

Trefloyne Golf Club

Guide to Handicapping and Formats of Play

Obtaining a Handicap Index

To play in club competitions, members will need to obtain a Handicap Index. This can be done by submitting valid scorecards, marked by another member, for a minimum of 54 holes of golf. To be valid, each score submitted must be over a minimum of 9 holes (front nine, back nine or 18 holes) and played in accordance with the Rules of Golf.

World Handicapping System

Since November 2020, all countries worldwide use the same system of handicapping, the World Handicapping System, often referred to as WHS. Once a golfer has a Handicap Index, they can play on a fair basis with any other player on any course worldwide.

Course & Slope Rating

Each set of tees at any golf course can have a Course and Slope Rating for both male and female genders. Where courses are arranged to allow start of play from either front nine (holes 1-9) or back nine (holes 10-18), course and slope ratings will be available for front nine, back nine and 18 holes.

Course Rating replaces Standard Scratch Score (SSS) and represents the score that a scratch golfer is expected to achieve on the course.

Slope Rating represents the relative difficulty of a course for a bogey golfer (deemed to have a 20 handicap) compared to a scratch golfer (0 handicap).

A course with long carries, narrow fairways, lots of hazards and thick rough will have a high slope rating because these features are more of a challenge to bogey golfers. Slope Rating can be anywhere between 55 and 155. 113 is the neutral value that is used in handicap calculations. The GB&I average Slope Rating is 125. The ratings for Trefloyne golf course are:

Gender	Tee	18 Holes			Front 9 Holes			Back 9 Holes		
		Course Rating	Slope Rating	Par	Course Rating	Slope Rating	Par	Course Rating	Slope Rating	Par
Female	Red	73.6	127	74	37.6	129	38	36.0	125	36
	White	77.9	138	77	39.8	141	38	38.1	134	39
	Yellow	76.2	135	76	39.0	139	38	37.2	131	38
	Winter Yellow	75.0	131	74	38.6	135	38	36.4	126	36
Male	Red	68.6	121	71	35.2	123	36	33.4	119	35
	White	72.4	128	72	37.3	136	37	35.1	119	35
	Yellow	71.2	129	72	36.6	133	37	34.6	125	35
	Winter Yellow	69.9	126	72	36.0	129	37	33.9	122	35

Table 1 - Trefloyne Course and Slope Ratings

Course Handicap

When playing on a particular set of tees at any given course, each player will have a Course Handicap determined as follows:

For an 18-hole round:

Course Handicap = (Handicap Index x Slope Rating)/113 rounded to the nearest whole number

For a 9-hole round:

Course Handicap = (Handicap Index x 0.5 x 9 Hole Course Rating / 113) + (9-Hole CR – 9 Hole Par) rounded to nearest whole number

To save players calculating this every time they play, most Clubs have a chart near the first tee where Course Handicap can be determined for any given Handicap Index. There is also a Course Handicap Calculator covering all golf courses in Wales available in the Wales Golf App.

Playing Handicap

In both competition and general play, each player will adjust their Course Handicap depending on the format of play as described later in this guide. There may also be additional adjustments where the format involves multiple tees or genders playing together (also described later).

Administration of Handicap Indexes

Handicap indexes for members of golf clubs in Wales are managed by Wales Golf and can be viewed on the Wales Golf website at <http://www.walesgolf.org/my-wales-golf-whs-player-portal/> or by downloading the Wales Golf App. Members will initially need to register and log in to access their data.

A player's handicap records will be updated when scorecards are returned for competition play to the Trefloyne Pro's Shop. It is also possible to return scores for general play to the Pro's Shop or directly into the Wales Golf App provided the player has pre-registered their intention to return a score, either at the Pro's Shop or on the App, prior to starting their round. For competitions, pre-registration takes place when the player signs on at the Pro's shop.

Transferring a Handicap Index from Another Club

Players joining from another club can nominate Trefloyne as their home club for handicapping purposes by notifying the Trefloyne Handicap Committee (by emailing golf@trefloyne.com) and the Handicap Committee of their previous club. Members of more than one club must ensure that only one of those clubs is nominated as their home club.

