



GOLFRSA HANDICAPPING RULES FOR MEN AND WOMEN

Effective from 3 September 2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART 1

PURPOSE AND DEFINITIONS

Section 1	4
<u>COPYRIGHT</u>	4
Section 2	4
<u>PURPOSE</u>	4
<u>2.1 Essence of the System</u>	4
<u>2.2 Purpose</u>	4
Section 3	5
<u>DEFINITIONS</u>	5

PART 2

HANDICAPPING

Section 4	11
<u>ELEMENTS OF THE SYSTEM</u>	11
Section 5	11
<u>SCORES ACCEPTABLE</u>	11
<u>5.1 All Scores</u>	11
<u>5.2 Adjusted Gross Score</u>	11
<u>5.3 Maximum Score on any hole</u>	11
<u>5.4 Unfinished Holes, Conceded Strokes</u>	11
<u>5.5 Recording a Score for Incomplete holes</u>	12
<u>5.6 Scores on all courses</u>	12
<u>5.7 Scores not acceptable</u>	12
<u>5.8 Disqualification not Affecting Gross</u>	12
Section 6	12
<u>HANDICAP DIFFERENTIALS</u>	12
<u>6.1 Calculation of Differentials</u>	12
<u>6.2 Plus Handicap Differential</u>	13
<u>6.3 Minus Handicap Differential</u>	13
Section 7	13
<u>HOW TO COMPUTE A HANDICAP INDEX</u>	13
<u>7.1 Period of validity</u>	13
<u>7.2 Valid Differentials</u>	13
<u>7.3 Considered Differentials</u>	13
<u>7.4 Handicap Index Formula</u>	13
<u>7.5 Exceptional performance calculation</u>	14
<u>7.6 Maximum Handicap Index Permitted</u>	14
<u>7.7 Limits for Professional and low handicap golfers</u>	14
Section 8	15
<u>SCORING RECORDS</u>	15
<u>8.1 Scores</u>	15

8.2 Nine-Hole Score Entry	15
8.3 Incomplete Rounds	15
8.4 Nine-Hole Scores and 72 Hour Penalty	16
8.5 Information Required	16
8.6 Time limit on entering scores	16
8.7 Penalty Scores	16
8.8 How to Enter Scores	16
8.9 Handicap Index Calculations	17
8.10 Electronic Data Processing	17
8.11 Scores used to compute a Handicap Index	17
8.12 Player belonging to More Than One Club	17
8.13 Player Changing his nominated handicap Club	17
8.14 Records of Resigned Members	17
8.15 Course Rating and Slope Rating on Score Cards	17
8.16 International Scores	17
Section 9	18
HANDICAP REVISIONS	18
9.1 Frequency of Revisions	18
9.2 Handicap Increases and Decreases	19
9.3 Handicap to be used	19
Section 10	19
ALLOCATION OF HANDICAP STROKES	19
10.1 Principles; Possible Value to Recipient	19
10.2 Allocation of strokes for Plus handicap players	20
10.3 Use of Alternate Tees in Club Competitions	20
10.4 Nine-hole Courses	20
Section 11	21
HANDICAP ALLOWANCES	21
11.1 General	21
11.2 Match Play	21
11.3 Stroke Play	22
11.4 Total Scores of Partners (Aggregate)	22
11.5 Optional Reductions in Players' Hcps for BB and Alliance Competitions	22
11.6 Players without South African handicaps	23
11.7 Foreign Visitors with a Handicap Index	23
11.8 Foreign Visitors from Neighbouring Countries on the HNA system	23
11.9 Foreign Visitors without a Handicap Index	23
11.10 Foreign Players with GolfRSA Handicap Index	23
Section 12	24
HANDICAP CONTROLS	24
12.1 General	24
12.2 Controls in the System	24
12.3 Responsibilities of Handicapping Committee	24
12.4 Exceptional Performance	25

PART 3

COURSE RATINGS

Section 13	26
<u>PURPOSE, BASIS AND RESPONSIBILITY</u>	26
<u>13.1 Purpose of Course Ratings</u>	26
<u>13.2 Basis of Course Ratings</u>	26
<u>13.3 Responsibility for Assessment of Course Ratings</u>	26
<u>13.4 Responsibility of Clubs</u>	26
Section 14	26
<u>METHOD OF ASSESSMENT OF COURSE STANDARD RATING</u>	26
<u>14.1 USGA Course Rating System</u>	26
<u>14.2 Minimum length for a Course Rating</u>	26
Section 15	27
<u>MEASUREMENTS</u>	27
<u>15.1 Starting Point; Permanent Tee Markers</u>	27
<u>15.2 How to Measure</u>	27
<u>15.3 Certificate of Measurement</u>	27
<u>15.4 More than One Set of Tees</u>	27
<u>15.5 Colours of Permanent and movable Tee Markers</u>	27
<u>15.6 Nine-Hole Courses</u>	27

NOTE 1: Throughout this manual, the use of the masculine applies equally to the feminine.

NOTE 2: The attention of clubs is drawn to Section 14 and 15, which requires that the overall placement of the tee markers and pins should be such that the course always plays as close as possible to the Average Playing Length on which the Course Rating is assessed.

SEPTEMBER 2018 HANDICAP RULE CHANGES

The 2018 GolfRSA Handicap Rules Manual has been changed where necessary to give effect to the adoption of the USGA Course Rating System, including Slope. No other changes have been made to the Handicap Rules in operation up until 3 September 2018.

Part 1

PURPOSE AND DEFINITIONS

Section 1

COPYRIGHT

The system detailed here is licensed for use by GolfRSA and is the property of both the South African Golf Association (SAGA) and Womens Golf South Africa (WGSA). It is used to determine the Handicap Index for Amateur golfers and club professionals as defined in Section 7. Authorisation to use this system is automatically granted to all Unions affiliated to GolfRSA and through these Unions to their member clubs. A disaffiliated Union or Club and its members are not entitled to continue using this system. A Handicap Index calculated according to the GolfRSA Handicap Rules, is a centrally computed national handicapping system controlled and managed by Handicaps Network Africa (Pty) Ltd duly authorised by GolfRSA. It is known as an "GolfRSA Handicap Index". Any other handicap computation using any other means, may not use the term "GolfRSA Handicap Index".

Section 2

PURPOSE

2.1 Essence of the System

The aim of the GolfRSA Handicap System is to allow golfers of differing abilities to compete against one another.

GolfRSA presents this Handicap System in the conviction that, when faithfully operated, it results in an equitable Handicap Index no matter where golfers live and play.

The System is based on the assumption that every player will endeavour to make the best score they can at each hole in every 18-hole or 9-hole round that they play and that they will report such round for Handicap Index purposes, regardless of where the round is played.

2.2 Purpose

The purpose of the system is to:

- a) Provide a fair Handicap Index for all golfers.
- b) Reflect the player's inherent ability (potential) as well as their recent scoring trends.
- c) Adjust their Handicap Index as their scoring ability changes.
- d) Disregard freak high scores that bear little relation to the player's normal ability.
- e) Establish a Handicap Index for all golf, from championship eligibility to informal games.
- f) Assist the handicapper to identify players whose Handicap Index does not properly reflect their playing ability.

