# WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM (WHS) TECHNICAL ARTICLE 8, HANDICAP ALLOWANCES 

Once we have completed the technical articles relating to the player's handicap and in response to queries we have received, this article is published on the calculation of the strokes that a player receives when playing a competition with the application of handicap allowances depending on the playing format.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

One of the novelties of the World Handicap System is the application of allowances (percentages) to determine the strokes that players receive. The main purpose of a handicap system is to make competitions as fair as possible and that every player has similar chance of winning. The new handicap is based on averages which gives us an idea of the average playing level of the player. This is ideal in Match Play as for the chance of winning of two players with different levels (a high handicap and a low handicap) to be the same, if their handicap reflects their playing level, they will each have a $50 \%$ chance of winning the match. A match can be won playing 3 over your handicap and can be lost playing 5 under your handicap.

However, in a Medal Play or Stableford competition, the player with the best net score wins, that is, the one who has played the best against his/her handicap. The player now has to beat everyone so it will probably be no good to score 3 over his/her handicap. It must be a good result. Therefore, in order to seek equity in a Medal Play or Stableford competition we must seek a way to give every player the same chance of obtaining a good or very good score ( 5,6 or 7 below their handicap). If the WHS reflects the average level of the player, the higher the player's handicap, the more likelihood there is of obtaining a good or very good net score.

The dispersion in a low handicapper's results is much lower than for a high handicapper. For example, it is very difficult for a 0 handicapper, who has to shoot 72 on a specific course to play to his/her handicap, to play a round in 8 under (64 gross), However for a 30 handicapper who should shoot 102 on the same course, a round of 94 is much more likely. This has been statistically proven when comparing low handicappers to high handicappers.

Therefore, in order to even out the chances of winning a competition it seems logical that the high handicapper should receive less strokes than the low handicapper, We must not confuse the ability to play to one's handicap with paying to win as winning generally requires a very good result. Thus, for the purpose of the competition the allowances will be taken in account but when it comes to handicapping the whole handicap will be used.

The allowances to be applied will be:

| FORMAT | ALLOWANCE |
| :--- | :---: |
| Match-Play, eds, Casual Play $^{*}$ | $100 \%$ |
| Individual Competition or Canada Cup <br> (Medal Play, Stableford, Par) | $95 \%$ |
| Better Ball | $85 \%$ |

*Casual Play is understood as being any round in a competition not organised by a Club (tournaments).

## 2. FORMULA FOR PLAYING HANDICAP

The formulas for playing handicap are:

European Golf Association
Playing Handicap 18 holes

$$
\begin{aligned}
& =\text { Allowance } \times \text { (Handicap } \\
& \times \frac{\text { Slope Rating }}{113}+\text { Course Rating } \\
& -P A R)
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\text { Playng Handicap }_{9} \text { holes }=\text { Allowance } \times\left(\frac{\text { Handicap }}{2} \times \frac{\text { Slope Rating }}{113}+\text { Course Rating }-P A R\right)
$$

In both cases the value is rounded out only once at the end of the calculation.

## Example 1

How many strokes will a player with handicap 12.3 receive when playing from the yellow tees at the National Golf Centre if he plays 18 holes?

The ratings are as follows:
Course Rating: 68.6
Slope Rating: 122
PAR: 72
As we are calculating the strokes he will receive for handicapping purposes, we apply $100 \%$

$$
\text { Playing Handicap }=100 \% \times\left(12.3 \times \frac{122}{113}+68.6-72\right)=100 \% \times 9.87964=9.87964 \simeq 10
$$

The player will receive 10 strokes (to apply Net Double Bogey)

## Example 2

How many strokes will a player with a handicap of 27.8 receive in a Stableford competition playing from the white tees at the National Golf Centre if he plays 18 holes?

The ratings are as follows:
Course Rating: 70.6
Slope Rating: 127
PAR: 72
As we are calculating the strokes received for an individual Stableford competition, we apply $95 \%$.

$$
\text { Playign Handicap }=95 \% \times\left(27.8 \times \frac{126}{113}+70.6-72\right)=95 \% \times 29.59823=28.11831 \simeq 28
$$

The player will receive 28 strokes for the competition.

