

## WWGL Handicap Index Overview

1. **GHIN** (Golf Handicap Information Network) is a service through the USGA that provides you with your golf handicap index number. Your GHIN number is unique to you and is used like a membership number to record your golf scores and keeps track of your handicap index.
2. Your **handicap index** is not an average of your score but rather an estimate of what you might shoot on one of your better days. For example a handicap index of 17.9 indicates that on a good day you will shoot somewhere around 17 or 18 strokes over par.
3. Your handicap index is established after you have played 5 rounds of 18 holes and is eventually calculated from using the best 10 of your latest 20 rounds. The index calculation is a complex formula and most golfers rely on software to calculate it for them.
4. Your handicap index is used to calculate your **course handicap** so you know how many strokes you can take, and on which holes, during a round. When you deduct your course handicap from your **gross score**, the result will be your **net score**. This net score allows you to compete fairly with other players.
  - a. **Course handicap** = handicap index X course slope rating / 113 (standard slope difficulty rating)
- Example  $17.9 \times 121 / 113 = 19$ , the Meadow Hills course handicap for a 17.9 handicap index golfer playing from the white tees.

Your handicap index is calculated using a course rating, a slope rating and your adjusted gross score.

5. A **course rating** is the number of strokes (score) for 18 holes a scratch golfer is expected to be play at that particular course from a specific set of tees. For example Meadow Hills has a course rating of 70.2 (white tees) which means a golfer with a 17.9 handicap index would shoot a score of about 89 if they played to their handicap (course handicap of 19 + course rating of 70.2).
6. A **slope rating** is a number that represents the difficulty of a course and is used alongside the course rating to calculate your handicap index. A slope rating can range from 55 to 155, with 113 being considered a course of average difficulty, Meadow Hills has a slope rating of 121 (white tees).
7. Your **adjusted gross score** is your total strokes after allowing your maximum per-hole totals using the **equitable stroke controls** (ESC). The ESC imposes a maximum number of strokes that you can enter for any given hole. The maximum is based on your course handicap, see table below:

Course Handicap	Maximum Score
9 or less	Double bogey
10 through 19	7
20 through 29	8
30 through 39	9
40 and above	10

For example if you have a course handicap of 19 and you score a 9 on one of the holes, you would adjust your score on that hole to 7 as that is the maximum you can score on any hole. Once any adjustments have been made for all 18 holes, the sum is your Adjusted Gross Score. **This adjusted score (ESC) is what you would post in GHIN for non WWGL league games.**

8. If you **DNF** or **DQ** your score will still be posted by the WWGL. We will post an 18 hole score for all rounds of 13 holes or more. We will post a 9 hole score for all rounds of 7-12 holes. For holes not played we will post par on those holes plus any **handicap stroke** you would have received for that hole based on your course handicap. Note the score will be used for handicap purposes only and you will not be entitled for any WWGL tournament prizes.
9. **Handicap strokes** are given on each hole based on your course handicap and get applied to the hardest holes first based on the handicap listed for each hole on the scorecard. A hole with the handicap of 1 is always the hardest hole on the course and therefore a hole with a handicap of 18 is the easiest hole on the course. Example 1, if you have a course handicap of 19 you will be given 1 stroke for each hole plus an additional stroke on the hole that is

marked with a handicap of 1 on the scorecard (for your tees). Example 2, if you have a course handicap of 10 you will be given 1 stroke on each of the 10 hardest holes (marked 1 through 10 handicap on the scorecard).

10. You cannot concede a hole or pick up on a hole while playing in WWGL tournaments; you will be disqualified (DQ).
11. The USGA has imposed a new rule starting in 2016, which states that you cannot post a round to GHIN if you played alone.
12. The WWGL board members post your scores for each of our tournament weekends, we use a software system that applies all the right formulas using your GHIN number to update you Handicap Index. For rounds outside of WWGL please post your own ESC scores at the course or via the GHIN app. ([www.ghin.com](http://www.ghin.com)).
13. Your handicap index is updated on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of each month during the active season (15 Mar - 14 Nov in Colorado)
14. Your handicap chair can adjust incorrectly posted scores if needed, please email [h.j.hayes@hotmail.com](mailto:h.j.hayes@hotmail.com)