Section 3

DEFINITIONS

3.1 Altitude Factor

Altitude above sea level is one of the factors influencing Course Ratings.

3.2 Bogey Golfer

A male "*Bogey Golfer*" is a player who has a Course Handicap of approximately 20 on a course of standard difficulty. He can hit tee shots an average of 183 metres and can reach a 338-metre hole in two shots at sea level. A female Bogey Golfer is a player who has a Course Handicap of approximately 24 on a course of standard difficulty. She can hit tee shots an average of 137 metres and reach a 256-metre hole in two shots.

3.3 Bogey Rating

A "*Bogey Rating*" is the USGA's mark of the evaluation of the playing difficulty of a course for the Bogey Golfer under normal course and weather conditions. It is based on distance, effective playing length, and other obstacles to the extent that they affect the scoring ability of the Bogey Golfer.

3.4 Course Handicap

A "*Course Handicap*" is the number of handicap strokes a player receives from a particular set of tees at the course being played.

To convert a Handicap Index to a Course Handicap, a player uses their Handicap Index to look up on the Course Handicap Conversion Table available at their club, on the club terminal, or HNA phone app, to find their appropriate Course Handicap. Each set of rated tees will have a different Course Handicap Conversion Table for men and women based on its Slope Rating and Course Rating and adjustment to Par. It is the player's responsibility to determine the correct Course Handicap, and to know the holes at which handicap strokes are to be given or received. (See sample Course Handicap Conversion Table in section 3.5.)

A player's Course Handicap is determined by multiplying a Handicap Index by the Slope Rating of the course played before dividing it by 113 and then adding the Course Rating and deducting the Par of the course. The resulting figure is rounded off to the nearest whole number (.5 or more is rounded upward).

Course Handicap = Handicap Index X Slope Rating of the Course /113 + (Course Rating - Par)

3.5 Course Handicap Conversion Table

A "*Course Handicap Conversion Table*" is a chart that converts a Handicap Index to a Course Handicap based on the Slope Rating for a specific set of tees and the adjustment to Par.

Course Handicap Conversion Table Example:

Course Handicap Conversion Table - Male
IBrodsky Golf Club

GREY		
Par	CR	Slope
72	71.0	125
Handicap Index		Course Hcp
+6,0 to +5,9		+8
+5,8 to +5,0		+7
+4,9 to +4,1		+6
+4,0 to +3,2		+5
+3,1 to +2,3		+4
+2,2 to +1,4		+3
+1,3 to +0,5		+2
+0,4 to 0,4		+1
0,5 to 1,3		0
1,4 to 2,2		1
2,3 to 3,1		2
3,2 to 4,0		3
4,1 to 4,9		4
5,0 to 5,8		5
5,9 to 6,7		6
6,8 to 7,6		7
7,7 to 8,5		8
8,6 to 9,4		9
9,5 to 10,3		10
10,4 to 11,3		11
11,4 to 12,2		12
12,3 to 13,1		13
13,2 to 14,0		14
14,1 to 14,9		15
15,0 to 15,8		16
15,9 to 16,7		17
16,8 to 17,6		18
17,7 to 18,5		19
18,6 to 19,4		20
19,5 to 20,3		21
20,4 to 21,2		22
21,3 to 22,1		23
22,2 to 23,0		24
23,1 to 23,9		25
24,0 to 24,8		26
24,9 to 25,7		27
25,8 to 26,6		28
26,7 to 27,5		29
27,6 to 28,4		30
28,5 to 29,3		31
29,4 to 30,2		32
30,3 to 31,1		33
31,2 to 32,0		34
32,1 to 32,9		35
33,0 to 33,8		36
33,9 to 34,8		37
34,9 to 35,7		38
35,8 to 36,0		39

3.6 Competition Match Play

A Club, League, Provincial or National Match Play Competition.

3.7 Exceptional Score

An "Exceptional Score" is highlighted on the players scoring records when the particular differential is 3 or more strokes below their Handicap Index at the time the round was played.

3.8 Gross Score

A "Gross Score" is the sum of the scores achieved on each hole played.

3.9 Adjusted Gross Score

An "Adjusted Gross Score" is a player's Gross Score adjusted as per the GolfRSA Handicap System procedure for unfinished holes, conceded strokes, holes not played or not played under the Rules of Golf or adjusted maximum score on any hole as detailed in [section 5.3](#).

3.10 Handicap Index

A "Handicap Index" is the USGA's service mark used to indicate a measurement of a player's potential ability on a course of standard playing difficulty. It is expressed as a number taken to one decimal place (e.g. 10.4) and is used for conversion to a Course Handicap. A player is eligible for an official GolfRSA Handicap Index provided they are members of a club affiliated to GolfRSA and their relevant Provincial Union, and have paid the annual affiliation- and handicap fee. Additionally, the player shall be able to be identified through the membership profile entered on the GolfRSA Handicap System by the club which shall include his or her identity number or passport number. The player's identity or passport number will only be accessible to the player's nominated handicap club and the player.

3.11 Handicap Allowance

A "Handicap Allowance" is the percentage of the Course Handicap recommended for a handicap competition. Allowances vary for different forms of competition and are designed to produce equitable competitions. A Handicap Allowance is added or deducted from the player's Course Handicap depending on the competition organisers directive, but should not be taken into account when submitting Adjusted Gross Scores into the GolfRSA Handicap System.

3.12 Handicap Committee

A "Handicap Committee" is a group of at least two, preferably three, members of a Golf Club Committee, who are responsible for the monitoring and revision of all handicaps at that club.

One individual may perform the normal functions of a handicapper, but in cases where handicap adjustments, outside the standard calculations of this system, are to be applied to an individual, the Handicap Committee should make such adjustments.

3.13 Handicap Differential

A "Handicap Differential" is the difference between a player's Adjusted Gross Score and the Course Rating of the tee from which the player played, multiplied by 113/Slope Rating.

3.14 Handicap Index Freeze Function

The "Handicap Index Freeze Function" is available to all clubs on the club administration interface. It provides clubs with the ability to adjust a member's Handicap Index either up or down by 90% of its value for a maximum period of 90 days.

3.15 Handicap Stroke Hole

A “*Handicap Stroke Hole*” is a hole at which a player applies a handicap stroke (or strokes) to their Gross Score for that hole to determine a Net Score for the hole. The order in which handicap strokes (from 1 to 18) are allocated to the holes of the course should be shown on the scorecard. ([See section 10](#)).

3.16 Junior Golfers

Golfers up to the age of 13 are classified as “*Junior Golfers*”. Junior Golfers are handicapped off those colour courses (tees) rated for their gender.

3.17 Average Playing Length

“*Average Playing Length*” is a number derived from the total of the lengths of each hole. Such length is measured horizontally (air line) from the Permanent Tee Markers, down the centre of the architected flow of the hole, to the centre of the green and is expressed in metres. The Average Playing Length is recorded on the scorecard as the length of the colour course for each set of tees.

3.18 Most Likely Score

A “*Most Likely Score*” is the score a player would most likely have achieved if they started the hole but did not complete the hole, or if a player conceded a stroke. This should be calculated as to the number of strokes already taken plus the number of strokes the player was most likely to have achieved more than 50% of the time.

