10 Things for Golfers to Know
About a Handicap Index®

1. **A Handicap Index represents...**
   
your demonstrated playing ability. Your number is based on your scores relative to the course and tees played during those rounds.

2. **After you post a score, it is converted into...**
   
a Score Differential™ - which accounts for the Course Rating™ and Slope Rating® of the tees played.
   
   - 9-hole scores are combined in the order they are received to form 18-hole Score Differentials.

3. **A Handicap Index is calculated by...**
   
averaging your 8 best Score Differentials from your most recent 20 scores. There are also built-in safeguards applied when:
   
   - you post an exceptional score, or
   - there is extreme upward movement in your Handicap Index.

   A Handicap Index can be calculated with as few as three 18-hole scores. When less than 20 scores are in your scoring record, a fewer number of scores are used to calculate your Handicap Index.

4. **Your first Handicap Index will be issued...**
   
the day after you have posted scores from 54-holes to your scoring record. These scores can be made up of any combination of 9- or 18-hole rounds.

5. **A Handicap Index is updated...**
   
at midnight local time the day after you post a score.
   
   - As a result, it’s important to post your scores on the same day of play.

6. **A Course Handicap™ is...**
   
the number of strokes needed to play to par of the tees being played.
   
   - You will have a Course Handicap once a Handicap Index has been established (see #4).

7. **The max hole score for handicap purposes is...**
   
a net double bogey, equal to double bogey + any handicap strokes received based on your Course Handicap.
   
   - Until a Handicap Index is established, the max hole score is 5 over par.
   - If using the hole-by-hole option, the adjustment for max hole score is made automatically.

8. **If you don’t play a hole...**
   
for instance, due to darkness - the score recorded is net par, equal to par + any handicap strokes received based on your Course Handicap.
   
   - You must play at least 7 holes to post a 9-hole score and 14 holes to post an 18-hole score.

9. **If you start but don’t finish a hole...**
   
for instance, because a putt is conceded during match play - the score recorded for handicap purposes is your most likely score.

10. **It’s important to post all acceptable scores so...**
    
your Handicap Index continues to accurately reflect your game.
    
A popular method for posting scores is through a mobile app. For additional ways to post a score, or for help with correcting a score posted in error, contact a member of the Handicap Committee at your club or your local Allied Golf Association.