Calculation of Handicap Index

A player's Handicap Index is determined as the average of the best 8 of the last 20 scores. For players who have fewer than 20 scores, a sliding scale of smaller numbers of scores are used as defined in Rule 5 of the Rules of Handicapping. Each score is a score differential calculated as follows for an 18-hole round:

Score Differential = (Adjusted Gross Score – Course Rating - PCC) x 113/Slope Rating

The Adjusted Gross Score will be the sum of all hole scores capped at a maximum of net double bogey, with net double bogeys allocated for any hole marked NR and net par for any hole marked as NS.

For a 9 Hole round, the adjusted gross score is scaled up using Net Pars for the second nine holes plus one additional stroke. The 18-hole CH used for this part of the calculation is itself derived from scaling of the CH for the 9 holes played. It is not the CH that the player uses for an 18-hole round. It is calculated as: $CH = (HI \times (9\text{-hole Slope} \div 113)) + ((2 \times 9\text{-hole CR}) - (2 \times 9\text{-hole Par}))$. The Course Rating used is the 9-hole course rating doubled.

The PCC (Playing Conditions Calculation) is a measure of how differently the course has played that day in relation to its course rating due to course conditions, weather conditions and/or course setup. It is calculated after midnight each day by Wales Golf based on all the days scores submitted at the club. Half the PCC is used in a score differential for a 9-hole round.

Exceptional Scoring Adjustments, Limits of Upward Movement and Reviews

If a player submits an unusually low score on one or more occasions, an exceptional scoring reduction may also be applied to a players' score differentials over their last 20 scores.

The WHS applies soft and hard caps to ensure a player's handicap does not increase too quickly.

The Competition Committee will review handicaps at least annually and may adjust a player's handicap that is inconsistent with their general standard of play. A player will be notified when this happens and will have a right to appeal. A player may also request a review of their handicap if they feel it is not consistent with their playing ability.

Further details of the functioning and administration of WHS are detailed in the R&A Rules of Handicapping.

Golf Rules

Players should familiarise themselves with the Rules of Golf and Rules of Handicapping, both of which can be viewed on the R&A website at <https://www.randa.org/> or in the R&A Golf Rules App. Pocket reference books are also available from the Pro's Shop. In the following text, any reference to a Rule is a reference to the Rules of Golf unless otherwise stated.

Penalties for Non-Return of Scorecards

If a player registers for a competition or general play round and fails to return their scorecard, the Club Competition Committee will seek to determine the reason why. Where the player has no valid reason, the Club Competition Committee will attempt to determine by all available means what score would have been returned and may apply this or a penalty score to a player's handicap record, depending on the likely intent of the non-return.

If a member repeatedly or deliberately does not return a scorecard to gain an advantage, the club may take disciplinary action up to and including suspension of Handicap Index.

Formats of Play

Formats of play are laid out in Rule 3 of the R&A Rules of Golf. The following paragraphs are a summary for information only. For a definitive definition of playing formats, members should refer to the Rules of Golf.

Form of Play: Match Play or Stroke Play

Matchplay and Strokeplay are very different forms of play:

- In match play (see Rule 3.2), a player and an opponent compete against each other based on holes won, lost, or tied.
- In the regular form of stroke play (see Rule 3.3), all players compete with one another based on the total score – that is, adding up each player's total number of strokes (including strokes made and penalty strokes) on each hole in all rounds. There are other forms of stroke play (Stableford, Maximum Score and Par/Bogey) that use a different scoring method (see Rule 21).

Gross or Net Scores.

In a scratch competition, your "gross score" for a hole or the round is your total number of strokes. In a handicap competition, your "net score" for a hole or the round is your gross score adjusted for your handicap strokes.

How Players Compete: Playing as an Individual or as Partners

Golf is played either by individual players competing on their own or by partners competing together as a side.

Foursomes, Greensome Foursomes and Fourball competitions involving two partners playing as a side together with or against another side. Texas Scramble and Team competitions involve two or more players playing stroke play as a team.

