

USGA 2024

GOLF SCORECARD



FOR THE GOOD OF THE GAME®

This report is based on data from January 1 - November 30, 2024

IN 2024, 3.35 MILLION GOLFERS IN THE U.S. MAINTAINED A HANDICAP INDEX®

THIS IS UP **200K (6.3%) YOY**
COMPARED TO 2023

MALE PLAYERS		+180K	+7.0%
FEMALE PLAYERS	+20K	+3.5%	

SINCE 2020, THE
NUMBER OF GOLFERS
WITH A H.I.™ **HAS**
INCREASED BY 750K
(28.8%)

Female players make up 18.0% of the 3.35 million
golfers with a Handicap Index.

+670K

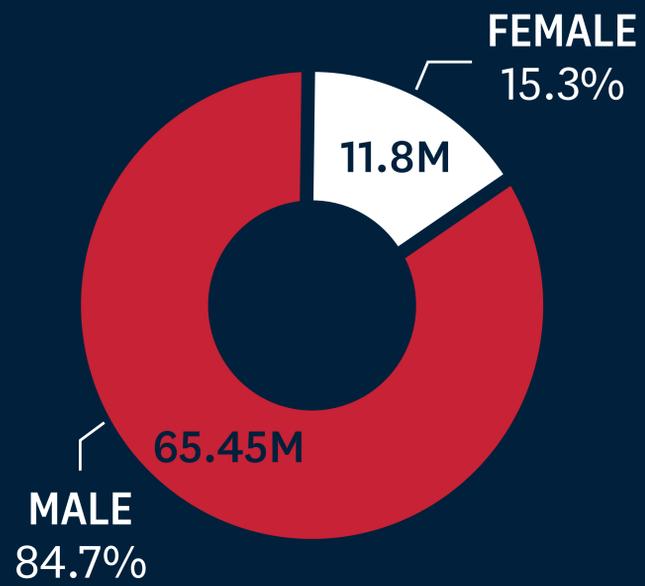
MALE PLAYERS +32.2% SINCE 2020

+80K

FEMALE PLAYERS +15.4% SINCE 2020

A RECORD 77.25 MILLION SCORES WERE POSTED IN THE U.S.

THIS IS UP **1.77M (2.3%)** YOY AND UP **6.23M (8.8%)** COMPARED TO 2020



Here's a monthly breakdown of when those scores were posted

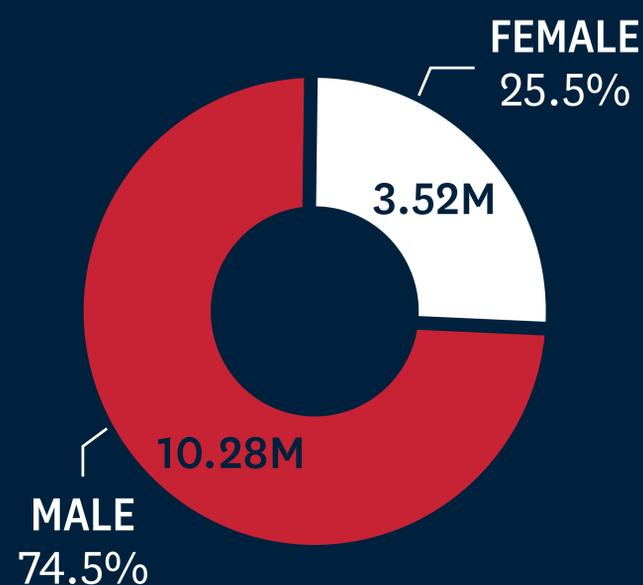


OF THE 77.25M SCORES POSTED, GOLFERS ENTERED THEIR SCORES **HOLE-BY-HOLE 34.9% OF THE TIME**

A RECORD 13.8 MILLION 9-HOLE SCORES WERE POSTED IN THE U.S.

+1.03M

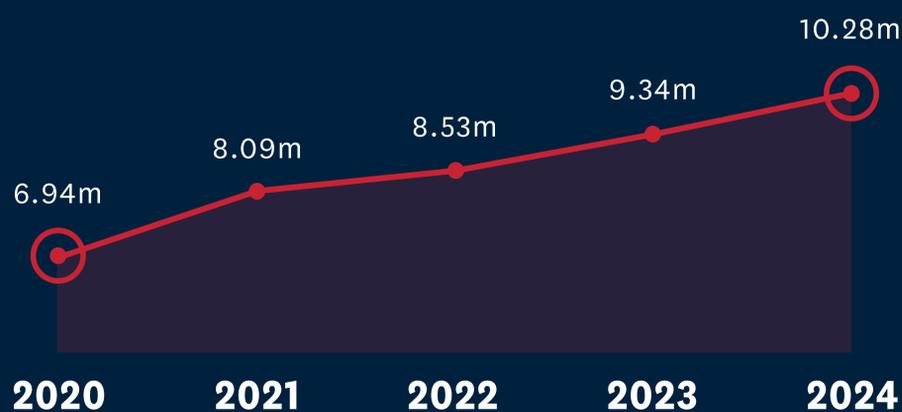
+8.0% YOY



This continues a trend where the number of 9-hole scores posted by male and female players has increased every year since 2020.

