



GolfAustralia

SLOPE AND MY HANDICAP

Slope

The handicap system used in Australia will be changed on 23 January 2014 to incorporate the use of Slope. Under Slope, a golfer's playing handicap on any given day will be determined according to the difficulty of the tees or course to be played. Golf Australia believes that this will be fairer than our current one-handicap-fits-all-courses method.

What are the features of Slope?

- Every set of tees on every golf course around the country will have a Slope Rating which has been determined in accordance with the new course rating system. The maximum Slope Rating is 155 (most difficult) and the minimum is 55 (least difficult). The Neutral Slope Rating is 113. Every set of tees will also have a Scratch Rating.
- GOLF Link will calculate a nationally-standardised handicap index for every player and this will be called the **GA Handicap**.
- A **GA Handicap** will be calculated by using the best 8 of a player's most recent 20 scores (ie best 8 of 20, x 0.93). However, every score in every player's score history will first be standardised by GOLF Link against a Slope Rating of 113. As a result, the **GA Handicap** will reflect a golfer's ability on a course which has the neutral Slope Rating of 113.
- The **GA Handicap** is not intended for use as a playing handicap. It is to be used in conjunction with the Slope Rating of the set of tees being played to calculate a golfer's playing handicap for the day, and this will be called the **Daily Handicap**.
- It is the **GA Handicap** that will be displayed in a player's GOLF Link record on www.golflink.com.au

How will Slope make things fairer?

Generally speaking, a high-marker finds it harder to adjust to a difficult course than a low-marker does. Slope adjustments will play a balancing role. For example, if the Black Tees are harder than the White Tees, a high-marker may play the Black Tees off a handicap of 28 and the White Tees off 24. The elite player finds it easier to adjust, so they may play the Black Tees off 4 and the White Tees off 3. Golf Australia believes this is fairer than having the difference between the elite player's handicap and the high-marker's handicap always stay the same.



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Every time before I play a round, I should check what my *Daily Handicap* will be. How can I do this?

- Different clubs will use different methods to communicate **Daily Handicaps** to golfers. Examples of different methods include via the use of existing club computer systems, and via direct printing on to score cards. Some clubs will provide easy-to-use **Daily Handicap** look-up posters.
- The GA website and the GOLF Link website will feature **Daily Handicap** calculators.

I know that I will be playing off my *Daily Handicap* when I visit another club, but what handicap do I use at my Home Club?

- Whether you are playing at an away club or at your Home Club, you will need to check your **Daily Handicap** for the tees you are playing from and play off this handicap.
- Home Club Example: A player with a **GA Handicap** of 22.3 when playing off the White Tees (eg Slope Rating of 119) at their Home Club will play off a **Daily Handicap** of 23; and when they play off the Blue Tees (eg Slope Rating of 136) will play off a **Daily Handicap** of 27. (Note: The same calculations would apply if the example was for an away club.)

What is the formula that GOLF Link will use to calculate a *Daily Handicap*?

Daily Handicap = **GA Handicap** x Slope Rating ÷ Neutral Slope Rating (ie 113)

Can you show me an example of how GOLF Link will calculate a *Daily Handicap*?

EXAMPLE 1

Adam's **GA Handicap** is 18.4 and he plays from a set of tees with a **Slope Rating** of 128.

$$18.4 \times 128 \div 113 = 21.$$

Adam's **Daily Handicap** is 21.

EXAMPLE 2

Adam's **GA Handicap** is 18.4 and he plays from a set of tees with a **Slope Rating** of 95.

$$18.4 \times 95 \div 113 = 15.$$

Adam's **Daily Handicap** is 15.