3.19 Net Score

A “*Net Score*” is a player’s score after their Gross Score has been adjusted by their Course Handicap.

3.20 No Return (N/R)

An N/R must be entered in the system where a round was not acceptable for handicap purposes as detailed in [section 5.7](#) of this manual.

3.21 Par

“*Par*” is the score that a Scratch Golfer would be expected to make for a given hole. The following are the recommended ranges for allocating Par to each hole:

For Men:

Holes of 225 metres and under: Par 3

Holes of 226 – 450 metres: Par 4

Holes of 451 metres and over: Par 5

For Women:

Holes of 201 metres and under: Par 3

Holes of 202 – 366 metres: Par 4

Holes of 367 metres and over: Par 5

These figures are for sea-level courses. As the altitude increases, these values should be increased by 0.6% for each 100m that the course exceeds 500m above sea-level. In this way the length of the holes will be in proportion to the increase in Average Playing Length.

3.22 Penalty Scores

Players have 72 hours in which to enter a score after the completion of their round. Any scores returned after this 72-hour period will result in a “*Penalty Score*” being allocated to the player’s profile. (See sections [8.6](#) and [8.7](#))

3.23 Playing Handicap

A "Playing Handicap" is one where the Course Handicap has been adjusted up or down by the application of a Competition Allowance by the competition authority. The Playing Handicap shall only be used for the competition scores. The Course Handicap must be used when calculating an Adjusted Gross Score.

3.24 Professional Golfers and Golfers without Amateur Status

A "Professional Tour Player" is defined as a member of any recognised professional tour, be it international, local or senior tour.

Golfers who have forfeited their amateur status by way of contravention of the R&A Rules of Amateur Status may not receive an official Handicap Index until such time as reinstatement has been granted.

Club professionals, part of whose duty is to play golf with club members, may be handicapped by the club to which they are attached, and such players are obliged to abide by the regulations contained herein. ([See section 7.7.](#))

3.25 Slope Rating

A "Slope Rating" is the USGA's mark that indicates the measurement of the relative difficulty of a course for players who are not Scratch Golfers compared to the USGA Course Rating (e.g. compared to the difficulty of a course for Scratch Golfers). A Slope Rating is computed from the difference between the Bogey Rating and the USGA Course Rating. The lowest Slope Rating is 55 and the highest is 155. A golf course of standard playing difficulty has a Slope Rating of 113.

3.26 Rating Adjustment Factors

"Rating Adjustment Factors" are course conditions which influence rating. These include elevation changes, hazards, trees, out-of-bounds, width of fairways, size and shape of greens, as well as the presence of doglegs and blind tees or approach shots.

3.27 Permanent Tee Marker

A "Permanent Tee Marker" is a permanent indicator of the starting point from which each hole is measured to determine the length of the hole, and should be placed at the side of the tee in a position as stipulated in the guidelines of the USGA Course Rating System manual. Such markers must be firmly affixed and may not be movable. All markers for a particular set of tees (course) must have the same colour: yellow, white, blue, red etc.

3.28 Scratch Golfer

A "Scratch Golfer" is a player who can play to the Course Rating from any set of tees. For handicapping purposes, it is defined as a player with a Handicap Index of 0.0.

A male Scratch Golfer, for rating purposes, can hit tee shots an average of 229 metres and can reach a 430-metre hole in two shots at sea level. A female Scratch Golfer, for rating purposes, can hit tee shots an average of 192 metres and can reach a 366-metre hole in two shots at sea level.

3.29 GolfRSA Handicap System

The "GolfRSA Handicap System" comprises the procedural definitions defined in this document coupled with a Technical Specification that defines the algorithms and parameters required to control and manage the proper computation of GolfRSA Handicap Index. The two components taken together form the basis of the implementation of the GolfRSA Handicap Server, which maintains



scoring records and Handicap Index change history for all golfers that have been issued with a GolfRSA Handicap Index Card

3.30 Course Rating (CR)

A "*USGA Course Rating*" is the USGA's mark that indicates the evaluation of the playing difficulty of a course for a Scratch Golfer under normal course and weather conditions. It is expressed as strokes taken to one decimal place, and is based on metres and other obstacles to the extent that they affect the scoring ability of a Scratch Golfer.

Part 2

HANDICAPPING

Section 4

ELEMENTS OF THE SYSTEM

The System requires:

- 4.1 Complete, accurate scoring records of all players.
- 4.2 Course Ratings and Slope Ratings, which are uniform. (See [section 13.](#))
- 4.3 Peer and Club review to ensure all scores are entered and accurate.

Section 5

SCORES ACCEPTABLE

5.1 All scores

Scores must be entered on the GolfRSA Handicapping System for all 18-hole and 9-hole rounds except for rounds not acceptable as detailed in [section 5.7.](#)

5.2 Adjusted Gross Score

For handicap purposes, an Adjusted Gross score must be submitted to the GolfRSA Handicap System. An Adjusted Gross Score is obtained by applying the below rules to adjusting the score achieved on each hole.

5.3 Maximum score on any hole

The maximum score on a hole for Course Handicaps up to 18 is 2 over Par. Where a player has two handicap strokes on a hole, the maximum score allowed on the hole is 3 over Par. Where a player has 3 handicap strokes on a hole, the maximum score allowed on the hole would be 4 over Par.

Players should, where possible, complete every hole regardless of their partner's or their opposition's score. Where a player does not complete a hole, they should record their Most Likely Score. ([See section 3.18](#))

Where a player is unsure of how to adjust the Gross score on each hole, the player may enter the scores achieved on each hole using the GolfRSA Handicap Terminal, function "Hole-by-Hole" scoring, and the system will adjust the player's actual score to the maximum allowed per hole, based on the stroke allocation per hole, as entered on the system by the club, to give a total Adjusted Gross Score for the round.

5.4 Unfinished Holes, Conceded Strokes

A player who starts but does not finish a hole or is conceded a stroke must record the Most Likely Score they would have achieved. The number of strokes most likely to have been achieved should not exceed the maximum allowed on each hole as detailed in section 5.3 above.

5.5 Recording a score for incomplete holes

5.5.1 Rule 1 of the Rules of Golf specifies: "The Game of Golf consists of playing a ball from the teeing ground into the hole by a stroke or successive strokes in accordance with the Rules". No score can be returned in individual stroke play unless this Rule is followed.

5.5.2 In forms of play in which completion of every hole is not essential, it is sometimes helpful and speeds up play for a player to discontinue play on a hole perhaps because of a lost ball or for some other valid reason. Competitions should be scheduled to permit completion of all holes by every competitor whenever possible, as it is strongly recommended that holes and rounds be completed to provide maximum information on the player's ability. However, when a hole is not completed for any valid reason, the player shall, for handicap purposes only, return a score for the hole in accordance with the formula in section 5.3 above.

5.5.3 Under no circumstances shall this provision be used to control handicaps artificially. If it should be used for such purposes, the player's Handicap Index may be adjusted arbitrarily under [section 9.2.3](#).