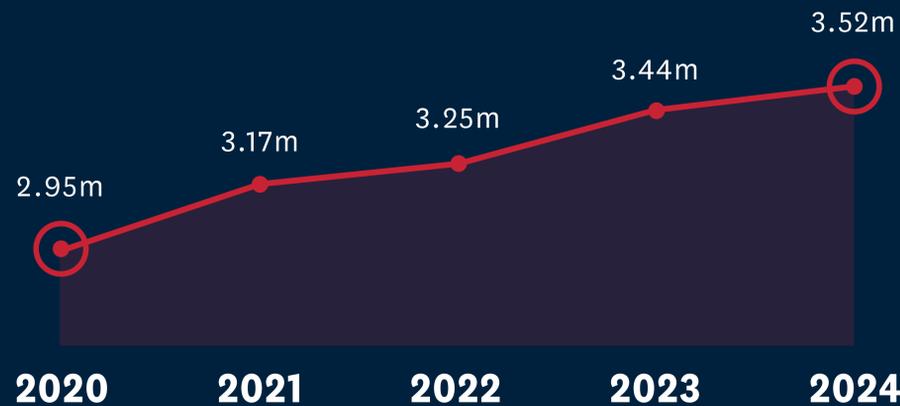
MALE 9-HOLE SCORES

+48.1% SINCE 2020

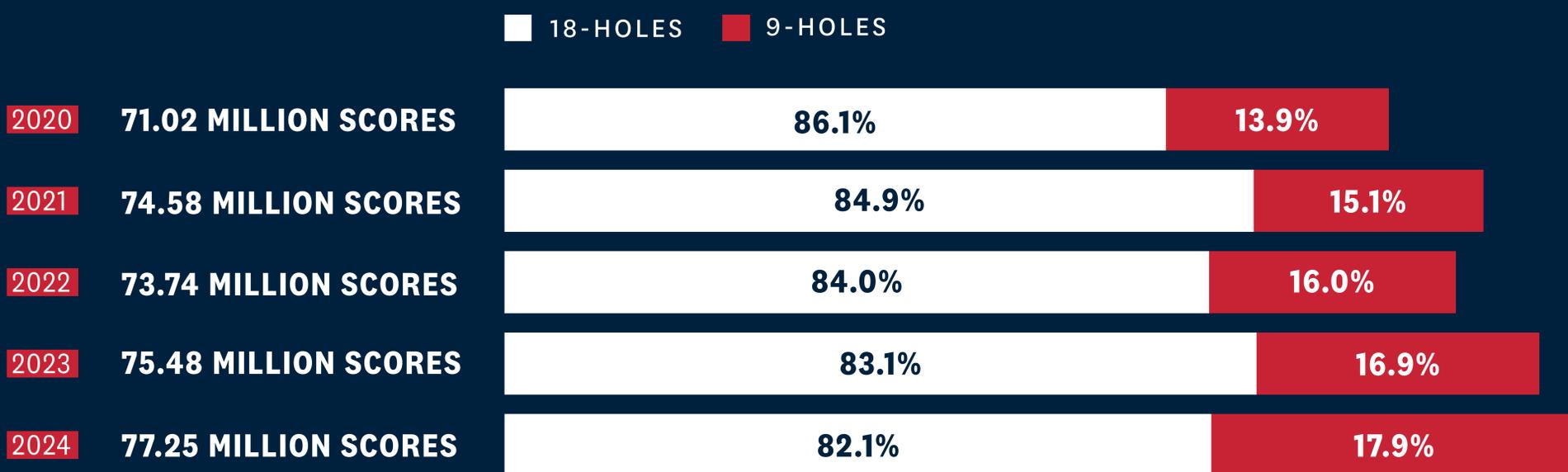


FEMALE 9-HOLE SCORES

+19.3% SINCE 2020

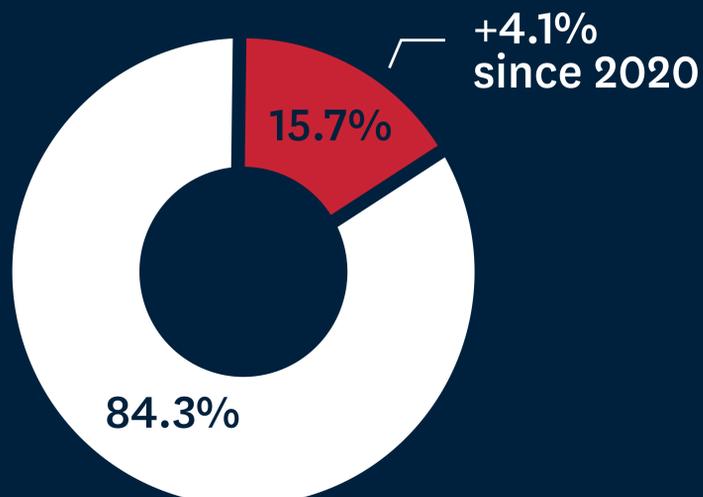


9-HOLE SCORES ARE ACCOUNTING FOR A HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF ALL SCORES POSTED YEAR OVER YEAR