These formats of play are summarised as follows

- i) **Individual Competitions** – players competing individually with other players in stroke play or against another player in match play.
- ii) **Fourball Competitions** – a pair of players playing their own ball in same tee grouping as another pair in stroke play or against another pair in match play. The hole score recorded for the pair on each hole is the best individual score of the two partners taking account of any handicap strokes received. (see Rule 23).
- iii) **Foursomes Competitions** - a pair of players playing one ball in same tee grouping as another pair in stroke play or against another pair in match play. The pair take turns to play alternate shots at each hole. Partners tee off at alternate tees (see Rule 22).
- iv) **Greensome Foursomes Competitions** – a pair of players play in the same tee grouping as another pair in stroke play or against another pair in match play. Both partners tee off at each tee then pick the ball they wish to continue play with. Partners then play alternate shots commencing with the partner whose drive was not selected for play.
- v) **Texas Scramble** – a team of up to four players playing together in stroke play. All players tee off then select which one of the shot locations they wish to play as their second shot. All players then play their own ball from the location selected. The process is repeated for selection of third and subsequent shots until one of the team holes out or the team cannot score so pick up and move on to the next tee.

- vi) **Team competitions** – a team of two or more players playing in the same tee group playing individual stroke play but also playing as a team (see Rule 24).

Handicap Allowances

Each format of play has a handicap allowance. It determines the percentage of a player's Course Handicap that may be used as a Playing Handicap for that format of play.

Trefloyne Golf Club utilises the allowances as laid down in Rules of Handicapping Appendix C.

In single tee and single gender competitions, Playing Handicap will be the Handicap Allowance percentage of a player's Course Handicap rounded to the nearest whole number.

Example 1 (Fourball stableford)

Paul has a Handicap Index of 15.4 and is playing a men's 18-hole Fourball stableford competition off yellow tees (slope rating 129) at Trefloyne. His Course Handicap is $15.4 \times 129/113 = 17.58$ rounded to 18.

His handicap allowance for Fourball stableford is 85% so his Playing Handicap is $18 \times 0.85 = 15.3$ rounded to 15.

Example 2 (Fourball match play)

Paul plays a men's 18-hole Fourball match play competition off yellow tees at Trefloyne. His Course Handicap is 18.

His handicap allowance for fourball match play is 90% so his Playing Handicap is $18 \times 0.9 = 16.2$ rounded to 16. The shots he receives are taken off the player in the fourball with the lowest Playing Handicap which is Stuart who has a Playing Handicap of 5. Paul receives $16 - 5 = 11$ shots.

Example 3 (Foursomes match play)

June and Laura are playing an 18-hole foursomes match play competition off red tees at Trefloyne. June has a Course Handicap of 24 and Laura has a Course Handicap of 15.

Their handicap allowance in Foursomes match play is 50% of combined team so their Playing Handicap is $(24 + 15) \text{ divided by } 2 = 19.5$ rounded to 20. Their opponents have a Playing Handicap of 23 so June and Laura's opponents will receive $23 - 20 = 3$ shots.

Playing Handicap Adjustment for Mixed Tee/Gender Competitions

One of the best features of WHS is the flexibility it brings in facilitating mixed gender and mixed tee competitive golf.

When a competition involves either mixed genders, mixed tees or a combination of both, a playing handicap adjustment will be applied (before rounding) to allow for the difference between course ratings and/or par of the tees in use.

i) Playing Handicap Adjustment – 18-Hole Medal/Matchplay/Gross Mixed Tees

For medal and match play competitions, this adjustment will be the difference between the lowest course rated tee used and the course rating of the players' tee. In Foursomes competitions, half of the combined adjustment applies to the pair.

Example 4 (Mixed Gender Medal/Matchplay using White, Yellow and Red Tees)

The Club is running an 18-hole medal competition which is open to all members; adult male members must play from the white tees, elite women and male juniors from the yellow tees and other ladies/girls from the red tees. There is no restriction on the composition of each team. Liam (HI 9.3) partners his young son Luke (HI 25.6). They are drawn to play alongside Megan (HI -1.2) and young daughter Maria (HI 6.3).

Luke is playing off the tees with the lowest course rating 71.2 so CR adjustments are made relative to him.