REA USGA

## Example 3

How many strokes will a player with a handicap of 9.0 receive in a Better Ball competition when playing from the white tees at the National Golf Centre if he plays 18 holes?

The ratings are as follows:
Course Rating: 70.6
Slope Rating: 127
PAR: 72

As we are calculating for a Better Ball competition, we apply $85 \%$.

$$
\text { Playing Handicap }=85 \% \times\left(9.0 \times \frac{126}{113}+70.6-72\right)=85 \% \times 8.63539=7.34008 \simeq 7
$$

Ethe player will receive 7 strokes for the competition.

## Ejemplo 4

How many strokes will a player with a handicap of 41.3 receive in a Stableford competition playing from the red tees of the National Golf Centre if she plays the front 9 ?

The ratings are as follows:
Course Rating: 35.5
Slope Rating: 114
PAR: 36

As we are calculating for an individual Stableford competition, we apply 95\%.

$$
\text { Playing Handicap }=95 \% \times\left(\frac{41.3}{2} \times \frac{114}{113}+35.5-36\right)=95 \% \times 20.33274=19.31610 \simeq 19
$$

The player will receive 19 strokes for the competition.

## 3. HANDICAP TABLES

In order to make it easier for the player to check if the strokes he/she receives in a competition are correct, the RFEG has sent Handicap Tables to all the clubs with the three above mentioned allowances.


CMA8-1 CENTRO NACIONAL
05/09/2019


Once they have found the correct table (depending on the course and number of holes to be played), players must locate the column corresponding to the set of tees to be played and their sex. To help with this the columns are coloured in the same way as the set of tees they represent. Within the set of tees, the player must then choose the allowance to be applied and go down the column until they reach their handicap range and then move across to the central column which will indicate the playing handicap (handicap strokes).

## Example 5

How many strokes will as player with a handicap of 12.3 receive from the yellow tees at the National Golf Centre if he plays 18 holes?

WORLD HAMDICAP STSTEM
REA USGA
TABLAS DE EQUIVALENCIA - SISTEMA MUNDIAL DE HÁNDICAP
CMA8-1 CENTRO NACIONAL
05/09/2019


## Example 6

How many strokes will a player with a handicap of 27.8 receive in a Stableford competition from the white tees at the National Golf Centre if he plays 18 holes?

WORLD HANDICAPSTSTEM
REA USGA

CMA8-1 CENTRO NACIONAL
05/09/2019


## Example 7

How many strokes will a player with a handicap of 9.0 receive in a Better Ball competition from the white tees at the National Golf Centre if he plays 18 holes?

REA USGA

TABLAS DE EQUIVALENCIA - SISTEMA MUNDIAL DE HÁNDICAP
CMA8-1 CENTRO NACIONAL
05/09/2019


WORLD HANDICAPSYSTEM REA USGA

## Example 8

How many strokes will a player with a handicap of 41.3 receive from the red tees at the National Golf Centre if she plays the front 9?
moRLD hanalcapsysien
REN USGA