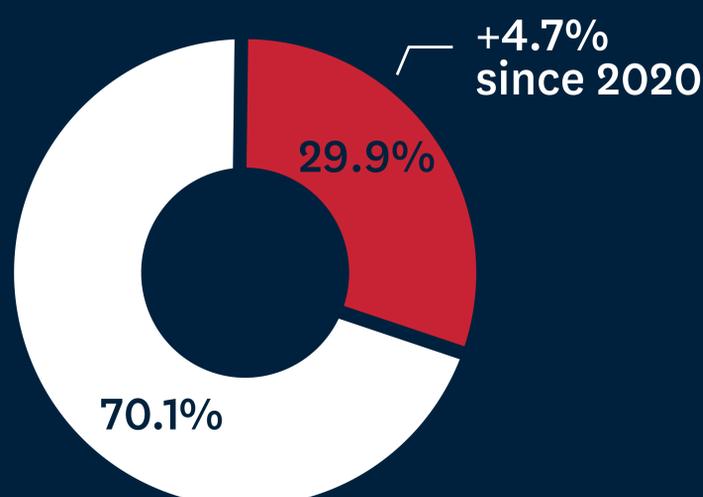


If we look at male and female players specifically:

■ 18-HOLES ■ 9-HOLES



MALE GOLFERS



FEMALE GOLFERS

9-HOLE AND 18-HOLE CULTURE BY STATE/TERRITORY

Here are the top 10 states/territories
where 9-hole rounds are most prevalent

1. MAINE	32.6%
2. NEW HAMPSHIRE	32.3%
3. SOUTH DAKOTA	31.7%
4. IOWA	30.6%
5. MASSACHUSETTS	30.4%
6. RHODE ISLAND	30.0%
7. MICHIGAN	29.6%
8. NEBRASKA	28.7%
9. CONNECTICUT	28.6%
10. WYOMING	28.1%

AVID 9-HOLE CULTURE

Here are the top 10 states/territories
where 18-hole rounds are most prevalent

1. NEVADA	93.3%
2. MISSISSIPPI	92.8%
3. HAWAII	92.3%
5. LOUISIANA	92.0%
6. PUERTO RICO	91.2%
7. TEXAS	90.5%
8. ARIZONA	90.4%
8. OKLAHOMA	90.3%
9. ARKANSAS	89.5%
10. ALABAMA	88.9%

AVID 18-HOLE CULTURE

WHO IS THE AVERAGE GOLFER IN 2024?

MALE GOLFERS

AVERAGE HANDICAP INDEX

14.2

The majority of players fall within these three handicap ranges

1. 10.0 to 14.9	26.7%
2. 15.0 to 19.9	22.0%
3. 5.0 to 9.9	20.2%

ON AVERAGE, MALE PLAYERS POSTED **24 SCORES IN 2024**



FEMALE GOLFERS

AVERAGE HANDICAP INDEX

28.7

The majority of players fall within these three handicap ranges

1. 25.0 to 29.9	19.7%
2. 30.0 to 34.9	17.0%
3. 20.0 to 24.9	16.4%

ON AVERAGE, FEMALE PLAYERS POSTED **20 SCORES IN 2024**



How avid are some golfers? Here's a look at the number and percentage of players that posted 25+ scores (and more) in 2024.

25+	1.16M (34.6%)	100+	85.3K (2.5%)	175+	5.3K (0.16%)
50+	487K (14.6%)	125+	33.9K (1.0%)	200+	2.1K (0.06%)
75+	206K (6.2%)	150+	13.4K (0.4%)		

432.7K GOLFERS ESTABLISHED A HANDICAP INDEX FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 2024

366.0K were male players while 66.7K were female players

THESE NEW
GOLFERS HAVE A
HIGHER AVERAGE
HANDICAP INDEX

16.5

NEW MALE PLAYERS

Compared to 14.2 for all
players (+2.3 strokes higher)

32.1

NEW FEMALE PLAYERS

Compared to 28.7 for all
players (+3.4 strokes higher)

