

VBSGC Wedge Course Handicap Tutorial

02/10/2025

Prior to 2020, the USA/Mexico used the USGA's handicap system while the rest of the world used the British R&A handicap system. Since then, both have agreed to the World Handicap System (WHS). Wedge, our VBSGC scheduling and handicapping system is modified to become compliant with the USGA and WHS beginning in the 2025 season. The five factors of handicapping system are:

- Score Differential, Handicap Index and Course Handicap – These factors are individual specific
- Course Slope and Course Rating are course and tee specific for each course/tee we play.

A **Score Differential** measures the performance of a round in relation to the difficulty of the course played, measured by the Course Rating™ and Slope Rating™. A score of 80 on a difficult course may be a better performance than a 77 on an easier course. The Score Differential calculation formula and example is below.

113 / Course Slope Rating 113/121 113/110	+	Adjusted Gross Score – Course Rating 90-67.1 90-65.1	=	Score Differential 21.4 25.6
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Date	Course	Tee	Slope	Rating	Score	Equation	Differential
Aug. 28, 2024	Heron Ridge Golf Course	Gold	121	67.1	90	$(90 - 67.1) \times 113 / 121$	21.4
July 31, 2024	Sewell's Point Golf Course	Gold	110	65.1	90	$(90 - 65.1) \times 113 / 110$	25.6

Figure 1

A **Handicap Index** is a portable number that represents your demonstrated golfing ability. It is based on your past scores relative to the difficulty of the course and tees played. To calculate your Handicap Index, your 8 best Score Differentials from your most recent 20 scores are averaged. In the example below, the 8 lowest are highlighted.

Date	Course	Tee	Slope	Rating	Score	Equation	Differential
Sept. 11, 2024	Red Wing Lake Golf Course	Gold	111	66.3	90	$(90 - 66.3) \times 113 \div 111 =$	24.1
Sept. 4, 2024	Riverfront Golf Course	Green	125	68.3	95	$(95 - 68.3) \times 113 \div 125 =$	24.1
Aug. 28, 2024	Heron Ridge Golf Course	Gold	121	67.1	90	$(90 - 67.1) \times 113 \div 121 =$	21.4
Aug. 21, 2024	Eagle Creek Golf Course	Silver	107	65.5	92	$(92 - 65.5) \times 113 \div 107 =$	28.0
Aug. 14, 2024	Aeropines Golf Course	Orange	115	66.2	90	$(90 - 66.2) \times 113 \div 115 =$	23.4
July 31, 2024	Sewells Point Golf Course	Gold	110	65.1	90	$(90 - 65.1) \times 113 \div 110 =$	25.6
July 3, 2024	Cypress Point Country Club	Gold	111	66.2	92	$(92 - 66.2) \times 113 \div 111 =$	26.3
June 26, 2024	Chesapeake Golf Club	Gold	118	65.2	94	$(94 - 65.2) \times 113 \div 118 =$	27.6
June 19, 2024	Cypress Creek Golfers' Club	Gold	119	66.3	89	$(89 - 66.3) \times 113 \div 119 =$	21.6
June 5, 2024	Hells Point Golf Club	Gold	122	68.8	98	$(98 - 68.8) \times 113 \div 122 =$	27.0
May 29, 2024	Stumpy Lake Golf Course	Green	110	64.6	94	$(94 - 64.6) \times 113 \div 110 =$	30.2
May 22, 2024	Suffolk Golf Course	Green	113	65.6	88	$(88 - 65.6) \times 113 \div 113 =$	22.4
May 8, 2024	Battlefield Golf Club	Gold	109	65.2	96	$(96 - 65.2) \times 113 \div 109 =$	31.9
May 1, 2024	Kempsville Greens Golf Course	Yellow	112	63.8	90	$(90 - 63.8) \times 113 \div 112 =$	26.4
April 17, 2024	Red Wing Lake Golf Course	Gold	111	66.3	89	$(89 - 66.3) \times 113 \div 111 =$	23.1
April 10, 2024	Honey Bee Golf Club	Blue	116	65.6	94	$(94 - 65.6) \times 113 \div 116 =$	27.7
March 27, 2024	Sleepy Hole Golf Course	Yellow	122	66.5	94	$(94 - 66.5) \times 113 \div 122 =$	25.5
Nov. 1, 2023	Sewells Point Golf Course	Red	108	63.0	88	$(88 - 63.0) \times 113 \div 108 =$	26.2
Oct. 18, 2023	Aeropines Golf Course	Orange	115	66.4	89	$(89 - 66.4) \times 113 \div 115 =$	22.2
Oct. 11, 2023	Kempsville Greens Golf Course	Green	112	63.8	92	$(92 - 63.8) \times 113 \div 112 =$	28.5

Figure 2

Handicap Index 22.7	=	Average of 8 lowest Score Differentials of the last 20 rounds Sum of (21.4, 21.6, 22.2, 22.4, 23.1, 23.4, 24.1, 24.1) / 8 (182.3 / 8) = 22.79 (keep only last number after decimal point)
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There are two course factors used in handicapping – Course Rating and Slope Rating. Both are calculated/certified by the USGA/VSGA and are course specific and tee specific:

- **Course Rating** - An indication of the difficulty of a golf course for the scratch player (HI of 0.0) under normal course and weather conditions.
- **Slope Rating** - An indication of the relative difficulty of a golf course for players who are not scratch players compared to players who are scratch players.

