



GIFFORD HANDICAP COMMITTEE

OVERVIEW

The **Handicap Committee** is responsible for **administering and protecting the integrity of the club's handicap system**, typically under the **World Handicap System (WHS)**. Its role is to ensure that all handicaps are **fair, accurate, and reflective of players' current abilities**.

Individual players also have a responsibility to ensure their handicap is correct.

Handicap Committee Members: **Charlene Currie – Handicap Secretary**
David Cockerton (Vice Captain)
Grant Martin

Contact: handicaps@giffordgolfclub.com)

Key roles and responsibilities

1. Handicap administration - ongoing

- Ensure players have a valid handicap index
- Oversee the correct application of WHS rules at the club
- Maintain handicap records and ensure scores are properly posted

2. Score posting oversight - ongoing

- Acceptable scores should be submitted promptly and correctly
- Address any missing, incorrect, or questionable score entries
- Educate members on when and how to post scores

3. Handicap reviews and adjustments – quarterly or as required

- Review handicap indexes for accuracy and fairness
- Apply **handicap adjustments** when a handicap does not reflect a player's demonstrated ability (e.g., rapid improvement, prolonged poor form, or exceptional performance)

4. Protecting fairness and integrity – as required

- Investigate potential manipulation or abuse of the handicap system
- Promote equitable play among members of differing abilities

5. Member education and communication

- Explain handicap rules and changes to members
- Provide guidance on course handicap calculations
- Answer questions and resolve disputes related to handicaps

6. Liaison with governing bodies - ongoing

- Work with national or regional golf associations
- Ensure the club complies with official handicap regulations

Why the handicap committee matters

Without a properly functioning Handicap Committee:

- Competitions can become unfair
- Handicaps may become unreliable
- Trust in the system can erode among players

FAQ's Bulletin 1 – Mar 2026

“How is my WHS Handicap Index actually calculated?”

- Your Handicap Index is based on the **best 8 of your most recent and acceptable 20 scores**
- Each score is converted automatically into a **Score Differential**
- Those 8 differentials are averaged
- The result (rounded to one decimal) becomes your Handicap Index

“Why did my handicap go up/down after just one round?”

This happens because:

- A new score may replace one of your “best 8”
- A low round can enter your counting scores immediately
- A higher round usually doesn't affect things unless it bumps out a better score
- **Exceptional Score Reductions (ESR)** can kick in after very good rounds

In other words: it's not about *that* round alone — it's about how it reshapes your best 8.

If you feel your handicap isn't changing as expected, because, eg, you're playing better or worse than normal over a sustained period, get in touch with the committee. The WHS has certain limits on how fast a handicap can go up or down but, in the right circumstances, the handicap committee can override these.

“What's the difference between Handicap Index and Course Handicap?”

- **Handicap Index** = your portable skill number (same everywhere)
- **Course Handicap** = how many strokes you get on *that specific course & tees*

Your Course Handicap changes depending on Course Rating (every course is measured and assessed and awarded a rating that reflects difficulty), Slope Rating (shows how much harder a course is for a bogey golfer (around an 18 HI player) compared to a scratch player) and par for that specific course

So, you might be a **10.4 Index**, but play as 11 strokes on one course and 13 on another.

The percentage of your course handicap used in a competition may vary. We regularly review these percentages to make sure all competitions remain fair and no player has an advantage.

When you enter a competition through How Did I Do (HDID), you'll be able to see the exact handicap percentage applied in the competition details.