NEW GOLFERS
POSTED **5,195,785**
SCORES IN 2024

4.62M

NEW MALE PLAYERS

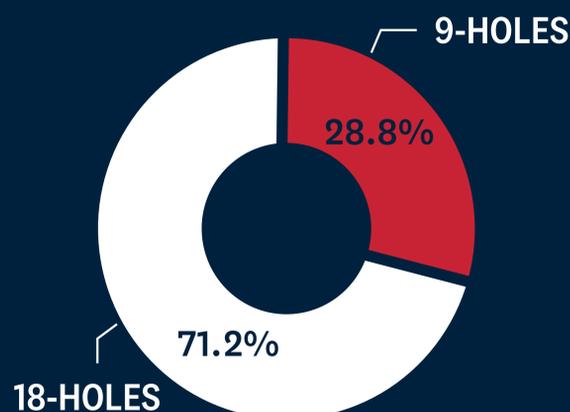
The average new male player
posted 15 scores

576K

NEW FEMALE PLAYERS

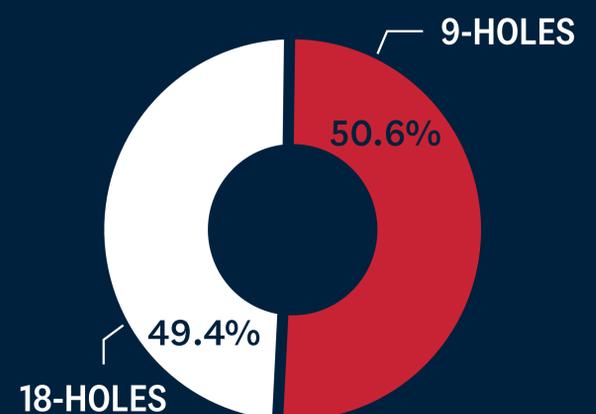
The average new female
player posted 11 scores

NEW GOLFERS ARE PLAYING
9-HOLES **MUCH MORE FREQUENTLY**



NEW MALE PLAYERS

COMPARED TO 15.7% FOR ALL MALES



NEW FEMALE PLAYERS

COMPARED TO 29.9% FOR ALL FEMALES

GOLFERS POSTED 182K SCORES AT PAR-3 COURSES IN 2024

As part of the 2024 revision to the World Handicap System™, par-3 courses (courses as short as 750 yards/1,500 yards for 9- and 18-holes, respectively) became eligible to receive a Course Rating™ and Slope Rating®.

NUMBER OF PAR-3 COURSES RATED BY THEIR LOCAL ALLIED GOLF ASSOCIATION **SINCE JANUARY**

350+

TOTAL PAR-3 COURSES

250+

18-HOLE COURSES

100+

9-HOLE COURSES

52.9% OF SCORES POSTED AT PAR-3 COURSES ARE **9-HOLE ROUNDS**

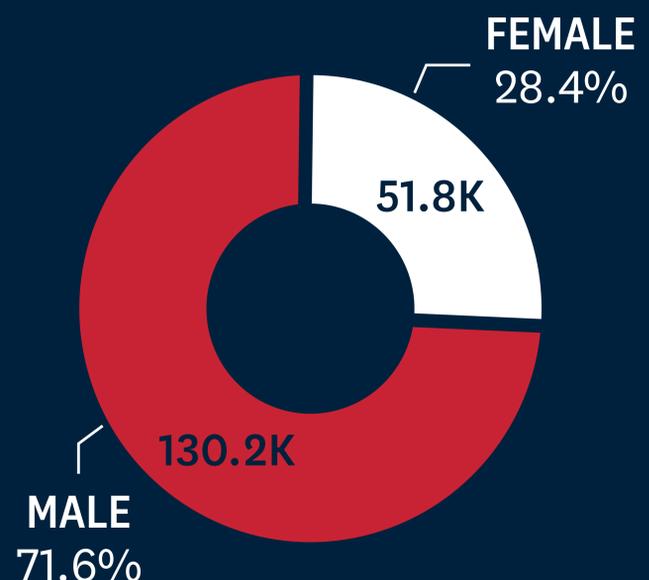
Number of scores

9-HOLES	95.8K SCORES
18-HOLES	86.2K SCORES

Percentage of 9-hole vs. 18-hole scores

MALE	9-holes	51.8%	18-holes	48.2%
FEMALE	9-holes	54.6%	18-holes	45.4%

Females account for a higher percentage of scores at par-3 courses compared to traditional length courses.