5.6 Scores on all courses

Scores on all courses, at home and away, must be reported by the player, together with the Course Rating and Slope Rating of the course. This includes rounds played outside Southern Africa, where terminology may use Rating or CSS instead of Course Rating.

5.7 Scores not acceptable

Scores made under the following conditions are not acceptable for handicap purposes and should not be entered in any form in the player's scoring record:

- a) When the score cannot be ratified by a playing partner or competitor
- b) When the types or number of clubs are limited (as in a competition in which only iron clubs are allowed)
- c) When the round played includes the use of "Mulligans"
- d) Competition Match Play Rounds
- e) When more than one ball is used at a time.
- f) When the course played is not officially rated including when a course is set up much longer or shorter than the Average Playing Length when the rating of the course was determined
- g) When the player uses non-conforming clubs, balls or tees, or with respect to Rule 14-3 (Rules of Golf) where an artificial device is used in the execution of stroke or when equipment is used in an unusual manner during the execution of a stroke.

5.8 Disqualification not Affecting Gross

If a competitor is disqualified on his Net Score for playing with a Handicap Index higher than his actual Handicap Index, or for an administration error or for failing to record a penalty stroke, his Adjusted Gross Score must nevertheless be recorded for handicap purposes.

Section 6

HANDICAP DIFFERENTIALS

6.1 Calculation of Differentials

A Differential is computed from four elements: Adjusted Gross Score, USGA Course Rating, Slope Rating, and 113 (the Slope Rating of a course of standard difficulty). To determine the Differential, subtract the USGA Course Rating from the Adjusted Gross Score, multiply the difference by 113, and



divide the resulting number by the Slope Rating. Round the final number to the nearest tenth (one decimal).

$$\text{Differential} = (\text{Adjusted Gross Score} - \text{USGA Course Rating}) \times 113 / \text{Slope Rating}$$

6.2 Plus Handicap Differential

When the Adjusted Gross Score is higher than the USGA Course Rating, the Differential is a positive number. The following is an example for determining a Differential using an Adjusted Gross Score of 95 made on a course with a USGA Course Rating of 71.5 and a Slope Rating of 125:

Adjusted Gross Score - USGA Course Rating:	$95 - 71.5 = 23.5$
Difference x Standard Slope Rating:	$23.5 \times 113 = 2655.5$
Result / Slope Rating:	$2655.5 / 125 = 21.24$
Differential (rounded):	21.2

6.3 Minus Handicap Differential

When the Adjusted Gross Score is lower than the USGA Course Rating, the Differential is a negative number. The following is an example for determining a Differential using an Adjusted Gross Score of 69 made on a course with a USGA Course Rating of 71.5 and a Slope Rating of 125:

Adjusted Gross Score - USGA Course Rating:	$69 - 71.5 = -2.5$
Difference x Standard Slope Rating:	$-2.5 \times 113 = -282.5$
Result / Slope Rating:	$-282.5 / 125 = -2.26$
Differential (rounded):	-2.3

Section 7

HOW TO COMPUTE A HANDICAP INDEX

7.1 Period of validity

All scores remain valid in a player's handicap record regardless of when they were completed.

7.2 Valid Differentials

All rounds entered with Adjusted Gross or Hole-by-hole scores are treated as differentials that can be used for the computation of a GolfRSA Handicap Index. All rounds posted as a No Return, or those flagged by the system as "Auto closed" will not count as valid differentials.

7.3 Considered Differentials

Whenever a Handicap Index is computed or re-computed by the GolfRSA Handicap System, the differentials considered for inclusion in that computation will be indicated in a different colour (currently red). Those differentials actually used in the calculation will be underlined as well.

7.4 Handicap Index Formula

The Handicap Index formula is based on the best Differential(s) in a player's scoring record. If a player's scoring record contains 20 scores, the best 10 Differentials of the most recent 20 are used to calculate the Handicap Index.

As the number of scores in the scoring record decreases, the percentage of scores used in a scoring record decreases from the maximum of the best 50 percent. If the scoring record contains 9 or 10 scores, only the best three scores (30 to 33 percent) in the scoring record will be used. Thus, the

accuracy of a player's Handicap Index is directly proportional to the number of acceptable scores posted.

A Handicap Index must not be issued to a player who has returned fewer than five acceptable scores.

The Handicap Index computation will be managed by the GolfRSA Handicap Server. Those players wishing to perform an approximate check may do so as follows:

Step 1: Use the table below to determine the number of Differential(s) to use:

Number of Acceptable Scores	Differential(s) to be Used
5 or 6	Lowest 1
7 or 8	Lowest 2
9 or 10	Lowest 3
11 or 12	Lowest 4
13 or 14	Lowest 5
15 or 16	Lowest 6
17	Lowest 7
18	Lowest 8
19	Lowest 9
20	Lowest 10

Step 2: Select the number of differentials from the above table

Step 3: Average these to obtain an intermediate Handicap Index accurate to one decimal place.

Step 4: Apply the Bonus of Excellence (currently 0.96) factor applicable to the intermediate Handicap Index to one decimal place. This result is known as the players Handicap Index.

Handicap Index = Average of the lowest valid differentials X 0.96

7.5 Exceptional performance calculation

Where a player has two or more Exceptional Scores among their last 20 rounds, the player's Handicap Index will be calculated using the lowest 8 differentials, instead of the lowest 10.

A player's Handicap Index will be immediately recalculated when a second Exceptional Score is entered on the system, and for any additional Exceptional Scores for as long as there are 2 or more in their last 20 scores. (See [section 12.4.1](#))

7.6 Maximum Handicap Index Permitted

The maximum handicaps permitted by the GolfRSA Handicap System are as follows:

Men – 36 Handicap Index
 Women – 36 Handicap Index

7.7 Limits for professional and low handicap golfers

a) Professional Tour Players (as defined in [section 3.24](#)) have a +6 Handicap Index and use the Course Handicap Conversion Table to determine the Course Handicap applicable to the course (set of tees) when competing with amateurs in a competition where the club concerned has permitted the professional's participation.



Where such players are members of clubs and they occasionally play at their home club, the club may apply to GolfRSA to have a Handicap Index allocated to such players.

b) Club Professionals are only permitted to play off their officially computed GolfRSA Handicap Index at their home club or in competitions at other clubs with the permission of that club's organising committee.

c) Prizes for Gross Score, longest drive or nearest the pin competitions may not be awarded to either Professional Tour Players or Club Professionals.

d) Male amateur golfers may have a minimum Handicap Index of +5. Any reduction below +3 must be reviewed by the Home Union. The Union may, at its discretion allow a Handicap Index of +4 or +5, or set the Handicap Index to a higher value. The allowable increase will normally be limited to 2 strokes from the computed Handicap Index.

Female amateur golfers may have a minimum Handicap Index of +1 in terms of the GolfRSA Handicap System.

Section 8

SCORING RECORDS

8.1 Scores

Scores should be entered every time a player plays 9 holes or more. The scores should be entered on the same day using one of the following score entry options:

- a) The HNA handicap terminal at the club.
- b) On the free [HNA Handicaps app](#).
- c) The www.handicaps.co.za website when logging in using the SA Player ID and PIN as reflected on the GolfRSA handicap card. The SA Player ID and PIN may be amended and shortened by the golfer on the system after logging on the first time.
- d) Having the score entered by the player's home club.