CMA8-1 CENTRO NACIONAL
05/09/2019

| AMARILLAS <br> HOMBRES - IDA |  |  | AMARILLAS <br> HOMBRES - VUELTA |  |  |  | ROJAS <br> MUJERES - IDA |  |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { ROJAS } \\ \text { MUJERES - VUELTA } \end{gathered}$ |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| CR: 34, | SR: 126 | PAR: 36 | $C R: 34,0$ | SR: 118 | PAR: 36 |  | $C R: 35,5$ | Ste 114 |  | CR: $\mathbf{3 5 , 2}$ | Ste: 120 | PAR: 36 |
| $\begin{gathered} \text { INFORMAL } \\ \hline 100 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c} \hline \text { MEDAL/STBC } \\ 95 \% \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Four } 89 \\ 85 \% \end{gathered}$ | $100 \%$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { DAL/STELF } \\ & 95 \% \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { FOUR BALL } \\ 85 \% \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | PUNTOS HDCP | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { INFORMAL } \\ 100 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { MEDAL/STBCF } \\ 95 \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { FOUR BaLl } \\ 85 \% \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | FORMAL $100 \%$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { EEDAL/STBIF } \\ & 95 \% \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | FOUR BALL 85\% |
| +3,7-+2,0 | +4,0-+2,3 | +4,8-+2,8 | +2,8-+1,0 | $+3,2-+1,3$ | +4,0-+1,9 | +3 | +5,9-+4,0 | +6,3-44,3 | +7,1-+4,9 | +5,0-+3,3 | +5,4-+3,5 | +6,2-+4,1 |
| $+1,9-+0,2$ | $+2,2-+0,4$ | $+2,7-+0,7$ | +0,9-0,9 | $+1,2-0,8$ | $+1,8-0,4$ | +2 | +3,9-+2,0 | +4,2- | +4,8-+2,6 | +3,2-+1,4 | +3,4-+1,5 | +4,0-+1,9 |
| +0,1-1,6 | +0,3-1,5 | +0,6-1,4 | 1,0-2,8 | 0,9-2,8 | 0,5-2,7 | +1 | $+1,9-+0,1$ | $+2,1-+0,1$ | $+2,5-+0,2$ | $+1,3-0,5$ | $+1,4-0,5$ | $+1,8-0,3$ |
| 1,7-3,4 | 1,6-3,4 | 1,5-3,5 | 2,9-4,7 | 2,9-4,8 | 2,8-4,9 | 0 | 0,0-1,9 | 0,0-2,0 | $+0,1-2,1$ | 0,6-2,4 | 0,6-2,4 | 0,4-2,6 |
| 3,5-5,2 | 3,5-5,3 | 3,6-5,6 | 4,8-6,7 | $4,9-6,8$ | 5,0-7,2 | 1 | 2,0-3,9 | 2,1-4 | 2,2-4,4 | 2,5-4,3 | 2,5-4,4 | 2,7-4,8 |
| 5,3-6,9 | 5,4-7,2 | 5,7-7,7 | 6,8-8,6 | 6,9-8,8 | 7,3-9,4 | 2 | 4,0-5,9 | 4,2-6,2 | 4,5-6,8 | 4,4-6,2 | 4,5-6,4 | 4,9-7,0 |
| 7,0-8,7 | 7,3-9,1 | 7,8-9,8 | $8,7-10,5$ | 8,9-10,8 | 9,5-11,7 | 3 | 6,0-7,9 | 6,3-8,2 | 6,9-9,1 | 6,3-8,0 | 6,5-8,4 | 7,1-9,2 |
| $8,8-10,5$ | 9,2-11,0 | 9,9-12,0 | 10,6-12,4 | 10,9-12,9 | 11,8-13,9 | 4 | $8,0-9,9$ | 8,3$-10,3$ | 9,2-11,4 | $8,1-9,9$ | $8,5-10,4$ | 9,3-11,4 |