+13.1% COMPARED TO TRADITIONAL LENGTH COURSES

1 IN 4 GOLFERS WITH A HANDICAP INDEX PLAYED IN A COMPETITION

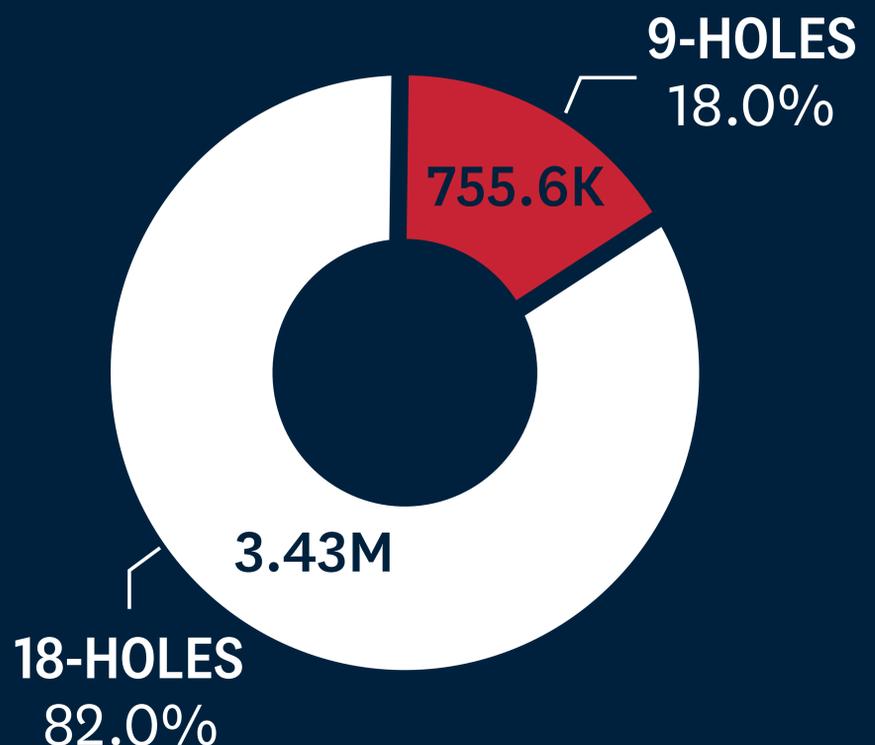
839K GOLFERS

POSTED AT LEAST 1 COMPETITION SCORE

MALE GOLFERS	696.7K	25.4% OF ALL MALE PLAYERS
FEMALE GOLFERS	142.3K	23.7% OF ALL FEMALE PLAYERS
		-0.9% YOY
		-0.4% YOY

A TOTAL OF 4.19M
COMPETITION SCORES
WERE POSTED THIS YEAR

+281K YOY



OF THE 839K GOLFERS THAT DID PLAY COMPETITIVELY

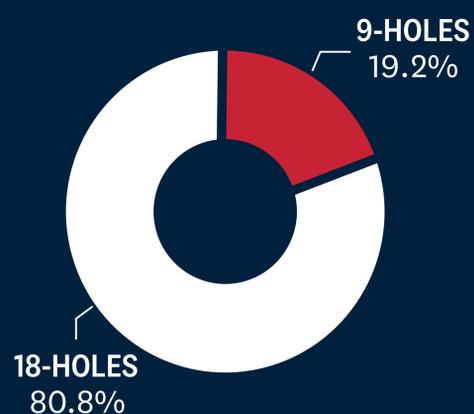
THE AVERAGE MALE COMPETITIVE PLAYER POSTED

5 COMPETITION SCORES

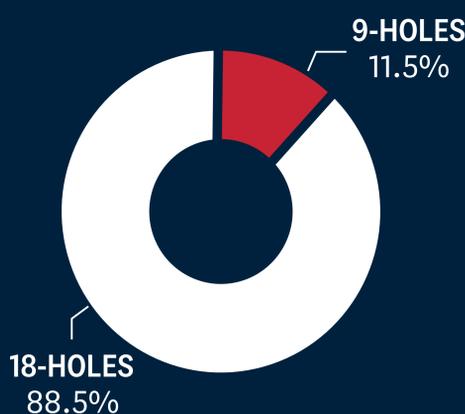
THE AVERAGE FEMALE COMPETITIVE PLAYER POSTED

4 COMPETITION SCORES

FEMALES PLAY A **HIGHER PERCENTAGE** OF 18-HOLE COMPETITIONS THAN MALE PLAYERS



MALE COMPETITION SCORES



FEMALE COMPETITION SCORES

12,397

COMPETITION SCORES WERE POSTED AT PAR-3 COURSES

8,675 were posted by male players and 3,722 were posted by female players

MOST NEW GOLFERS **AREN'T SIGNING UP** FOR A HANDICAP INDEX TO PLAY COMPETITIVELY.

9.8%

NEW PLAYERS THAT SIGNED UP IN 2024 PLAYED IN A COMPETITION

8.3% of new female players posted a competition score while 10.1% of new males did.

64.8% OF SCORES WERE POSTED ON THE DAY OF PLAY

THIS IS UP 3.1% YOY AND UP 8.2% SINCE 2020

This is a positive trend because at least 8 scores must be posted before midnight at a given course for the playing conditions calculation (PCC) to be considered.

