

Handicap Changes Effective January 2020

Goal: To have a universal handicap system used around the world.

Area of Change	Current	Jan 2020	Comment
Minimum number of games to get a handicap	five 18-hole games or a total of 90 holes	three 18-hole games or a total of 54 holes	Easier and quicker for new players (members) to establish a handicap.
Handicap Calculation	Best 10 out of 20 scores	Best 8 out of 20 scores	Should make handicaps less volatile. The rules to migrate from using 3 scores to a full 8-score handicap also change. No longer use the 96% calculation.
Handicap Maximum	40.4 for women 36.4 for men	54.0 for all players	Any handicap over 40 was previously only a local handicap. This may have implications in your club for the maximum allowable handicap for competitions. (e.g. the maximum that high handicappers need to play to)
Handicap Calculation Frequency	Immediate in Canada; semi-monthly in US	At the end of each day	Delayed to the end of the day to factor in abnormal course and weather conditions. i.e. Post score during the day and see the handicap impact the next morning
Abnormal Course & Weather Conditions			The system will use all scores posted at a course each day and adjust for playing conditions when applicable. NOTE: This makes it more important to post scores on the day played in order to be included in determining the adjustments.
Maximum Score for handicap posting	Uses ESC scores based on handicap	Net Double Bogey for everyone	Net double bogey is currently used everywhere outside the US and Canada. It may be more complicated to explain.
Reduce Handicap Spikes			System will look at low handicap for the past 12 months and will limit how much a handicap can increase.

Net Double Bogey = Par + 2 + any handicap strokes you're entitled to on the hole.

e.g. The Net Double Bogey for a par 4 hole which is the 7th hardest hole on the course would be:

Handicap	Double Bogey	Net Double Bogey	Calculation
15	6	6 + 1 = 7	15 hardest holes add +1; add 0 for the easiest 3 holes
26	6	6 + 2 = 8	8 hardest holes add +2; add +1 for the other 10 holes
40	6	6 + 2 = 8	4 hardest holes add +3; add +2 on the other 14 holes
45	6	6 + 3 = 9	9 hardest holes add +3; add +2 on the other 9 holes

Note: The Course Rating system is also changing in 2020 and will be universally used around the world.

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The following table demonstrates the change from the current ESC maximum to the Net Double Bogey system. This change impacts the maximum score you would post for handicap purposes and it could also be used for Maximum Score competitions (you pick up when you reach this score).

NOTE: Net Double Bogey does **not** need to be the score you use for Maximum Score Competitions. Maximum score is for Pace of Play only so to keep it simple, you can still use a maximum score of 10 for everyone.

New ESC using Net Double Bogey													
Handicap Samples	Current ESC	Easiest Ranked Holes						Most Difficult Ranked Holes					
		# of holes	Add	Max Score	Par 3	Par 4	Par 5	# of holes	Add	Max Score	Par 3	Par 4	Par 5
1	DB (5 to 7)	17	0	DB	5	6	7	1	1	DB+1	6	7	8
5	DB (5 to 7)	13	0	DB	5	6	7	5	1	DB+1	6	7	8
9	DB (5 to 7)	9	0	DB	5	6	7	9	1	DB+1	6	7	8
10	7	8	0	DB	5	6	7	10	1	DB+1	6	7	8
15	7	3	0	DB	5	6	7	15	1	DB+1	6	7	8
18	7	0	n/a					18	1	DB+1	6	7	8
19	7	17	1	DB+1	6	7	8	1	2	DB+2	7	8	9
20	8	16	1	DB+1	6	7	8	2	2	DB+2	7	8	9
25	8	11	1	DB+1	6	7	8	7	2	DB+2	7	8	9
29	8	7	1	DB+1	6	7	8	11	2	DB+2	7	8	9
30	9	6	1	DB+1	6	7	8	12	2	DB+2	7	8	9
35	9	1	1	DB+1	6	7	8	17	2	DB+2	7	8	9
36	9	0	n/a					18	2	DB+2	7	8	9
39	9	15	2	DB+2	7	8	9	3	3	DB+3	8	9	10
40	10	14	2	DB+2	7	8	9	4	3	DB+3	8	9	10
48	10	6	2	DB+2	7	8	9	12	3	DB+3	8	9	10
54	10	0	n/a					18	3	DB+3	8	9	10