handicap Index}) \times (\text{Slope Rating}/113)\]

So – for a golfer with a Handicap Index of 15.6, from a set of tees with a Slope Rating of 126, this converts to a Course Handicap of 17 as follows:

\[15.6 \times \frac{126}{113} = 17\]

The same golfer playing from a set of tees with a Slope Rating of 95, would receive a Course Handicap of 13 as follows:

\[15.6 \times \frac{95}{113} = 13\]

The higher the Slope Rating, the more strokes you are likely to receive – depending on your ability.

It shouldn’t be necessary for you to carry out this calculation yourself! It should be available on a look-up chart near the first tee, through a mobile app or online calculator.

When you have finished your round and submitted your score, it will be converted into a ‘played to’ value (called a Score Differential). This value will be de-sloped back against a Slope Rating of 113.

The same will apply to all of the scores in your scoring record, giving you a Handicap Index which reflects your ability on a course of standard difficulty with a Slope Rating of 113.

This Handicap Index can be transported to any course around the world, where it will be converted into a Course Handicap - giving you the strokes you need to play to have a fair and enjoyable game.