

Proposal for New Course Rating

From: The Golf Committee

USGA Guidelines and Instructions

Section 17-2: ALLOCATION OF HANDICAP STROKES

- ▶ The basic principle of allocating handicap strokes is to equalize the abilities of players at different handicap levels
- ▶ A handicap stroke should be an equalizer rather than a winning stroke and should be available on a hole where it most likely will be needed by the higher-handicapped player in a match
- ▶ The Handicap Committee should use good judgment when reviewing the course hole-by-hole
- ▶ Difficulty in making par on a hole is not an effective indicator of the need for a stroke

Sub-Section 17-2B: Comparison Method

- I. Collect about 200 hole-by-hole scores of a group of players (Group A) with a Course Handicap not exceeding 8
- II. Average the score for each hole for Group A, and average the Course Handicap of the players in Group A.
 - ❖ *Note: A club having a limited number of low-handicapped players may use 200 scores from 25 percent of its players with the lowest Course Handicap not be adjusted by Equitable Stroke Control*
- III. Collect about 200 hole-by-hole scores of a middle-to high-handicapped group of players (Group B)
 - ❖ *The average of the Course Handicap of each player in Group B should be 15 to 20 strokes higher than the average for each player in Group A*
- IV. Average the score for each hole for Group B and average the Course Handicap of the players in Group B
- V. Determine the difference in the average scores for each group on each hole by subtracting the average score of Group A from the average score of Group B.
- VI. List the holes in order 1 to 18 with Group A average scores and Group B average scores and average score difference. Rank the holes in order, with the hole having the highest average score difference first
- VII. Modify the rankings of the holes, as based on average-score differences in accordance with Section 17-1b "Distribution of Strokes, and Notes 1 and 2

Section 17–1: Discretion of Committee

Sub–Section 17–1 b: Distribution of Strokes

I. Odd Strokes/Even Strokes:

- ❖ It is *recommended that the odd-numbered strokes be assigned* to the holes on the *first nine* and the even-numbered strokes to the holes on the second

II. Importance of Low Strokes:

- ❖ The *first handicap stroke should be allocated* so that this stroke is *most useful in a match between players of almost equal ability* (e.g., a match involving players with a Course Handicap of 0 and 1, 10 and 11, or 29 and 30)
- ❖ The *second handicap stroke should be allocated* so that this stroke is *most useful in a match between players having a slightly greater difference in Handicap* (e.g., a match involving players with a Course Handicap of 0 and 2, 10 and 12, or 29 and 31) and continued until the first six strokes have been assigned
- ❖ *Allocating low-numbered strokes to holes near the end of each nine should be avoided* so that players receiving strokes will have the opportunity to use these strokes before either nine or 18-hole matches are decided. Additionally, *lower-numbered strokes should not be allocated to the first and second holes* of a course *in the event that a hole-by-hole playoff is necessary*

Sub-Section 17-2B: Comparison Method con't

Notes 1 and 2

Note 1: Occasionally, this method will result in one hole (Hole A) ranked ahead of another hole (Hole B). The Committee believes that Hole B should be ranked ahead of Hole A. The Committee may *first determine the average range by subtracting the average-score difference of the 18th ranked hole from the average-score difference of the first ranked hole and divide the result by 18.* If the *difference between the average-score differences* of Holes A and B is *no greater than the average range*, it would be appropriate for the Committee to *rank B ahead of A.*

Note 2: *A hole with a water hazard that presents a significant problem for high-handicapped players may be ranked as the first or second handicap-stroke hole based on its average-score difference.* The Committee believes that *this ranking is not justified when players of comparable ability are competing.* In this instance, the Committee may *downgrade the ranking of the hole.* The Committee should always *use good judgment* in deciding what will give fair results.

Allocation of Handicap Strokes Comparison Method

Average Handicap	6.6	Group "A" - Handicap 0 to 9																			
Sum Total 203 Scores	982	1156	689	1023	886	714	1106	998	961	8515	963	876	872	742	1084	953	920	680	1011	8101	
Average Score	4.84	5.69	3.39	5.04	4.36	3.52	5.45	4.92	4.73	41.95	4.74	4.32	4.30	3.66	5.34	4.69	4.53	3.35	4.98	39.91	
Hole Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
Par per Hole	4	5	3	4	4	3	5	4	4	36	4	4	4	3	5	4	4	3	5	36	
Stroke Average Over/Under Par	0.84	0.69	0.39	1.04	0.36	0.52	0.45	0.92	0.73	5.95	0.74	0.32	0.30	0.66	0.34	0.69	0.53	0.35	-0.02	3.91	

Average Handicap	18.4	Group "B" - Handicap 15 to 37																			
Sum Total 203 Scores	1142	1328	788	1188	1015	803	1236	1106	1109	9715	1096	1058	1037	848	1244	1107	1065	787	1212	9454	
Average Score	5.63	6.54	3.88	5.85	5.00	3.96	6.09	5.45	5.46	47.86	5.40	5.21	5.11	4.18	6.13	5.45	5.25	3.88	5.97	46.57	
Hole Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
Par per Hole	4	5	3	4	4	3	5	4	4	36	4	4	4	3	5	4	4	3	5	36	
Stroke Average Over/Under Par	1.63	1.54	0.88	1.85	1.00	0.96	1.09	1.45	1.46	11.86	1.40	1.21	1.11	1.18	1.13	1.45	1.25	0.88	0.97	10.57	