THE NUMBER OF PCC ADJUSTMENTS INCREASED BY 9,958 (7.8%) YOY

Here's a breakdown of PCC adjustments by month in 2024 (where PCC was not 0).

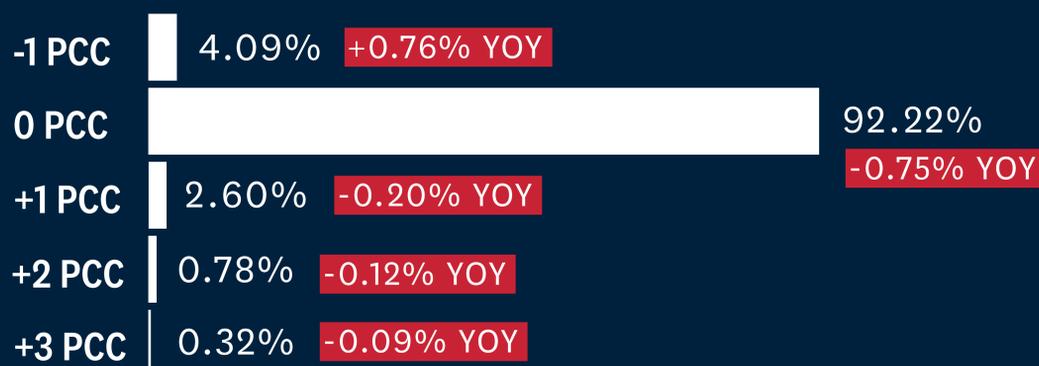


THE PLAYING CONDITIONS CALCULATION PRODUCED 138.2K ADJUSTMENTS THIS YEAR

At the end of each day, the PCC takes place automatically and compares scores posted at each course to the expected scores of the players who made them. If scores are significantly higher or lower than expected, an adjustment is applied to all players who played the course that day so their Score Differential™ better reflects the conditions in which they played.

ON DAYS WHERE 8+ SCORES WERE POSTED, PCC ADJUSTMENTS WERE APPLIED 7.8% OF THE TIME

Here's a breakdown of the PCCs produced in 2024



Note: A (-) adjustment means the course played easier than expected and a (+) adjustment means the course played more difficult than expected.

THERE WERE 214.5K EXCEPTIONAL SCORES POSTED IN 2024

An exceptional score is one that produces a Score Differential that is 7.0 or more strokes below the player's Handicap Index. If it is 7.0 to 9.9 strokes better, a -1.0 adjustment is applied to their handicap. If it is 10.0 or more strokes below, a -2.0 adjustment is applied.

177.5K

scores produced a -1.0
exceptional score reduction

37.0K

scores produced a -2.0
exceptional score reduction

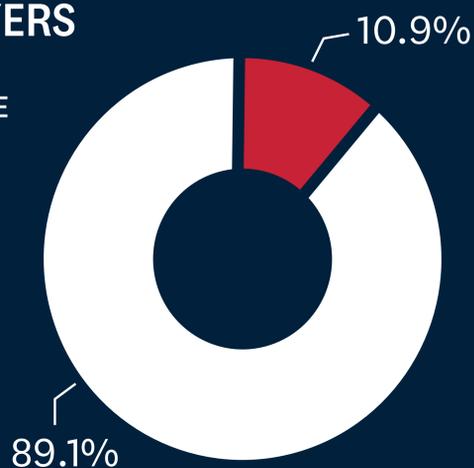
MALE PLAYERS ACCOUNTED FOR 74.7% OF -1 ESRs AND 61.0% OF -2 ESRs

The majority of exceptional scores are produced by players with a higher Handicap Index

ESRs BY MALE PLAYERS

■ H.I. 10.0 OR ABOVE

■ H.I. BELOW 10.0



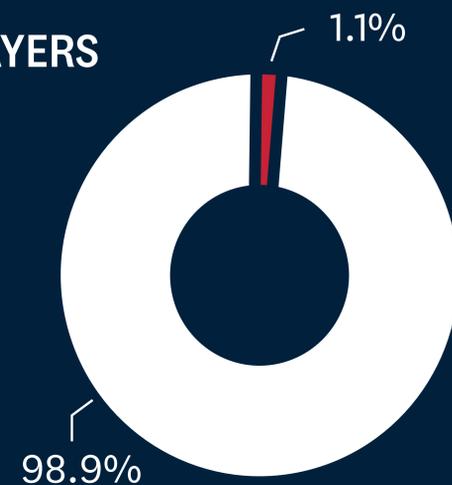
FEMALE PLAYERS ACCOUNTED FOR 25.3% OF -1 ESRs AND 39.0% OF -2 ESRs

The majority of exceptional scores are produced by players with a higher Handicap Index

