

Handicap Model Analysis: 2026 Season

Model 1: Last 2 Rounds (The "Trend" Model)

Methodology:

Calculates a player's Implied Index by averaging the differentials of their two most recent tournament rounds. If this Implied Index is lower than their current Handicap Index, the player is adjusted downward. No upward revisions are permitted.

Rationale:

Designed to prioritize current form over historical ability. This model aggressively targets players on a 'hot streak' or those who have recently found improvement, ensuring they do not carry an outdated high handicap into the next event.

Impact Analysis: Downward Adjustments Only

Player	Current	Trend (New)	Adjustment	Gross Scores (Last 2)
Scott Lucas	11.8	7.7	-4.1	77, 81
Ben Magnone	10.4	7.3	-3.1	78, 79
Stewart Polakov	4.9	3.2	-1.7	74
Eric Lamb	24.0	23.2	-0.8	96
Scott Bracken	9.8	9.6	-0.2	77, 85

Observation:

Only 5 players are affected. However, the impact on Scott Lucas (-4.1) and Ben Magnone (-3.1) is severe. This model effectively assumes their most recent good rounds are their permanent new standard.

Handicap Model Analysis: 2026 Season

Model 2: Best 3 Rounds (The "Potential" Model)

Methodology:

Calculates a player's Implied Index by averaging the lowest 3 differentials from the last 13 months. If this Implied Index is lower than their current Handicap Index, the player is adjusted downward.

Rationale:

Designed to identify a player's ceiling. By focusing on the best 3 rounds, this model filters out inconsistent 'bad days' and anchors the handicap to the best golf the player has proven they can play. It is the industry standard for preventing sandbagging.

Impact Analysis: Downward Adjustments Only

Player	Current	Potential	Adjustment	Best 3 Gross Scores
Kevin Barber	16.4	13.5	-2.9	83, 84, 89
Ben Magnone	10.4	7.7	-2.7	78, 79, 80
Greg Funk	5.5	3.2	-2.3	72, 74, 76
Joe Sepessy	6.1	3.8	-2.3	73, 74, 77
Scott Bracken	9.8	7.7	-2.1	77, 80, 80
Korey Jerome	10.6	8.7	-1.9	78, 81, 81
Scott Lucas	11.8	9.9	-1.9	77, 81, 86
Frank Angeloro	8.6	6.8	-1.8	76, 78, 80
Stewart Polakov	4.9	3.2	-1.7	74 (1 Rd Only)
Clark Koch	8.8	7.4	-1.4	78, 78, 80
Ron Amstutz	12.4	11.1	-1.3	81, 83, 84
Kiernan Mattson	2.8	1.7	-1.1	71, 72, 74
Matt Neimeier	12.2	11.1	-1.1	82, 83, 83
Eric Weiss	0.5	-0.5	-1.0	67, 71, 72
Jeff Cloepfil	12.0	11.1	-0.9	82, 83, 83

Observation:

This model affects significantly more players (24 total downward adjustments vs. 5). However, the adjustments are generally milder and more distributed. It successfully catches 'Grinders' like Greg Funk (-2.3) and Joe Sepessy (-2.3) who are consistently good but not necessarily trending 'hot' right now.