Both factors come from the USGA National Course Rating Database, viewable on the Internet at ncrd.usga.org.

Course Handicap® - As previously discussed, your Handicap Index is a portable number that represents your demonstrated ability - but when it comes time to tee it up, that number is converted to a Course Handicap, which accounts for the difficulty of the course and tees played. That conversion is depicted below:

$$\text{Handicap Index} \times \text{Slope Rating/113} + \text{Course Rating - Par} = \text{Course Handicap}$$

Example:

Using the data Figures 1 and 2, the player has a Handicap Index of 22.7. You are now able to calculate a Course Handicap for that player at Heron Ridge and Sewell's Point. Using the formula above:

Heron Ridge Golf Club

$$\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Handicap Index} \\ \hline 22.7 \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Slope Rating/113} \\ \hline 121 / 113 \\ \hline \end{array} + \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Course Rating - Par} \\ \hline 67.1 - 72 \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Course Handicap} \\ \hline 20 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Sewell's Point Golf Course

$$\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Handicap Index} \\ \hline 22.7 \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Slope Rating/113} \\ \hline 110 / 113 \\ \hline \end{array} + \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Course Rating - Par} \\ \hline 65.1 - 72 \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Course Handicap} \\ \hline 17 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Viewing these two examples, the USGA/VGSA has determined that Heron Ridge is a more difficult course than Sewell's Point based on their Course and Slope Ratings resulting in a higher Course Handicap on Heron Ridge than Sewell's Point. In a 36 – Minus format, that player would have to pull 3 more points on the easier course.

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How does Wedge Handicap (Old) compare to Wedge Course Handicap (New in 2025)?

Wedge Handicap (Old)

It appears on the surface that just using the Wedge Handicap as we did in 2024 and prior, is a fair means to compare golfers of different abilities, using different tee boxes on different courses, but is it? We'll use 3 players in this explanation:

Player A	Wedge Handicap/Senior Tee	7	Wedge w/Course Handicap	7.2
Player B	Wedge Handicap/Senior Tee	16	Wedge w/Course Handicap	15.9
Player C	Wedge Handicap/Next Forward Tee	23	Wedge w/Course Handicap	22.7

Playing a 36 Minus format tournament using Wedge in 2024, players would need to pull the following points:

	<u>River Front</u>		<u>Ocean View</u>
Player A	36 – 7 = 29 points	Player A	36 – 7 = 29 points
Player B	36 – 16 = 20 points	Player B	36 – 16 = 20 points
Player C	36 – 23 = 13 points	Player C	36 – 23 = 13 points.

Wedge Course Handicap (New in 2025)

$$\boxed{\text{Handicap Index}} \times \boxed{\text{Slope Rating/113}} + \boxed{\text{Course Rating – Par}} = \boxed{\text{Course Handicap}}$$

Course	Tee Box	Tee Color	Par	Course Rating	Slope
Riverfront	Senior	Green	72	68.3	125
Riverfront	Next Forward	Gold	72	64.8	117
Ocean View	Senior	Silver	70	66.0	111
Ocean View	Next Forward	Red	70	62.0	100

Playing a 36 Minus format tournament at Riverfront using Wedge Course Handicap:

Player A – Course Handicap =	$7.2 \times (125/113) + (68.3 - 72) = 4$	Needs to pull 32 points
Player B – Course Handicap =	$15.9 \times (125/113) + (68.3 - 72) = 14$	Needs to pull 22 points
Player C – Course Handicap =	$22.7 \times (117/113) + (64.8 - 72) = 16$	Needs to pull 20 points

Playing a 36 Minus format tournament at Ocean View Wedge Course Handicap:

Player A – Course Handicap =	$7.2 \times (111 / 113) + (66.0 - 70) = 0$	Needs to pull 36 points
Player B – Course Handicap =	$15.9 \times (111 / 113) + (66.0 - 70) = 8$	Needs to pull 28 points
Player C – Course Handicap =	$22.7 \times (111 / 113) + (62.0 - 70) = 12$	Needs to pull 24 points

Riverfront and Ocean View are probably the difficulty extremes we play. Should we expect to pull the same number of points on both courses? Probably not. VBSGC is modifying Wedge beginning in 2025 to address the difficulty differences will ensure VBSGC provides a fair and level playing field regardless of the course played, tees used, or golfer's ability.

Difference in 36 Minus Points required from the examples above - Wedge Handicap (WH) vs Wedge Course Handicap (WCH):

	<u>Riverfront</u>	<u>WH</u>	<u>WCH</u>	<u>Dif</u>	<u>Ocean View</u>	<u>WH</u>	<u>WCH</u>	<u>Dif</u>
Player A		29	32	+3		29	36	+7
Player B		20	22	+2		20	28	+8
Player C		13	16	+3		13	24	+11