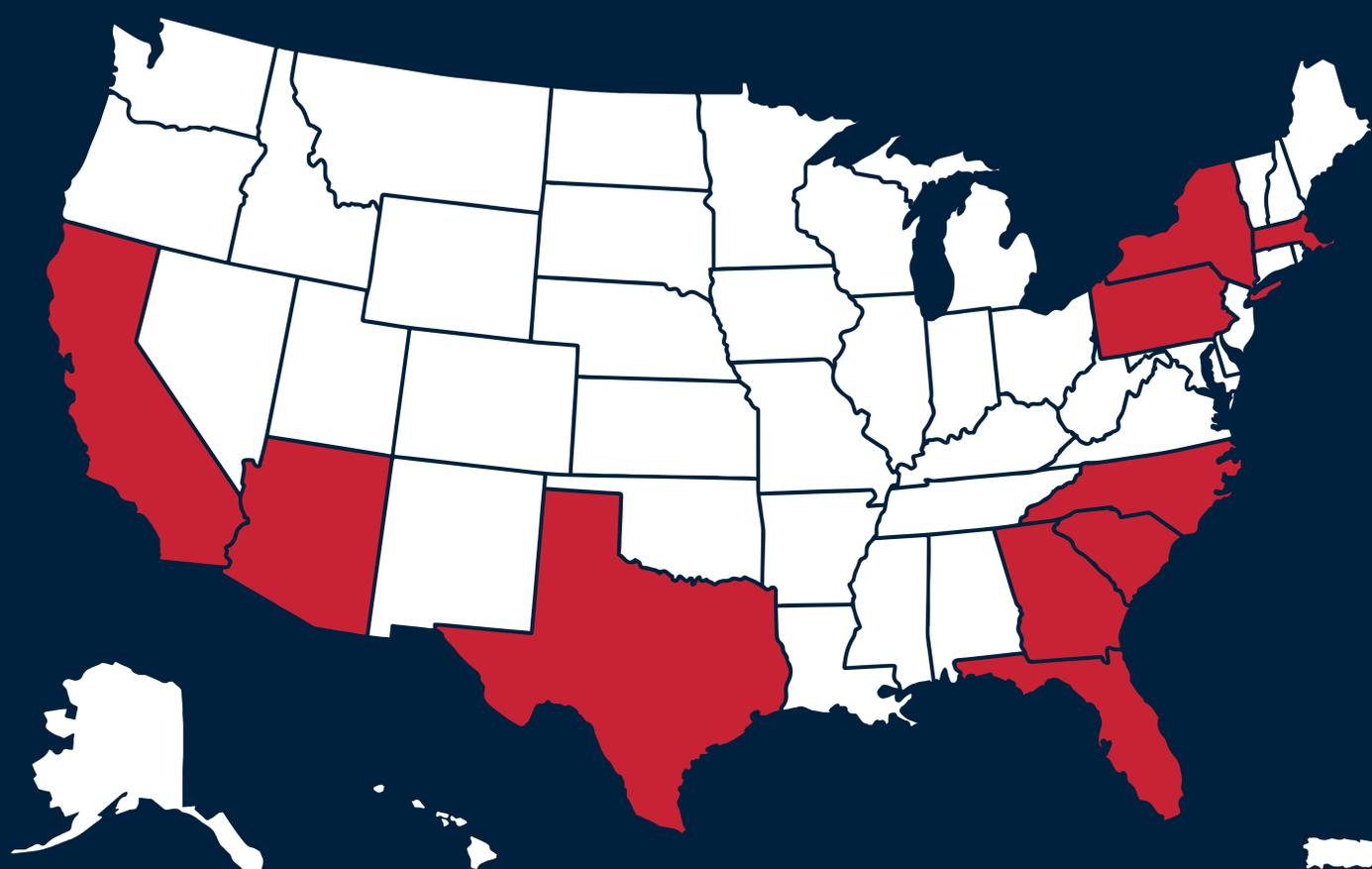
ESRs BY FEMALE PLAYERS

■ H.I. 10.0 OR ABOVE

■ H.I. BELOW 10.0



HERE ARE THE STATES WHERE GOLFERS POSTED THE MOST SCORES



1. FLORIDA	9,756,543
2. CALIFORNIA	8,150,179
3. TEXAS	3,647,229
4. NORTH CAROLINA	3,335,955
5. ARIZONA	3,298,331
6. NEW YORK	2,951,832
7. SOUTH CAROLINA	2,807,405
8. MASSACHUSETTS	2,686,599
9. PENNSYLVANIA	2,492,473
10. GEORGIA	2,191,256

HERE'S A LOOK AT THE STATES WITH THE LOWEST AVERAGE HANDICAP INDEX

MALE

1. MISSISSIPPI	10.7
2. ARKANSAS	10.7
3. OKLAHOMA	10.9
4. ALABAMA	11.6
5. TENNESSEE	11.8
6. TEXAS	12.3
7. NORTH DAKOTA	12.4
8. LOUISIANA	12.4
9. KANSAS	12.5
10. KENTUCKY	12.5

FEMALE

1. MISSISSIPPI	22.7
2. HAWAII	24.0
3. ARKANSAS	24.2
5. LOUISIANA	24.7
6. NORTH DAKOTA	25.0
7. OKLAHOMA	25.2
8. TEXAS	25.5
8. ALABAMA	25.6
9. TENNESSEE	26.4
10. NEW MEXICO	26.9

NOTE

Ties were broken by looking at hundredths of a stroke.