Fair handicapping depends upon full, accurate information of a player's ability as reflected by their scores. All golfers interested in fair play should make sure that all their scores and those of their playing partners are entered on the system on the same day the round was played. Should a player fail to return a score on the handicap system he shall have a Penalty Score applied in accordance with [section 8.7](#). Should a player persist in this practice, disciplinary measures as described in this Handicapping Manual should be applied.

8.2 Nine-Hole Score Entry

Nine-hole Adjusted Gross Scores are to be entered on the GolfRSA Handicap System where 9 or more holes (see section 8.3 for incomplete rounds) have been completed. The system will use the player's Adjusted Gross Score for the 9 holes played and then add Par for the second nine, plus half the player's Course Handicap rounded down, to give an 18-hole Adjusted Gross Score. This Adjusted Gross Score will then be converted into a Differential using the formula as detailed in [section 6](#).

8.3 Incomplete Rounds

If a player completes 13 or more holes, the player must post an 18-hole score. If more than 9 but less than 13 holes are played, the player must post a nine-hole score. Scores for unplayed holes must be recorded as Par plus any handicap strokes that the player is entitled to receive on the unplayed holes.

Example: A player with a Course Handicap of 24 stops playing after 16 holes because of lightning. Hole 17 is a Par 3 and its stroke index is 18 on the course scorecard. The player will record 3 (Par) plus 1 handicap stroke for a gross 4 on hole 17. Hole 18 is a Par 4 and its stroke index is 6 on the course card. The player will record 4 (Par) plus 2 handicap strokes for a 6 on hole 18.

8.4 Nine-Hole Scores and 72 Hour Penalty

Nine-hole scores entered on the system are not considered when calculating Exceptional Scores ([see section 12.4](#)) but they will result in a late score entry Penalty, if the score is entered more than 72 hours ([see section 8.6](#)) after the 9 holes has been completed.

8.5 Information Required

The following information should be entered on the GolfRSA Handicap Terminal (or alternative) after each round:

- a) Name of the course played
- b) Colour of tee, which the terminal will prompt for (unless the round was opened on the selected colour course in which case the player can only enter the score).
- c) Date played
- d) Whether round played was AM or PM
- e) An 18 or 9-Hole Adjusted Gross Score or Hole-by-hole score

A fellow competitor should be able to verify all scores returned.

8.6 Time limit on entering scores

A score should be returned on the same day as the round was played but no later than 72 hours after completion of a round. The period of 72 hours is taken from 21:00 on the day of play to 21:00 three days later. Scores not returned during this period, will result in a Penalty Score, computed as per [section 8.7](#), being entered on the player's behalf. Such scores are not to be deleted or modified by the player's home club, unless exceptional circumstances warrant such action. A player is obliged to enter a score on the system before another round is played.

8.7 Penalty Scores

A Penalty Score is the lowest differential of the player's last 20 recorded scores, or such penalty as the club handicapper may decide, based on the circumstances around the failure of the player to enter the score. Where the late entered score is equal to or lower than the lowest of the player's last 20 differentials, the system will allocate 1 Penalty stroke for Handicap Indexes of below 4.0, and 20% of the player's Handicap Index for Handicap Indexes of 4.0 and above to a maximum of 4 strokes, and email the details to the club for the handicapper to review and adjust where necessary.

8.8 How to Enter Scores

Scores may be entered on the GolfRSA Handicap terminal situated at most clubs. Alternatively a player can enter a score on the HNA Internet site www.handicaps.co.za by logging on with their SA Player ID and PIN as reflected on their GolfRSA Handicap card. Players can also enter their scores on the free [HNA Handicaps app](#) or by giving the score to their club administrator.

8.9 Handicap Index Calculations

Handicap Indexes will be automatically computed from 10 PM each day. Players are advised to confirm their Handicap Indexes on either the club terminal, www.handicaps.co.za website, or the HNA Handicap App prior to each round, as Handicap Indexes may have been adjusted overnight or due to an exceptional performance trigger.

8.10 Electronic Data Processing

Although a computer calculates most Handicap Indexes, the Handicap Committee is responsible for validating that all computed Handicap Indexes are a proper reflection of their member's abilities.

8.11 Scores used to compute a Handicap Index

Where an interim revision or Penalty Score allocation causes a player's Handicap Index to be recomputed, all scores up to and including the one that caused the re-calculation will be used to compute a player's new Handicap Index.

8.12 Player belonging to More Than One Club

- a) A player may only receive a Handicap Index at one club nominated by them, at which they have full playing privileges and is an affiliated member of either the SAGA or WGSA.
- b) The player shall return all scores, achieved at any course, together with the Course Rating, Slope Rating and Par, should the course not be listed on the GolfRSA Handicap System and dates. ([See section 8.1](#))

8.13 Player changing his nominated handicap club

When a player changes the club which they nominates as their handicap club, they should first request the new club to register the request on the handicap system and then ensure their previous club approves the transfer. Once approved, the player's full handicap profile and history will be automatically transferred by the system.

8.14 Records of Resigned Members

Records of resigned members are stored on the GolfRSA Handicap System database. These records are available, on request, to the former member's new club. The Handicap Index of a resigned member remains valid only until the next revision date at the club that issued it, except as provided for in section 8.13.

8.15 Course Rating and Slope Rating on Score Cards

The Course Rating and Slope Rating for each tee should be printed prominently on the clubs' scorecards.

8.16 International Scores

Scores recorded at courses outside of South Africa must be entered into the GolfRSA Handicap System provided the golf course played has an official USGA Course Rating. Where there is a USGA Course Rating but no Slope Rating (CONGU courses), a Slope Rating of 113 should be entered.

Section 9

HANDICAP REVISIONS

9.1 Frequency of Revisions

9.1.1 Keep up to date

In order to be equitable, Handicap Indexes must always be kept up to date, and are revised daily at 4am. Although players are allowed 72 hours after completing a round to record a score, this period should not be used to delay score entry when the club terminal is operational.

Clubs are encouraged to make it a condition of their competitions that all scores should have been entered at the end of a round and prior to the start of any further round. When a previous day's score is only entered the following morning, the player should be allowed to play off his current Handicap Index as reflected on the system unless such score was a second Exceptional Score and resulted in an immediate recalculation of the player's Handicap Index.

Where a terminal is offline, the player should play off his last computed Handicap Index as reflected on the offline terminal or on the handicap system when viewed on the internet or via the HNA Handicaps app. Once the terminal goes back online, all entered scores will be reflected in the player's Handicap Index and the system will calculate the player's Handicap Index at 4 am.

Handicapping Committees should, however, use discretion to prevent undue fluctuating of Handicap Indexes.

9.2 Handicap Index Increases and Decreases

9.2.1 Standard System Applies

Subject to section 9.2.4 below, a Handicap Index shall be changed only as warranted by the standard computation system in this rules manual. Handicap Index increases and decreases are not limited, however any Handicap Index that increases by more than two strokes in a month will be forwarded to the club Handicap Committee for review.

