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Find a Club/Course Yards Change InUSGA Course Rating Change InSlope Rating 0 to 99 0.0 0 100 to 120 0.5 1 121 to 142 0.6 1 143 to 164 0.7 2 165 to 186 0.8 2 187 to 208 0.9 2 209 to 230 1.0 2 231 to 252 1.1 3 253 to 274 1.2 3 275 to 300 1.3 3 Key: Find the range that includes the difference in yardage between the rated tees and the unrated tees. The first column to the right is the change in USGA Course Rating, and the second column to the right is the change in Slope Rating. If the unrated tees are longer than the rated tees, their ratings are higher; if the unrated tees are shorter, their ratings are lower. SLOPE: IT'S SIMPLE Q: What is the USGA Slope System? A: The Slope System is a refinement of the USGA Handicap System. It adjusts a player's handicap for the difficulty of the course he plays. Q: But isn't that what the handicap system, along with course ratings, is designed to do? A: Not quite. USGA course ratings are based on an expert's game. For example, an expert should play a course rated 70 in 70. He will play a course rated 75 in 75, or close to it. When an average player plays a difficult course, his score tends to rise more than the difference in course ratings. An 18-handicapper might shoot 105 on a course rated 75, for example. The Slope System alleviates this inequity. It also deals with the problem of the golfer who builds his handicap at a very difficult course and scores well below it when he travels to easier courses. Q: How? A: By rating courses according to their relative difficulty for all levels of golfers. The Slope System adjusts a golfer's handicap to the course he's playing. This adjustment is based on a mathematical formula derived from plotting the scores of golfers of various handicaps on courses of varying difficulty. If one were to plot a graph of these scores for any given course, it would be a line which "slopes" up from left to right. Hence, the name. The steeper the slope, the higher the Slope Rating for that course. Q: Does this mean I will have more than one handicap? A: There are now two numbers to take into account, but only one is your USGA Handicap Index. Here's the difference between the two: USGA Handicap Index This is expressed in tenths of a stroke. It represents your ability on a course of average difficulty. You never play with this number, You convert it to the strokes you will receive, both at home and away, by consulting a table prepared for that purpose. Course Handicap This is always expressed as a whole number and this' is what you play with. It will appear on a chart wherever handicaps are posted. For example, if your USGA Handicap Index is 14.8 and your home course, from the white tee markers, has a Slope Rating of 123, the chart will reveal you receive 16 strokes. When you play on another course, or when you play from a different set of markers at home, look at the chart again to see how many strokes your 14.8 receives. At your home course, both numbers will be posted. When you visit another course, a Course Handicap Table will help you convert your USGA Handicap Index into a Course Handicap. Remember: Play only with the Course Handicap. Use the USGA Handicap Index only to determine what the Course Handicap is. Q: Should I expect to have a lower or higher handicap when playing "away"? A: That depends, Slope Ratings range from 55 to 155, with the average being 113. When you play a course with a Slope Rating higher than 113, your Course Handicap will be higher than your USGA Handicap Index. When you play a course with a Slope Rating lower than 113, your Course Handicap will be lower than your Handicap Index. That goes for your home course, too. Q: How much of this will I have to remember? A: Very little. At your home course, both your USGA Handicap Index and your Course Handicap will be posted. (You will often have a different Course Handicap for each set of tees, since they are, in effect, different courses.) When visiting another course, you simply have to know your USGA Handicap Index and refer to the appropriate Course Handicap Table. After your round, post your score, along with the Course and Slope Ratings of the course you played, just as you do now. Q: What if I forgot to record the score at the "away" course or if the course is in a different computer system than mine? A: In that case, record your score at your home course. You must then note the Course and Slope Ratings of the "away" course, as well as your score. Q: What about Equitable Stroke Control (ESC)? Which handicap do I use? A: Your Course Handicap. Q: And to which handicap does the USGA maximum apply? A: Your USGA Handicap Index (36.4 for men and 40.4 for women). If you have the maximum Handicap Index your Course Handicap could exceed 48 on a high Slope Rated course. Q: What if I play a course not involved with Slope? A: Use your Home Course Handicap from the most used tees. Q: What if a visitor comes from a non-Slope area to my course? A: He has only one handicap, a USGA Handicap, so he uses only that one. Q: A fellow club member and I have nearly the same USGA Handicap Index but his Home Course Handicap is one stroke higher than mine. Why? A: His Home Course Handicap has probably been rounded up because his scores are slightly higher than yours, indicating he is not quite as proficient as you. Q: When will everyone have Slope? A: Soon, we hope, but it is optional for Regional Golf Associations to implement the Slope System. Currently, almost every state is using the system. Results are good. Q: How can I check my USGA Handicap Index to make sure it's accurate? A: Simply call your local golf association if you think there's been an error or refer to the 1987 edition of the USGA Handicap System and Golf Committee Manual for calculation procedures. USING THE COURSE HANDICAP TABLE Panther Mountain C C. The Course Rating system is the backbone of the USGA