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World Handicap System

Course & Playing Handicaps

Under the World Handicap System, a Handicap Index reflects the demonstrated ability of a player. However, when it's time to go out and play, that number is converted to a Course Handicap and Playing Handicap.

A **Course Handicap** is the number of strokes a player receives from a given set of tees - prior to the application of any Terms of the Competition such as a handicap allowance. It is used to determine a player's maximum hole score for handicap purposes as well as to adjust hole scores when, for example, a hole is unable to be played.

If a handicap allowance is applied, such as the recommended 85% in fourball stroke play, the adjusted Course Handicap is defined as a **Playing Handicap**. A Playing Handicap represents the number of strokes the player receives during the round and is used to determine the outcome of a game or the winners of a competition.

The use of Course and Playing Handicaps will allow players to have a fair game in any format of play, while at the same time ensuring the integrity of a Handicap Index is maintained.

Watch the video for more information:



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