



The purpose of the World Handicap System (WHS) is to enhance enjoyment of the game of golf and to facilitate the ability of golfers to compete with anyone else on a fair and equitable basis. To this end, the WHS is designed to create a Handicap Index (HI) that represents each golfer's scoring *potential*. Essentially, a golfer's HI does not represent their average round. A golfer should expect play to their HI once out of every four to five rounds.

The USGA expects clubs to manage and adjust the HI of any member whose HI does NOT reflect their *demonstrated ability*. As determined by the USGA, a golf club is an organization of at least ten active members that operate under bylaws with Committee (a *Handicap Committee* is required) to supervise activities, provide *peer review*, and maintain the integrity of the *Rules of Handicapping*.

To this end, the Sierra Sage Men's Golf Club Board of Directors has adopted the "Handicap Reduction Policy".

Handicap Reduction Policy for Sierra Sage Men's Golf Club

The SSMGC has the authority to establish the conditions under which our competitions are played. Each player has an HI established by the regular posting of scores governed by the WHS. That established HI is used to assign a player a course handicap for competition. When a player demonstrates ability superior to his HI, the SSMGC Handicap Committee will review and possibly assign a Tournament HI for future competitions. Two Exceptional Net Scores (see definition below) in a calendar year will trigger this review.

Definitions

- **Handicap Differential:** (Adjusted Gross Score – Course Rating) x 113 / Slope Rating
- **Net Handicap Differential:** Handicap Differential – Handicap Index Used in Event
- **Exceptional Net Score:** Handicap Differential of -3.0 or greater

Procedure

When a player registers a second Exceptional Net Score during tournament play in the same calendar year, a Tournament HI will be assigned.

Exception: If a player had two or more Exceptional Net Scores in the previous year, a handicap reduction will take place when the player registers one Exceptional Net Score.

Any player who is assigned a Tournament HI will be notified by email.

If the Course Handicap calculated using the Tournament HI is at least two (2) strokes lower than the Course Handicap calculated using the players regular HI, the handicap for tournament play will be based on the Tournament HI.

Example

Round 1

Player A's HI is 12.5. He competes from the White tees which have a Course Rating of 68.4 and Slope Rating of 122 and shoots an Adjusted Gross Score of 76:

- **Handicap Differential:** $(76 - 68.4) \times 113 / 122 = 7.0$
- **Net Handicap Differential:** $7.0 - 12.5 = -5.5$

Player A's Net Handicap Differential is at least -3.0 making this an Exceptional Net Score.

Round 2

Later that same year Player A's HI is now 11.8. He competes from the Blue tees which have a Course Rating of 70.0 and Slope Rating of 126 and shoots an Adjusted Gross Score of 77:

- **Handicap Differential:** $(77 - 70.0) \times 113 / 126 = 6.3$
- **Net Handicap Differential:** $6.3 - 11.8 = -5.5$

After two rounds with Exceptional Net Scores the player is assigned a Tournament HI calculated as the average of the Handicap Differential of the two rounds (rounded to the nearest tenth) plus 1.0.

- Player A's Rd. 1 Handicap Differential: **7.0**
- Player A's Rd. 2 Handicap Differential: **6.3**
- Average: **6.65** rounded to **6.7**
- Tournament HI: $6.7 + 1.0 = 7.7$.

If the player records a subsequent round with an Exceptional Net Score his Tournament HI will be recalculated using the two lowest Handicap Differentials.

This will continue until either the player's: WHS HI catches up to his *demonstrated ability* or the Exceptional Net Scores are aged out of his scoring record.