Handicap System, yet many people are still confused by the numbers and how they are calculated. To summarize, the USGA Course Rating indicates the playing difficulty of a course for scratch golfers under normal course and weather conditions.For instance, a Course Rating of 72.0 would portend that a scratch golfer would shoot 72 on that course. To help differentiate between a Course and Slope Rating, look at it this way: Course Rating views the course from a scratch golfers perspective; Slope Rating is from abogey golfers viewpoint.Golf course operators need to have a good understanding of Course Rating so they can answer members questions about how its used in calculating a handicap indexes, as well as making adjustments in a players handicap for a particular course. They also need to be aware of the different variables that influence a courses rating and why courses need to be re-rated over time.All courses rated under the USGA Course Rating System are rated using the same parameters established by the USGA. A male scratch player is defined by the USGA as an amateur golfer who has reached the stroke play portion of the U.S. Amateur Championship. On average, he hits his tee shot 230 yards in the air with 20 yards of roll. His second shot travels 200 yards in the air with 20 yards of roll. Again, these are the averages used by the USGA.The male bogey golfer is defined as having a USGA handicap index of 17-22. By definition, he can hit his tee shot 180 yards in the air with 20 yards of roll. His second shot travels 150 yards in the air plus 20 yards of roll for a total distance of 170 yards. Therefore, the bogey golfer can reach a 370-yard hole in two shots, and a scratch golfer can reach a 470-yard hole in two shots.When it comes to the rating process, there are five playing-length factors considered for each hole: roll, elevation, wind, dogleg/forced lay-ups and altitude. Between these five factors, or a combination of them, the overall playing length of a golf course is either lengthened or shortened from the physical yardage of a course to establish its effective playing length.In addition to a courses effective playing length, there are 10 obstacles evaluated on each hole (nine are physical and one psychological). The nine obstacles are as follows: topography, fairway, green target, rough and recoverability, bunkers, out-of-bounds/extreme rough, water, trees and green surface. If that werent enough, the hole is given an extra boost of difficulty under the obstacle of psychology if the rating numbers determine that the hole plays more difficult.Each obstacle is given a numerical value ranging from 0-10 (0 being non-existent, 10 being extreme). To avoid subjectivity, the values assigned are taken from a table in the USGA Course Rating Guide. These values are based off of the distances the obstacle is from the center of the landing zone or target.For example: Assuming there are no effective playing length corrections, the team of course raters would first evaluate the landing area for the bogey golfer 200 yards off the tee. In this area, the team would measure the width of the fairway, the distance from the center of the fairway to the nearest boundary line, trees, hazard line and whether there are any bunkers nearby. The same procedure would be done for the scratch players landing area 250 yards off the tee.This evaluation process is repeated until the group reaches the green. The green width and depth are then measured as well as the amount of water and/or bunkers surrounding the green as well as how far it is to the nearest boundary line.This process is repeated on every hole and for every tee. Through this data, the scratch and bogey ratings are achieved. The two different numbers are then used to calculate the slope number.Because golf courses are such an integral and seemingly unchanging part of any club, its easy to forget that they are living, breathing things. They evolve over time. Trees are planted or succumb to disease and severe weather, bunkers are shifted or added to combat increases in driving distance and green complexes eventually shrink in size from changes in mowing patterns.Similarly, advances in course conditioning can also change the way a course plays. Lower fairway grass height, healthier and uniform rough areas and faster green speeds are all now possible.Due to the ever-changing nature of golf courses, the USGA requires all authorized golf associations to periodically review the ratings of their courses and to revise them if necessary. The USGA has licensed the TGA to rate courses according to their guidelines. If your club is a member of the TGA, you are required to comply with the guidelines that the USGA has set down for the TGA to follow.The TGA is required to re-rate a golf course within a 10-year period. All newly constructed golf courses often change due to their maturity. Therefore, the TGA rates these courses 5 years after the initial rating.If there have been any significant changes to your course, such as the size of the greens have changed, greenside or fairway bunkers have been added or removed, or a new set of tees have been added, your course may be in need of an adjustment. However, more than likely you are not in need of a full course rating. Many times the TGA can adjust the data and make these changes manually. These data changes can then be entered into the USGA Course Rating software to calculate an updated course rating and slope rating.For a general overview of TGA Course Rating, click here. If you have any questions about USGA Course Rating or need to have your course rated/re-rated, please contact Kelly Kilgo, Senior Director of Membership Services & Course Rating, at (214) 468-8942.

**Usga course rating calculator. Course handicap tables for usga slope ratings. Usga course rating system. Usga course rating manual 2020. Usga course rating guide. Usga course rating manual.**