

Course Handicap
EXPLAINED

ENGLAND GOLF

What is it?

- The number of strokes a player will receive for the set of tees being played

Why is it important?

- All golfers, irrespective of the format of play, are required to calculate their Course Handicap before heading out onto the course

KNOW
— THE —
SCORE

In [WHS: Know the Score](#) article #4 we learnt about **Slope Rating** - a number that indicates the relative playing difficulty of a course from a specific set of tees.

And now for another new term:-

Handicap Index

Handicap Index is the equivalent of *Exact Handicap* under the current system. It represents what your handicap would be when playing on a course of 'standard' relative difficulty with a Slope Rating of 113.

There will be more information about how Handicap Index is calculated in a future article.

Course Handicap

Before heading out to play you will need to check your Course Handicap; the number of strokes that you will receive on the golf course, depending on the tees being played.

There will be look up charts available at the golf club, or you can use an App which will be made available by *England Golf*.

Click on the following links to see the look up charts for:

[Mapperley White Tees \(Men\)](#) and [Mapperley Red Tees \(Women\)](#)

Course Handicap Calculation

Some players may wish to calculate their Course Handicap manually.

This can be done by multiplying **Handicap Index** by the **Slope Rating** of the course being played and dividing by the 'standard' Slope Rating of **113**.

$$\text{Handicap Index} \times (\text{Slope Rating} \div 113) = \text{Course Handicap}$$

A Player with a Handicap Index of 24.3 decides to play the yellow tees with a Slope rating of 127

Handicap Index	\times	(127 \div 113)	=	Course Handicap
24.3		1.124		27.3 (27)

A Player with a Handicap Index of 24.3 decides to play the white tees with a Slope rating of 134

Handicap Index	\times	(134 \div 113)	=	Course Handicap
24.3		1.186		28.8 (29)

Video Summary:

Click to watch a video that summarises what you have learnt about [Course Rating, Slope Index and Course Handicaps](#)

Coming Next:

The next *WHS: Know the Score* article will explain how Slope Ratings are used in the calculation of a player's **Score Differential**.