

Handicap Review – Flagging Players for Review Report

The Handicap Review procedure is designed to assess whether a player's Handicap Index is reflective of their demonstrated ability, and their current scoring pattern is consistent with their expected scoring pattern. This report will identify those players whose Handicap Index may require review and further consideration by the Committee.

Assessing a player's performance relative to expected scoring pattern.

Statistical (player) equations are used to calculate the expected scoring pattern of players and compare their actual scores against the expected scores. The analysis of scores in this way will guide Handicap Committees on which players' handicaps should be reviewed and potentially adjusted. It is recommended that scores over a 12-month period are studied. It is not recommended that a committee should consider all members' handicaps for adjustment.

Downward adjustments

The criteria for triggering a handicap review downwards is set at a level whereby a score which is better than a player's expected score should occur approximately 2.5% of the time, based on their Handicap Index on the day of the review. The following table gives the conditions upon which a player will be flagged.

Scores in period of study	Flagged scores
1 - 14	2 or more
15 - 33	3 or more
34 - 55	4 or more

When a player is flagged, the decision as to whether to apply any adjustments remains at the discretion of the Handicap Committee, taking into consideration any other knowledge the Committee has relating to the player's demonstrated ability. If a reduction is justified, then it is recommended that the player's Handicap Index is initially reduced by 1.0; and the process of identifying players is repeated following that reduction. If, with this reduced Handicap Index, the procedure would still trigger a review, it is recommended that the Handicap Index is reduced by one further stroke, for a total reduction of 2.0 strokes.

Upward adjustments

The criteria for triggering a handicap review upwards is set at a higher level than above. Further, the number of scores needed to trigger an adjustment is greater than for downward adjustments. The following table gives the conditions under which a player will be flagged.

Scores in period of study	Flagged scores
1 - 14	3 or more
15 - 33	4 or more
34 - 55	5 or more

Again, when a player is flagged, the decision as to whether to apply any adjustments remains at the discretion of the Handicap Committee, taking into consideration any other knowledge the Committee has relating to the player's demonstrated ability. If an increase is justified, then it is recommended that the player's Handicap Index is initially increased by 1.0, and the process of identifying players is repeated. If with this increased Handicap Index, the procedure would still trigger a review, it is recommended that the Handicap Index is increased by one further stroke, for a total increase of 2.0 strokes.

Handicap Index adjustments greater than 2.0 strokes

If a Handicap Committee considers that a greater adjustment is required to a player's Handicap Index, this should only be applied under exceptional circumstances. Such circumstances could include a player who has a long-term illness, injury or incapacity, preventing them from playing golf at the Handicap Index level previously attained. Temporary loss of form should never be considered as a reason or increase.

Applying an adjustment

A committee adjustment is applied as described in Rule 7.1. For upward adjustments it may be necessary to also reset the Low Handicap Index where appropriate, otherwise it may continue to restrict upward movement of the player's Handicap Index. The minimum adjustment is one full stroke, with any fractions thereafter.

Other information to be considered by the Handicap Committee

Committees should only review players who are initially flagged by this report or have been brought to your attention through peer view or illness/injury.

Clubhouse System Reports

Other reports available will provide:

- Comparisons between General Play score submissions and Competition Scores.
 - Ideally for looking at the differences in the performance levels of players, across GP and Competition Golf.
 - Any significant difference between the 2 round types may be an indication of manipulation.
- Comparisons Between 9 and 18-hole rounds
 - Provides detail of players performance over both 9 and 18 holes.
- Players who have hit the soft/hard caps
 - Highlights players whose handicap index have risen to a point where the soft/hard cap has been triggered.



- Some of these players may have been triggered as part of the Handicap Review. This is not necessarily a reason to apply a handicap increase as it is an integral part of the handicap system designed to anchor a player to their demonstrated ability.

