

## How to Obtain a Handicap

Posting your scores through the Golf Canada Score Centre is the only way to obtain and maintain your official Handicap.

Your initial Handicap will be issued once you have posted a minimum of three 18-hole rounds, or six 9-hole rounds, or any combination of these for a minimum of 54 holes.

Your Handicap updates regularly as you post more scores.

Once you have posted 20 scores, your Handicap will be averaged over the best 8 of your last 20 games.

### Here's How it Works

There are 3 separate components at work when you post your score – a Score Differential, a resulting Handicap Index, and finally a Course Handicap.

Your posted score is first converted to a Score Differential, using specific formulas depending on whether you are posting a 9-hole score or an 18-hole score. Your current Handicap Index is then calculated using the lowest Score Differentials in your scoring history. Finally, your current Course Handicap is derived from your Handicap Index by multiplying your Index by the course rating data.

Your Course Handicap is “course specific” as the course rating could differ from course to course. It is also “tee” specific within a course and will be different depending on the set of tees you are playing. This is because the rating data differs from tee to tee.

**Sounds complex and confusing, but it all done seamlessly and automatically through the Score Centre when you post your scores!**

### Things to Remember

- A **Score Differential** measures the performance of a round in relation to the relative difficulty of the course that was played.
- A **Handicap Index** measures the demonstrated ability of a golfer. It is portable worldwide and can be converted to a Course Handicap at other Clubs.
- A **Course Handicap** represents the number of strokes needed to play to par for the course and the tees being played.

**It is important to post all of your games so that your Handicap continues to reflect your demonstrated ability.**