Stroke Differential Group A to B	0.79	0.85	0.49	0.81	0.635	0.44	0.640	0.53	0.73		0.66	0.90	0.81	0.52	0.79	0.76	0.71	0.53	0.99
Handicap Rating based on Differential	5	1	15	3	11	17	9	13	7		14	4	6	18	8	10	12	16	2
Current Handicap	3	13	15	5	17	11	9	1	7		4	10	12	14	8	2	6	16	18
Average Score Range - HCP 1 and 18		0.85													0.52			0.02	
Hazard		Water		Water	Water			Water	Water		Water				Water			Water	
Yardage	410	504	166	418	305	197	510	437	394		385	333	349	184	458	380	413	145	456

Section 17-1: Discretion of Committee

Sub-Section 17-1b: Distribution of Strokes

		Comparison HCP 2 to 3 though 8																		
Hole		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
2 to 3		0.6	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	-0.4	-0.2	-0.1	0.2	0.1		0.5	-0.3	-0.3	-0.4	0.1	0.7	0.1	-0.2	-0.3
2 to 4		1.0	-0.1	0.0	0.4	-0.2	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.2		0.4	-0.1	0.3	-0.4	-0.2	0.6	0.1	-0.3	0.0
2 to 5		0.6	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.0	-0.2	0.2	0.41	0.40		0.4	-0.2	0.0	-0.4	0.3	0.3	-0.1	-0.4	0.1
2 to 6		0.6	0.1	0.1	0.38	0.0	0.1	0.40	0.5	0.5		0.6	0.0	-0.1	-0.2	0.0	0.5	0.3	-0.2	0.1
2 to 7		0.8	0.33	0.0	0.7	-0.4	0.0	0.28	0.4	0.8		0.7	0.3	0.1	-0.3	0.1	0.7	0.3	-0.2	0.0
2 to 8		1.0	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7		0.6	-0.2	0.2	-0.4	0.4	0.6	0.3	-0.1	0.3
HCP Rating		1			3				5			4					2	6		
GC Recommended HCP Rating		5	3	17	1	13	15	9	11	7		14	4	10	16	8	2	12	18	6

		Comparison HCP 9 to 10 though 15																		
Hole		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9 to 10		0.0	0.2	0.2	-0.1	0.3	0.2	-0.1	0.5	0.1		0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	-0.1	-0.1	0.4	0.0	0.1
9 to 11		-0.2	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.0	-0.1	0.3	0.2		0.1	0.24	0.1	0.1	0.19	0.1	0.19	-0.3	0.18
9 to 12		0.1	0.32	0.2	0.0	0.32	0.3	-0.1	0.5	0.2		0.0	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	-0.2	0.1
9 to 13		0.32	0.6	0.1	-0.1	0.5	0.3	-0.1	0.6	0.1		0.4	0.4	0.1	-0.1	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.33	0.28
9 to 14		0.5	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.2		0.2	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.0	0.5
9 to 15		0.3	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.0	-0.1	0.0		0.1	0.25	0.5	0.18	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.18	0.8
HCP Rating			5			3			1				4				6	2		
GC Recommended HCP Rating		5	3	17	1	13	15	9	11	7		14	4	10	16	8	2	12	18	6

		Comparison HCP 16 to 17 though 22																		
Hole		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
16 to 17		-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.3	-0.2	0.1	0.0	-0.5		-0.2	-0.1	0.18	0.1	0.18	0.0	0.23	0.18	-0.1
16 to 18		0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.4	-0.1	-0.4		-0.3	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.3	-0.1	-0.2	0.2	0.2
16 to 19		0.01	0.2	-0.02	0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.6	-0.8		-0.3	0.5	0.7	0.37	0.43	0.0	0.1	-0.3	0.0
16 to 20		0.4	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.1	-0.3		-0.1	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.8	0.3	-0.2	0.5	0.4
16 to 21		0.1	0.1	-0.1	0.5	0.2	-0.1	0.7	-0.1	0.3		0.0	0.5	1.0	0.27	0.5	0.27	-0.1	0.6	0.32
16 to 22		0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.4	-0.4	0.6	0.7	0.1		-0.2	0.5	0.9	0.5	0.3	-0.2	-0.1	0.3	0.0
HCP Rating		3			5			1						4		6		2		
GC Recommended HCP Rating		5	3	17	1	13	15	9	11	7		14	4	10	16	8	2	12	18	6

Golf Committee Recommendation

Distribution of Strokes

	Committee Recommendation																		
Hole Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Par per Hole	4	5	3	4	4	3	5	4	4		4	4	4	3	5	4	4	3	5
Current HCP Rating	3	13	15	5	17	11	9	1	7		4	10	12	14	8	2	6	16	18
HCP Rating from Differential	5	1	15	3	11	17	9	13	7		14	4	6	18	8	10	12	16	2
GC Recommended HCP Rating	5	3	17	1	13	15	9	11	7		14	4	10	16	8	2	12	18	6
Stroke Differential Group A to B	0.79	0.85	0.49	0.81	0.64	0.44	0.64	0.53	0.73		0.66	0.90	0.81	0.52	0.79	0.76	0.71	0.53	0.99