

# Course Handicap™ and Playing Handicap™ under the World Handicap System™

## How are these terms defined?

As you engage with the World Handicap System, you'll often come across the following terms:

- ➔ **Handicap Index®** - The measure of your demonstrated ability, based on your better performances. To apply it to a specific golf course and set of tees, it must be converted into a Course Handicap.
- ➔ **Course Handicap** - The number of strokes you receive (or give) during a round, representing the strokes needed to play to par from the tees being used. It is also used to adjust individual hole scores to a maximum of net double bogey.
- ➔ **Playing Handicap** - The number of strokes a player gives or receives in a competition. It can differ from the Course Handicap based on the format of play, when handicap allowances are applied, or when players compete from tees with different pars.

## Can I see an example?

- A player has a **Handicap Index of 12.2**. The details of the tees being played are:  
**Course Rating™: 71.4 | Slope Rating®: 125 | Par: 72**
- Using these values, the player's **Course Handicap is 13**.
- The format is Four-Ball stroke play with a handicap allowance of 85%. Applying the allowance to the unrounded Course Handicap results in a **Playing Handicap of 11**.

## What is the relationship between these three values?