The respective Playing Handicaps of each member of the group are calculated as $\text{Playing Handicap} = (\text{Course Handicap} \times \text{Handicap Allowance}) + \text{Adjustment}$ with result rounded as shown below:

	Handicap Index	Slope	Course Rating	Par	Course Handicap	95% CH	CR Adjust	Playing Handicap
Liam	9.3	128	72.4	72	11	10.45	1.2	12
Luke	25.6	129	71.2	72	29	27.55	0	28
Megan	-1.2	135	76.2	74	-1	-0.95	5.0	4
Maria	6.3	127	73.6	74	7	6.65	2.4	9

Each player will then receive their full Playing Handicap for the competition. In 4BBB format players score using the card and SI appropriate for the tee they are playing from.

If this group were playing an 18-hole Fourball match play with Megan and Maria paired against Liam and Luke off the same allocated tees as above, the calculation of playing handicaps would be:

	Handicap Index	Slope	Course Rating	Par	Course Handicap	90% CH	CR Adjust	Playing Handicap
Liam	9.3	128	72.4	72	11	9.9	1.2	11
Luke	25.6	129	71.2	72	29	26.1	0	26
Megan	-1.2	135	76.2	74	-1	-0.9	5.0	4
Maria	6.3	127	73.6	74	7	6.3	2.4	9

In match play, the strokes received are the difference between the lowest playing handicap and each player's playing handicap, so Megan gets no strokes, Maria gets 5 strokes, Liam 7 strokes and Luke 22 strokes.

Example 5 (Mixed Greensome Foursomes Matchplay using White and Red Tees)

Simon (Course Handicap 10) plays with Rosie (Course Handicap 22) in an 18 hole mixed Greensome Foursome match play with Rosie playing off red tees (CR 73.6) and Simon off white tees (CR 72.4) against a mixed pair playing from the same allocated tees. The Course Rating difference between white and red tees is $73.6 - 72.4 = 1.2$.

The pair's Playing Handicap is $= 40\% \text{ Lower CH} + 60\% \text{ Higher CH} + 50\% \text{ CR Difference}$

$$= 0.6 \times 10 + 0.4 \times 22 + 0.5 \times 1.2$$

$$= 6 + 8.8 + 0.6 = 15.4 \text{ rounded to } 15$$

For men playing from yellow tees and ladies playing from red tees in this format at Trefloyne, the CR difference would 2.4 so 50% CR difference is 1.2.

For Foursomes competitions involving mixed/multi-tee pairings, the committee must specify in the Terms of Competition which single set of tees will determine the Pars and SI that are to be used. The strong advice is to use the shortest tee – e.g. in a Man/Woman pairing the tee that the Woman plays from should be used. This would also apply when the format is ‘any gender paring’ and pairings of Men or pairings of Women are also permitted within the Terms of Competition.

Example 6 (Foursomes Mixed Gender and Tee Matchplay)

Using the same pairings and tee allocations from Example 4, Liam and Luke take on Megan and Maria in an 18-hole Foursomes match play competition. The calculation of playing handicaps for each pair would 50% of their combined course handicap plus 50% of their combined CR adjustment as below:

	Handicap Index	Slope	Course Rating	Par	Course Handicap	50% CH Combined	50% CR Adjust	Playing Handicap
Liam	9.3	128	72.4	72	11	15	0.6	16
Luke	25.6	129	71.2	72	29			
Megan	-1.2	135	76.2	74	-1	3	3.6	7
Maria	6.3	127	73.6	74	7			

Liam and Luke would receive $16 - 7 = 9$ strokes for the match.

ii) Playing Handicap Adjustment – 18 Hole Stableford/Par/Bogey Mixed Tees

As both Stableford and Par/Bogey formats are scored against the Par of the course, rather than the Course Rating, the Playing Handicap calculation includes an adjustment to reflect the difference to ‘play to handicap’ between the mixed/multi-tee courses.

Number of points to ‘play to handicap’ for a given set of tees = $36 - (CR - Par)$ where the CR-Par is first rounded to a whole number of points.

The adjustment made is the positive difference between the highest ‘play to handicap’ points of the tees in use and the ‘play to handicap’ of the players’ tees.

Example 7 (Mixed Gender Stableford using White, Yellow and Red Tees)

The Club is running an 18-hole 4BBB competition which is open to all members; adult male members must play from the white tees, elite women and male juniors from the yellow tees and other ladies/girls from the red tees. There is no restriction on the composition of each team. Liam (HI 9.3) partners his young son Luke (HI 25.6). They are drawn to play alongside Megan (HI -1.2) and young daughter Maria (HI 6.3).