9.2.2 Unusual Situations

An increase shall not be granted arbitrarily because a player is temporarily off his game or has discontinued play. However, an exception may be made for temporary disability. Such increase should be limited to a maximum of 2 strokes or 20% of the player's last computed Handicap Index, whichever is the larger. The club can implement this adjustment by making use of the Handicap Index Freeze Function available on the GolfRSA Handicap System.

Example: a 5 Handicap Index may be increased to 7 and a 20 Handicap Index increased to 24. There is no limit on the amount a club may choose to reduce a player's Handicap Index by.

9.2.3 Arbitrary Penalty

A Handicap Index must be earned. No player has an inherent right to a Handicap Index without providing full evidence of his or her ability. A Handicap Index may be arbitrarily reduced or increased if the player does not submit all their scores or otherwise does not observe the spirit of the GolfRSA Handicap System. The Committee in charge should be empowered to determine the amount of adjustment. In an extreme case of a player's non-cooperation, withdrawal of the Handicap Index is suggested. The GolfRSA Handicap System will display the allowable choice of Handicap Indexes for a given player should the club need to invoke the Handicap Index Freeze Function.

9.2.4 Emulation

A player's Handicap Index will be recalculated, emulated, in the case of any scores dated prior to the most recent Handicap Index calculation being either entered or deleted in their profile. This recalculation will only recalculate their Handicap Index up to the date of the last calculation as per the calculation triggers in this section.

9.3 Handicap Index to be used

a) Changes during Tournament

A player is required to use the Handicap Index in effect at commencement of the first round of a multiple-round tournament. This should be applied by the organising committee for all Club Championship, Provincial and National Tournaments. For other multiple-round events, the organising committee may allow Handicap Index changes that have occurred during the tournament to be applied to relevant rounds.

b) For Eligibility Purposes

When a Handicap Index is an eligibility requirement for admission into a tournament, a player's eligibility from a Handicap Index standpoint should depend on their Handicap Index in effect on the date that his entry is filed.

Section 10

ALLOCATION OF HANDICAP STROKES

10.1 Principles; Possible Value to Recipient

A handicap stroke is, by nature, an equaliser and should be available on a hole where it is most likely to be needed.

In allocating the order of handicap strokes to the 18 holes of a golf course, consideration should be given to the likelihood of the strokes being of used as equalisers to the players receiving them. To accomplish this, the following is recommended:

a) Odd Strokes to first nine and Even Strokes on second Nine.

Assign the odd-numbered strokes to the holes on the first nine and the even-numbered strokes to the holes on the second nine. This equalises as nearly as possible the distribution of handicap strokes over the entire 18 holes, making matches more equitable and helping in the playing off of matches ending in ties. In cases where the second nine is decidedly more difficult than the first nine, consideration may be given to allocating odd numbered strokes to the second nine.

b) Basis of allocation

Allocate the first stroke to the hole on the first nine on which the higher-handicapped player most needs a stroke as an equaliser and the second stroke to the hole on the second nine on which the higher-handicapped player most needs a stroke as an equaliser. Continue alternating in this manner for the full 18 holes. Strokes should be evenly distributed across the 18 holes. Each nine should be divided into three segments of three and, on the nine where the uneven strokes are allocated each segment's strokes should add to 27 and for the nine where even strokes are allocated, each segment should add to 30. It is understood that, based on the distribution of holes on a golf course, the exact number of 27 or 30 cannot always be achieved and a small variance is therefore acceptable.

It is felt that the higher-handicapped player most needs strokes as equalisers on difficult Par-5 holes, followed in sequence by difficult Par-4s, other Par-5s, other Par-4s, and finally Par-3s. An exceptionally difficult Par-3 might warrant being allocated a stroke before an exceptionally easy Par-4 or Par-5.

c) Importance of early strokes

When allocating the first handicap stroke, consideration should be given to its probable usefulness in matches between players of practically equal ability, such as those involving scratch and 1-handicap players, 10- and 11-handicap players, or 29- and 30- handicap players. It is in such matches that the first handicap stroke will be of the greatest importance as an equaliser to the player receiving it. In allocating the second handicap stroke, matches between players having a slightly greater difference in handicaps should be given the most consideration, such as those between players having scratch and 2 handicaps, 10 and 12 handicaps or 28 and 30 handicaps. This process should be continued until all strokes have been assigned.

d) Low strokes not near end

Without seriously violating the foregoing principles, allocation of the lower-numbered strokes to holes near the end of each nine should be avoided, as players on the receiving end would like to use their strokes before matches are lost.

e) Low strokes not at beginning

Conversely, it is desirable to avoid allocating the lower-numbered strokes to the first hole or two in the event of a sudden-death play-off in a handicap match.

10.2 Allocation of strokes for players with Plus Course Handicap

Golfers with a Plus Course Handicap must add a stroke to their Gross Score on certain holes according to the following rules for a standard layout:

- a) +1 highest stroked Par 5 on course
- b) +2 highest stroked Par 5 on opposite nine to a)
- c) +3 highest stroked Par 4 on same nine as a)
- d) +4 highest stroked Pars 4 on same nine as b)
- e) +5 remaining Par 5 on same nine as a)
- f) +6 remaining Par 5 on same nine as b)

Courses with more than four Par 5s apply c) and d) to their additional Par 5s. Courses with less than four Par 5s, apply similar principles to their additional Par 4s. Courses with only one Par 5 apply a) irrespective of the actual stroke of the hole.

10.3 Use of Alternate Tees in Club Competitions

Clubs are encouraged to allow players to compete off the different tees in club competitions. All Course Handicaps are adjusted to take into account the Slope Rating and the difference between Par and the Course Rating of the tee, and so all Course Handicaps are equitable in a club competition no matter which tee the player chooses.

10.4 Nine-Hole Courses

These principles apply equally to a 9-hole course played.

Section 11

HANDICAP ALLOWANCES

Where allowances are applicable either in terms of the competition rules or as per the type of competition listed below, these allowances should be used to adjust the Course Handicap and determine a Playing Handicap as defined in [section 3.23](#) above. The golfer would however use their Course Handicap for entering their Adjusted Gross Score or hole-by-hole score on the HNA system.

11.1 General

11.1.1 When to Take Strokes

A player receiving handicap strokes shall take them in the order assigned on the scorecard, except as noted otherwise below.

11.1.2 Plus Course Handicaps

When a player or a side has a plus Course Handicap, the percentage allowances below will reduce it, not increase it. Example: 50% of a plus 2 Course Handicap is plus 1.

In match play against Par and in stroke play, a player or a side with a plus Course Handicap shall add a handicap stroke to the hole, except as noted otherwise below.

11.1.3 Fraction of one-half and more

In all calculations a fraction of one-half or more shall count as a full stroke. Any other fraction shall be disregarded.

11.1.4 Course Handicaps apply per 18 Holes

Course Handicaps are for 18 holes. Each allowance below applies as a unit to each 18-hole round, even though the competition may consist of more than one round.

11.2 Match Play

11.2.1 Singles Match Play - Allow the difference between the Full Course handicaps of the two players.

11.2.2 Singles Match Play vs. Par - Allow the Full Course Handicap.

11.2.3 Four-Ball Match Play, Better Ball Basis - Each player is allocated the Full Course Handicap. The lowest resultant handicapped player shall play off scratch and his Course Handicap shall be deducted from each of the remaining three players.