| 10,6-12,3 | 11,1-12,8 | 12,1-14,1 | 12,5-14,3 | 13,0-14,9 | 14,0-16,2 | 5 | 10,0-11,8 | , -12,4 | 11,5-13,8 | 10,0-11,8 | 10,5-12,4 | 11,5-13,6 |
| 12,4-14,1 | 12,9-14,7 | 14,2-16,2 | 14,4-16,2 | 15,0-16,9 | 16,3-18,4 | 6 | 11,9-13,8 | 12,5-14,5 | 13,9-16,1 | 11,9-13,7 | 12,5-14,3 | 13,7-15,9 |
| 14,2-15,9 | 14,8-16,6 | 16,3-18,3 | $16,3-18,1$ | 17,0-18,9 | 18,5-20,7 | 7 | 13,9-15,8 | 14,6-16,6 | $16,2-18,4$ | 13,8-15,6 | 14,4-16,3 | $16,0-18,1$ |
| $16,0-17,7$ | 16,7-18,5 | 18,4-20,4 | 18,2-20,1 | 19,0-20,9 | 20,8-22,9 | 8 | 15,9-17,8 | 16,7 <br> $18,18,7$ | 18,5-20,8 | 15,7-17,5 | $16,4-18,3$ | 18,2-20,3 |
| 17,8-19,5 | 18,6-20,4 | 20,5-22,5 | 20,2-22,0 | 21,0-22,9 | 23,0-25,2 | 9 | 17,9-19,8 | 18,8-20,8 | 20,9-23,1 | $17,6-19,3$ | 18,4-20,3 | 20,4-22,5 |
| 19,6-21,3 | 20,5-22,3 | 22,6-24,6 | 22,1-23,9 | 23,0-24,9 | 25,3-27,4 | 10 | 19,9-21,8 | 20,9-22,9 | 23,2-25,4 | 19,4-21,2 | 20,4-22,3 | 22,6-24,7 |
| 21,4-23,1 | 22,4-24,2 | 24,7-26,7 | 24,0-25,8 | 25,0-27,0 | 27,5-29,7 | 11 | 21,9-23,7 | 23,0 - 24,9 | 25,5-27,8 | 21,3-23,1 | 22,4-24,3 | 24,8-26,9 |
| 23,2-24,9 | 24,3-26,1 | 26,8-28,8 | 25,9-27,7 | 27,1-29,0 | 29,8-31,9 | 12 | 23,8-25,7 | 25,0-27,0 | $27.9-30,1$ | 23,2-25,0 | 24,4-26,2 | $27,0-29,2$ |
| 25,0-26,7 | 26,2-27,9 | 28,9-30,9 | 27,8-29,6 | 29,1-31,0 | 32,0-34,2 | 13 | 25,8-27,7 | 27,1-29,1 | $30,2-32,4$ | 25,1-26,9 | 26,3-28,2 | 29,3-31,4 |
| 26,8-28,5 | 28,0-29,8 | 31,0-33,1 | 29,7-31,6 | 31,1-33,0 | 34,3-36,5 | 14 | 27,8-29,7 | $\begin{aligned} & 29,2\end{aligned}-31,2$ | 32,5-34,8 | 27,0-28,8 | 28,3-30,2 | 31,5-33,6 |
| 28,6-30,3 | 29,9-31,7 | 33,2-35,2 | 31,7-33,5 | 33,1-35,0 | 36,6-38,7 | 15 | $29,8-31,7$ | $\begin{aligned} & 31,3\end{aligned}-33,3$ | $34.9-37,1$ | 28,9-30,6 | $30,3-32,2$ | 33,7-35,8 |
| 30,4-32,1 | 31,8-33,6 | $35,3-37,3$ | $33,6-35,4$ | $35,1-37,0$ | 38,8-41,0 | 16 | $31,8-33,7$ | 33,4-35, | 37,2-39,4 | 30,7-32,5 | 32,3-34,2 | 35,9-38,0 |
| 32,2-33,8 | 33,7-35,5 | 37,4-39,4 | 35,5-37,3 | 37,1-39,1 | 41,1-43,2 | 17 | 33,8-35,6 | 35,5 <br> - 37,5 | 39,5-41,8 | 32,6-34,4 | 34,3-36,1 | 33,1-40,2 |
| 33,9-35,6 | 35,6-37,4 | 39,5-41,5 | 37,4-39,2 | 39,2-41,1 | 43,3-45,5 | 18 | 35,7-37,6 | 37,0\%-39,5 | 41,9-44,1 | 34,5-36,3 | 36,2-38,1 | 40,3-42,4 |
| $35,7-37,4$ | 37,5-39,3 | 41,6-43,6 | 39,3-41,1 | $41,2-43,1$ | 45,6-47,7 | 19 | 707 - 30.6 | 39,6-41,6 | $44,2-46,4$ | $36,4-38,2$ | 38,2-40,1 | $42,5-44,7$ |
| $37,5-39,2$ | 39,4-41,2 | 43,7-45,7 | $41,2-43,0$ | $43,2-45,1$ | $47,8-50,0$ | 20 | 39,7-41,6 | 41,7-43,7 | 46,5-48,8 | 38,3-40,1 | $40,2-42,1$ | 44,8-46,9 |