Males playing off the yellow tees have the highest ‘play to handicap’ points so Par adjustments are made relative to them. The respective Playing Handicaps of each member of the group are calculated below:

	Handicap Index	Slope	Course Rating	Par	85% CH	Points to 'play to handicap'	Par Adjust	Playing Handicap
Liam	9.3	128	72.4	72	9.35	36-round(72.4-72) = 36 - 0 =36	1	10
Luke	25.6	129	71.2	72	24.65	36-round(71.2-72) = 36 - (-1) =37	0	25
Megan	-1.2	135	76.2	74	-0.64	36-round(76.2-74) = 36 - 2 = 34	3	2
Maria	6.3	127	73.6	74	5.95	36-round(73.6-74) = 36 - 0 = 36	1	7

Each player will then receive their full Playing Handicap for the competition. In 4BBB format players score using the card and SI appropriate for the tee they are playing from.

Example 8 (Mixed Greensome Foursome Stableford using Yellow/Red Tees and Yellow Par)

Simon (CH 10) and Rosie (CH 22) play in an 18-hole mixed Greensome Foursome competition with Simon playing off yellow tees (CR 71.2 & Par 72) and Rosie playing off red tees (CR 73.6 & Par 74).

Play to Handicap points for Simon = 36 - round(71.2 - 72) = 36 - (-1) = 37 points

Play to handicap points for Rosie = 36 - round(73.6 - 74) = 36 - 0 = 36 points

Therefore, Simon and Rosie receive 50% of the 'play to handicap' points difference of 1.

The pair's Playing Handicap is = 40% Lower CH + 60% Higher CH + 50% Par adjustment

$$= 0.6 \times 10 + 0.4 \times 22 + 0.5 \times 1$$

$$= 6 + 8.8 + 0.5 = 15.3 \text{ rounded to } 15$$

Multi Tee Adjustments for 9-hole competitions

The Course Handicap calculation for 9-hole competitions already includes an adjustment of Course Rating minus Par so no further adjustment is necessary for Stableford and Par/Bogey competitions. For Medal, Gross, and Matchplay competitions, the adjustment is simply the difference between the pars of the tees used, with players playing the 9 holes with the lowest par receiving no adjustment.

Additional Handicapping Resources

Players do not have to state their Playing Handicap on their scorecard, as the club competition system will calculate and apply the necessary adjustments to all scores returned.

However, for those wishing to calculate adjustments for casual golf, a mixed tee handicap calculator for all formats of play is available on the Wales Golf website at <https://www.walesgolf.org/>. Simply load the calculator and choose the tab for your format of play then complete the details required to calculate your and partners playing handicaps.

Other useful references are available in the Handicapping section of the Wales Golf website, including the Rules of Handicapping .

Stroke Index

Each set of tees and holes have a stroke index allocated to it by the Competition Committee which determines where handicap strokes are taken. These stroke indices are shown on the scorecard.

The method of determining stroke index is described in Rules of Handicapping Appendix D.

The way in which stroke index is used to determine where strokes are taken is best described by examples for an 18-hole competition.

If a player receives 8 strokes, then they reduce their gross score by one at holes with stroke indices of 1 to 8.

If a player receives 27 strokes, then they can reduce their gross score by one on all 18 holes plus an additional one on holes with stroke indices of 1 to (27-18) or 1 to 9.

If a player receives 43 strokes, then they can reduce their gross score by two on all 18 holes plus an additional one on holes with stroke indices of 1 to (43-18x2) or 1 to 7.

If a player receives 56 strokes, then they can reduce their gross score by three on all 18 holes plus an additional one on holes with stroke indices of 1 to (56-18x3) or 1 to 2.

When playing a 9-hole round, the stroke index on the card is halved and rounded to the nearest whole number. This is to cater for the use of a 9-hole course/playing handicap.

Contacts

Any queries or concerns regarding golf at Trefloyne should be directed in the first instance by email to golf@trefloyne.com or by phoning 01834 845639.

The Trefloyne Competition Committee deal with all matters relating to competitions, handicapping and local rules. The current members of this committee will be listed on the club website alongside this document.