11.2.4 Four-Ball Match Play vs. Par, Better Ball Basis - Allow each player the Full Course Handicap.

11.2.5 Alliance (Best-Ball-of-Four) Match Play vs. Par - Allow each player the Full Course Handicap.

11.2.6 Foursomes Match Play (not Four-Ball) - Allow the higher-handicapped side 50% of the difference between the combined full Course Handicaps of the members of each side.

11.2.7 Greensomes Match Play - Allow the higher-handicapped side 40% of the difference between the combined Full Course Handicaps of the members of each side.

11.2.8 Foursomes Match Play vs. Par - Allow 50% of the partners' combined Full Course Handicaps. Decimal values are included in the resultant Playing Handicap.

11.2.9 Greensomes match Play vs. Par - Allow 40% of the partners' combined Full Course Handicaps. Decimal values are included in the resultant Playing Handicap.

11.2.10 Pinehurst match Play vs. Par - Allow 40% of the partners' combined Full Course Handicaps. Decimal values are included in the resultant Playing Handicap.

11.3 Stroke Play

11.3.1 Individual Stroke Play - Allow the Full Course Handicap. (A plus Course Handicap shall be added to the Gross Score to determine the Net Score.)

11.3.2 Four-Ball Stroke Play, Better Ball Basis - Allow each competitor the Full Course Handicap, strokes to be taken as allocated on the scorecard.

11.3.3 Alliance (Best-Ball-of-Four) Stroke Play - Allow each competitor the Full Course Handicap, strokes to be taken as allocated on the scorecard.

11.3.4 Foursomes Stroke Play (not Four-Ball) - Allow 50% of the partners' combined Full Course Handicaps. (A plus Course Handicap shall be added to the Gross Score to determine the Net Score). Decimal values are included in the resultant Playing Handicap.

11.3.5 Greensomes Stroke Play - Allow 40% of the partners combined Full Course Handicaps. (A plus Course Handicap shall be added to the Gross Score to determine the Net Score). Decimal values are included in the resultant Playing Handicap.

11.3.6 Pinehurst Stroke Play - Allow 40% of the partners combined Full Course Handicaps. (A plus Course Handicap shall be added to the Gross Score to determine the Net Score). Decimal values are included in the resultant Playing Handicap.

11.4 Total Scores of partners (aggregate)

Although not covered by the Rules of Golf, another form of Four-Ball play is as follows:

Two players from a side, each plays their own ball, and the combined total of their scores for each hole or round is the score for the side. This is usually referred to as an Aggregate Competition.

11.4.1 Match Play: Allow the higher-Course Handicapped side the full difference between the combined Full Course Handicaps of the members of each side.

11.4.2 Stroke Play: Allow the partners full combined Course Handicaps

11.5 Optional Reductions in Players' Course Handicaps for Better Ball and Alliance Competitions

The organisers of Better Ball and Alliance competitions at Club, League, Union or National level may at their option impose a reduction in the Course Handicaps for their competition. The reduction should be clearly communicated to all participants prior to the start of the competition, along with how competitors should round any resulting fractional Course Handicaps to whole numbers.

11.6 Players without South African Handicap Indexes

South African players who are not affiliated to GolfRSA are outside the scope of this Handicapping System. Where such players compete against players with GolfRSA Handicap Indexes, it is recommended that in the absence of any handicap history, organising committees allow men a maximum handicap of 16 and ladies a maximum handicap of 24.

11.7 Foreign Visitors with a Handicap Index

Players from other countries may present their Handicap Index certificates, to a club when entering a competition and play off the Course Handicap as determined by the Course Handicap Conversion Table.

11.8 Neighbouring Country Visitors on the HNA system

Players from clubs in neighbouring countries that are on the HNA system, but have not yet had their courses rated using the USGA Course Rating System including Slope, have handicap indexes on the HNA system that have been created using a standard slope of 113. Their handicap index will be displayed on the system with a zero after the decimal place. These players should play off their handicaps calculated in the same manner as detailed in 11.9 below, for Foreign Visitors without a Handicap Index.

11.9 Foreign Visitors without a Handicap Index

Where a player is visiting from a country where the USGA Slope system is not in use and they do not have a Handicap Index, i.e visitors from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, their handicap should be adjusted to Par depending on the tee they are playing, and the Competition organising committee should announce the method of Course Handicap calculation for non-affiliated golfers.

Course Handicap for Foreign Handicap Players without a Handicap Index = Foreign Handicap + (Course Rating – Par)

11.10 Foreign Players with GolfRSA Handicap Index

Players who carry temporary or permanent membership of a local golf club and who are also simultaneously members of an overseas club that has allocated them a handicap (or Handicap Index) shall use their GolfRSA Handicap Index when determining their Course Handicap.

This is provided that they have entered their foreign scores on the GolfRSA system via the internet, or through their South African club administrator, on arriving back in South Africa. Failing this, their GolfRSA Handicap Index should be changed by the club to N/A until such time as they have played and entered on the system, at least 5 new local rounds.

Alternatively, the club administrator may make temporary adjustments to the players GolfRSA Handicap Index to as accurately as possible represent their current playing ability until such time as five new scores have been entered. Where the foreign Handicap Index is lower than the GolfRSA Handicap Index due to the foreign scores not having been entered and the club administrator is not able to adjust the players GolfRSA Handicap Index to represent an equivalent handicap to their overseas handicap, then the player shall play off the lower of their GolfRSA Handicap Index converted to a Course Handicap or Foreign Handicap Index, or their foreign handicap adjusted for par.

Section 12

HANDICAP CONTROLS

12.1 General

The scoring peculiarities of most golfers must be considered in order to produce equitable Handicap Indexes. This is why a Handicap Index is not simply the difference between a player's average score and the Course and Slope Ratings. It is also why handicap controls are incorporated into the System as checks and balances to offset abnormal scoring. Most of the handicap controls are automatic (rather than requiring special individual operation).

12.2 Controls in the System

Controls in the System include the following:

12.2.1 Highest Score Disregarded

The player's highest scores are not to be used in computing the Handicap Index since they do not represent the ability on which they should be handicapped.

12.2.2 Penalty for Fewer than 20 Scores

When a player has posted fewer than 20 scores, their Handicap Index may be based on a lower percentage of scores than the 50% normally used (lowest 10 differentials of the last 20 rounds). This anticipates their probable improvement if they play more frequently, and is fairer to players who have returned 20 or more scores (refer to [section 7.4](#)).

12.2.3 Arbitrary Penalty

Handicapping Committees may, in their discretion, arbitrarily reduce or increase the Handicap Index of players who do not return all their scores or otherwise do not observe the spirit of the GolfRSA Handicap System. In exceptional circumstances, the Handicapping Committee may, after following due process, withdraw the Handicap Index of a player for a period not to exceed 3 months.

