

# Course Rating™ and Slope Rating® under the World Handicap System™

## How are these terms defined?

When you look at a scorecard or post a score toward your Handicap Index® - you may be exposed to the following terms:

- **Course Rating** - Reflects how difficult a golf course is for a scratch player (Handicap Index of 0.0) under normal conditions.
  - ➔ A Course Rating of 71.2 means a scratch player can expect to shoot around 71 when playing well.
- **Bogey Rating™** - Indicates the difficulty of a golf course for a bogey player.
- **Slope Rating** - Represents the relative difficulty of a golf course for non-scratch players compared to scratch players.
  - ➔ The greater the difference between Course Rating and Bogey Rating, the higher the Slope Rating.

## What is the impact of Slope Rating?

Slope Rating has a greater impact on the Course Handicap™ of higher-handicap players than on lower-handicap players (see example below).

This is because Slope Rating does not significantly affect expected scoring for players with lower handicaps. As Slope Rating increases, higher-handicap players face more challenges navigating obstacles such as forced carries over penalty areas, thick rough, deep greenside bunkers, and undulating greens.

**Course Info: Course Rating 71.1 / Par 72**

Player	Handicap Index	Course Handicap (SR = 118)	Course Handicap (SR = 139)	Impact of Slope Rating
Kelly	3.4	3	3	0
Sara	27.2	28	33	+5

## What do these Ratings mean for golfers?

**Course Rating and Slope Rating make a Handicap Index portable.** They work together to ensure that players receive the correct number of handicap strokes no matter where they play.

In addition, every posted score is evaluated against the difficulty of the course, producing a Score Differential™. This value reflects how well a player performed for that round and is a key component in calculating a Handicap Index.

For more information or to learn more about the WHS, visit [usga.org/whs](https://usga.org/whs)

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