THE MOST SCORES WERE POSTED IN THE U.S. AT THESE 10 COURSES

1. FL	LAKWOOD RANCH GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB - ROYAL LAKES	37,629
2. NC	THE CLUBS AT ST. JAMES - FOUNDERS CLUB	35,648
3. NC	THE CLUBS AT ST. JAMES - PLAYERS CLUB	34,914
4. AZ	EAGLES NEST GOLF CLUB	33,303
5. FL	SARASOTA NATIONAL	32,971
6. AZ	THE HIGHLANDS AT DOVE MOUNTAIN	32,942
7. FL	LEGENDS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB FORT MEYERS	32,674
8. NC	THE CLUBS AT ST. JAMES - RESERVE CLUB	32,460
9. CA	CORONADO GOLF CLUB	31,785
10. AZ	TUSCANY FALLS - WEST COURSE	31,712

FUN FACT

All ten courses are in states with year-round score-posting seasons.

HERE'S A LIST OF THE COURSES IN EACH STATE/TERRITORY WITH THE MOST SCORES POSTED

AK	ANCHORAGE GOLF COURSE	5,347
AL	VESTAVIA COUNTRY CLUB	16,844
AR	PINNACLE COUNTRY CLUB	11,232
AZ	EAGLES NEST GOLF CLUB	33,303
CA	CORONADO GOLF CLUB	31,785
CO	MERIDIAN GOLF CLUB	19,792
CT	H SMITH RICHARDSON GOLF COURSE	22,089
DE	THE PENINSULA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	18,599
FL	LAKWOOD RANCH GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB - ROYAL LAKES	37,629
GA	RIVERMONT GOLF CLUB	28,085
HI	WAIALAE COUNTRY CLUB	26,049
IA	DES MOINES GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB - NORTH	16,781
ID	HILLCREST COUNTRY CLUB	17,425
IL	SUNSET VALLEY GOLF CLUB	16,051
IN	WOODLAND COUNTRY CLUB	15,240
KS	COUNTRY CLUB OF LEAWOOD	18,799
KY	MIDLAND TRAIL GOLF CLUB	16,887
LA	THE UNIVERSITY CLUB	16,011
MA	VESPER COUNTRY CLUB	22,531
MD	WINTERS RUN GOLF CLUB	18,345
ME	BIDDEFORD-SACO COUNTRY CLUB	18,335
MI	BIRMINGHAM CC	16,989
MN	MINNESOTA VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB	19,735
MO	THE GOLF CLUB AT CREEKMOOR	16,607
MS	THE CLUB AT DIAMONDHEAD - CARDINAL COURSE	10,788

MT	LAUREL GOLF CLUB	12,508
NC	THE CLUBS AT ST. JAMES - FOUNDERS CLUB	35,648
ND	ROSE CREEK GOLF COURSE	9,862
NE	CHAMPIONS RUN	16,859
NH	CONCORD COUNTRY CLUB	20,349
NJ	MENDHAM GOLF & TENNIS CLUB	16,770
NM	NEW MEXICO STATE UNIV GOLF CLUB	14,663
NV	CANYON GATE COUNTRY CLUB	17,310
NY	PENFIELD COUNTRY CLUB	16,471
OH	JEFFERSON COUNTRY CLUB	18,096
OK	SOUTHERN HILLS COUNTRY CLUB	17,709
OR	WILLAMETTE VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB	24,847
PA	SANDY RUN COUNTRY CLUB	19,639
PR	AURORA INTERNATIONAL GOLF CLUB	1,567
RI	MONTAUP COUNTRY CLUB	20,922
SC	HAMPTON HALL CLUB	27,285
SD	THE COUNTRY CLUB OF SIOUX FALLS	11,169
TN	RICHLAND COUNTRY CLUB	20,407
TX	SUN CITY GOLF CLUB - LEGACY HILLS	21,656
UT	WILLOW CREEK COUNTRY CLUB	16,859
VA	WASHINGTON GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	21,164
VT	VERMONT NATIONAL COUNTRY CLUB	12,897
WA	ROYAL OAKS COUNTRY CLUB	27,425
WI	SAND VALLEY GOLF RESORT - MAMMOTH DUNES	15,190
WV	THE PINES COUNTRY CLUB	11,959
WY	PARADISE VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB	8,964