12.3 Responsibilities of Handicapping Committee

The Handicapping Committee is responsible for the equitable application of all handicap rules and controls; in particular, it is required to ensure that the following points are adhered to:

12.3.1 All scores are correctly and timeously captured and returned by all players.

12.3.2 Omitted scores that would have resulted in a Handicap Index decrease for a player are entered as Penalty Scores (refer to [Section 8.7](#)) and the Handicap Index for that player immediately recalculated.

12.3.3 That repeated good scores by a player are properly reflected by an appropriate reduction in Handicap Index.

12.3.4 A prolonged period of exceptional performance, without a corresponding reduction in Handicap Index is reviewed according to section 12.4 below. The committee may impose a condition of competition that all players are to adjust their Gross Scores according to the rules under Exceptional Performance in Section 12.4

12.3.5 That in Better-Ball competitions, any player achieving 3 Stableford points (or equivalent) on more than four holes, is reviewed according to section 12.4 below.

12.3.6 That particularly high (or low) scores in non-competition rounds, or rounds played away from the home club, contributing to the Handicap Index calculation are reviewed and the Handicap Index re-calculated omitting these scores. If this results in a significant change to the Handicap Index, this revised Handicap Index should be allocated by the club as a “frozen” Handicap Index for a period not normally exceeding two months.

12.3.7 It is the responsibility of the club handicapper to ensure that the spirit of the system is upheld and that any perceived manipulation of Handicap Indexes be thoroughly investigated and suitable disciplinary measures applied to proven offenders. Such action includes immediate reduction or withdrawal of a Handicap Index.

12.4 Exceptional Performance

Determining when a player’s Handicap Index does not correctly reflect their ability to score is not an easy task. The GolfRSA Handicap System adopts two approaches, the first is part of the handicap computation and the second requires manual intervention by the club handicapping committee.

12.4.1 Handicap Index Computation

Whenever a player enters a new score on the GolfRSA Handicap System, an exceptional performance test is performed against this score. Where this differential is at least 3 lower than the player’s Handicap Index, at the time of the round, the score is marked as exceptional on the system.

An immediate recalculation will take place when a player enters their second Exceptional Score within their last 20 rounds. This player’s Handicap Index calculation will then be based on the best eight differentials of the player’s last 20 differentials rather than the standard 10. This process will be repeated for each additional Exceptional Score entered, for as long as there are two or more exceptional differentials among the players last 20 rounds.

12.4.2 Manual Intervention

Where players are deemed to be playing off an incorrect Handicap Index by the club Handicap Committee, the appropriate change to the player’s Handicap Index shall be made to the player’s Handicap Index on the GolfRSA Handicap System through the administration interface. This can be done by making use of the Handicap Index Freeze Function. The player should then be informed of their revised Handicap Index.

There may be cases where a player frequently wins Better-Ball competitions, yet posts Net Scores that result in little or no Handicap Index change. In these cases the Handicapper may apply the following formula to such player’s Better-Ball Gross Scores:

RG = Par + A – PN, where: RG = Revised Gross, Par = Par of the course played, A = Allowance, PN = Number of Pars. A is calculated as $18 + (\text{Par of Course} - \text{Course Rating})$. If the player’s Course Handicap exceeds 18, then A is further adjusted by adding $(\text{Course Handicap} - 18)$ to A.

PN is the total number of Pars made by the player in a round. Each Birdie is to count as two Pars and each Eagle to count as three Pars.

Should the Revised Gross (RG) be less than the Gross Score recorded on the player’s card, then the Revised Gross may be substituted for the Gross Score. When this gross is altered, the resultant Net Score should be tested for Interim Revision (see [section 9.2.3](#)). Any adjustment to the player’s Handicap Index using this formula shall be communicated to the player and allow the player a reasonable opportunity to explain the reason for their scores.

Part 3

COURSE RATINGS

Section 13

PURPOSE, BASIS AND RESPONSIBILITY

13.1 Purpose of Course Ratings

The purpose of Course Ratings is to provide a uniform comparative basis for the computation of Handicap Indexes between clubs wherever situated with varying degrees of difficulty. Course Ratings are expressed in strokes to one decimal place.

13.2 Basis of Course Ratings

South Africa, along with all the other major golf playing countries, has adopted the USGA Course Rating system. This system uses the distance of each hole as well as numerous other factors, such as elevation change, carry distance, width of fairways, proximity of hazards and out of bounds, normal rough height, prevailing winds, green side bunkering, green speed and green slopes, to calculate a comparative rating of each tee (click [here](#) for more information).

13.3 Responsibility for Assessment of Course Ratings

Course Rating calculations and subsequently required revisions due to course changes may only be done by GolfRSA-approved rating teams. Clubs may not allocate their own rating, but may request temporary modified ratings as specified in section 14.4. Applications for Initial Allocation or Amendments to Course Ratings shall be made to Provincial Unions by member clubs.

13.4 Responsibility of Clubs

It is recommended that, where possible, all Clubs affiliated to GolfRSA equate the Par of the course to the officially assessed USGA Course Rating. In all cases the officially assessed USGA Course Ratings including the Slope must appear on the scorecard for all courses/ tees. (See Section 8.15)

Section 14

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT OF COURSE RATING

14.1 USGA Course Rating System

GolfRSA has signed an agreement to use the USGA Course Rating System. A summary of the USGA Course Rating system can be viewed on the GolfRSA and HNA websites at www.golfrsa.co.za, under 'Handicaps and Course Ratings', as well as on www.handicaps.co.za, under 'Course Ratings & Slope'.

14.2 Minimum length for a Course Rating

For a course to be rated, it must have a minimum overall length of 2700 metres at sea level.

Section 15

MEASUREMENTS

15.1 Starting Point; Permanent Tee Markers

The Starting point from which each hole is measured is the position of the Permanent Tee Marker which is positioned in accordance with the USGA Course Rating System manual.

15.2 How to Measure

Each hole must be accurately measured from Permanent Tee Marker along the planned line of play to the centre of the green. The planned line of play is that envisaged by the architect in the laying out of the hole. Thus in a dogleg hole the line at the pivot (elbow) point should be centred in the fairway as intended by the architect.

15.3 Certificate of Measurement

A certificate must be obtained from a land surveyor showing the measurement of the length of the course and its mean altitude where this exceeds 500 metres and submit the certificate to the Provincial Union (it is recommended that the measurement be done by an Electronic Distance Meter).

15.4 More than One Set of Tees

If more than one set of tees are in common use, measurements and rating markers shall be established for each and application made for separate Course Ratings.

15.5 Colours of Permanent and movable Tee Markers

The colours of the Permanent and movable Tee markers for the Courses must be recorded on the GolfRSA Handicap System and on the club scorecard in accordance with the following guidelines: Yellow for the longest course, then White, Blue and Red for the shortest course. Should a club have five sets of tees, then Black can be used for the longest course, followed by Yellow, White, Blue and Red

15.6 Nine-Hole Courses

On a nine-hole course, if separate tees markers are used for each nine of an 18-hole round, separate measurements and Permanent Tee Markers must be established for each nine. It is recommended that nine-hole courses also choose colour courses which should be the same for both nines but each tee should be clearly marked, e.g. 1 and 10. It is recommended that the same sequence of colours be used as outlined in 15.5 above, i.e. White for the longer and Red for the shorter course.