

APPENDIX A

INTRODUCTION

The EGA Handicap System has been designed to achieve uniformity and equity in handicapping throughout Europe and to provide EGA Playing Handicaps that are adjusted according to the relative playing difficulty (Course and Slope Rating) of the course being played.

In consultation with the *National Associations* over the past years, the EGA has decided that these purposes can be most effectively achieved by incorporating the Course and Slope Rating System of the USGA as one of the foundations of the EGA Handicap System.

Policies of *National Associations* issuing Course and Slope Ratings must be consistent with the regulations of the USGA Course Rating System.

The *National Associations* shall follow all of the procedures in exactly the way the USGA Course Rating Manual and Guides prescribe. No alterations are allowed. All interpretations are made by the USGA.

The text in this Appendix A of the EGA Handicap System concerning Course and Slope Rating is a modified copy of the text in section 12 through 15 of the "USGA HANDICAP SYSTEM" (Effective January 1, 2002 – December 31, 2005).

Section 12, 14 and 15, by permission of the USGA, are modified to meet the conditions within the realm of the EGA. Section 13 is an in verbatim copy.

USGA HANDICAP SYSTEM, SECTION 12.

MEASUREMENTS

12-1. STARTING POINT: PERMANENT MARKERS

The starting point from which each hole is measured must be defined.

Normally the middle of the teeing area is used (See Course Set-up, Section 15-2.). Opposite this starting point a visible permanent yardage marker, such as a concrete slab, metal plate or pipe set flush with the ground, must be installed at the side of the tee. Permanent markers are essential.

It is recommended that the hole yardage be visible on the marker. Permanent yardage markers should be installed at the side of each set of tees. If alternate tee areas are used, it is important that permanent yardage markers be installed on each area.

On a nine-hole course, if separate tees or tee-markers are used for each nine of an 18-hole round, separate measurements and permanent yardage markers shall be established for each nine. The yardage markers (and their respective tee-markers) for each nine should be uniquely identifiable.

12-2. MEASURING

a. How To Measure

Each hole shall be measured horizontally (air line) by an electronic measurement device, or with steel tape or surveying instruments, from the permanent yardage marker for every teeing area on

the golf course to the center of the green. The measurement is along the designed line of play. Any competent individual may perform course measurement, subject to review and checking by the *National Association* that issues Course Ratings to the *Affiliated Club*. Yardages on the score card should accurately reflect this measurement. Accurate measurements to the nearest yard are very important.

A hole with a dogleg shall be measured on a straight line from the tee to the center of the fairway at the dogleg. The measurement shall continue from that point on a straight line to the center of the green.

a. Colours of Tee-Markers: Posting of Ratings

The EGA recommends that tee-markers shall be painted as prescribed in clause 6.2 of the *EGA Handicap System*.

The score cards of *Affiliated Clubs* should display the Course Rating and Slope Rating for each set of markers. The Ratings should also be displayed where scores are posted.

USGA HANDICAP SYSTEM, SECTION 13.

USGA COURSE RATING

13-1. DEFINITIONS

a. Scratch Golfer

- (i) **Man - The scratch golfer is an amateur player who plays to the standard of the stroke-play qualifiers in the U.S. Amateur Championship.** A male scratch golfer can hit tee shots an average of 250 yards and can reach a 470-yard hole in two shots.
- (ii) **Woman – The scratch golfer is an amateur player who plays to the standard of the stroke-play qualifiers in the U.S. Women's Amateur Championship.** A female scratch golfer can hit tee shots an average of 210 yards and can reach a 400-yard hole in two shots.

Note: See also the EGA Definition 2.30

b. Yardage Rating

Yardage Rating is the evaluation of the playing difficulty of a course based on yardage only.

c. Obstacle Factors

Obstacle factors are hazards, natural features, vegetation, and playing conditions found on the golf course that make play harder or easier than a standard course with the same effective playing length.

d. Effective Playing Length

Effective playing length is the measured length of the golf course adjusted by factors such as unusual roll, elevation changes, forced lay-ups and doglegs, prevailing wind and altitude above sea level that make the course play longer or shorter than its measured length.

For example, when forced lay-ups result in a course playing effectively longer for the scratch golfer, the Rating Team modifies the Yardage Rating upward in arriving at the USGA Course Rating.

e. Course Rating

Course Rating is the USGA's mark that indicates the evaluation of the playing difficulty of a course for scratch golfers under normal course and weather conditions.

It is expressed as strokes taken to one decimal place, and is based on yardage and other obstacles to the extent that they affect the scoring ability of a scratch golfer.

Courses are rated by authorized golf associations, not by individual clubs (See Section 14.).

Note: Yardage Rating and Course Rating are not to be confused with par. Par is not an accurate measure of the playing difficulty of a golf course. It is possible for two golf courses to have the same par, but have very different Course Ratings and Yardage Ratings.

f. Bogey Golfer

A male bogey golfer has a USGA Handicap Index of 17.5 to 22.4.

He can hit tee shots an average of 200 yards and can reach a 370-yard hole in two shots.

A female bogey golfer has a USGA Handicap Index of 21.5 to 26.4.

She can hit tee shots an average of 150 yards and can reach a 280-yard hole in two shots.

(see Section 13-1g.)

g. Bogey Rating

A bogey rating is the evaluation of the playing difficulty of a course for the bogey golfer under normal course and weather conditions.

It is based on yardage, effective playing length and other obstacles to the extent that they affect the scoring ability of the bogey golfer. Bogey rating is equivalent to the average of the better-half of a bogey golfer's scores under normal playing conditions.

h. Slope Rating

USGA Slope Rating is defined as the USGA's mark that indicates the measurement of the relative playing difficulty of a course for players who are not scratch golfers compared to the Course Rating (i.e. compared to the difficulty of the course for scratch golfers).

Slope Rating is computed from the difference between the Bogey Rating (see section 13-1g) and the Course Rating. The lowest Slope Rating is 55 and the highest is 155.

A golf course of standard relative playing difficulty has a *Slope Rating* of 113.

13-2. CONDITIONS FOR RATING

a. Placement of Tee-Markers and Holes

On the day a course is to be rated, the club **should do the following:**

- (i) Place tee-markers opposite the permanent yardage markers from which measurements were made (See Section 12.);
- (ii) Cut average hole locations;
- (iii) Set up the course, and maintain conditions for normal scoring difficulty.

b. In Season Playing Conditions

Course Ratings should reflect conditions normal for the season(s) when the most rounds are played.

c. Rules of Golf

Course Rating is based on the assumption that players observe and courses are marked under the

Rules of Golf.

Any Local Rules shall conform with the spirit of the Rules of Golf and USGA policy.

13-3. COURSE RATING PROCEDURES

a. Components

USGA Course Ratings and Slope Ratings are determined by authorized golf associations through the following components:

- (i) Effective playing length is obtained from official measurements of the course and an evaluation of the factors that cause the course to play significantly longer or shorter than its measured length (Section 13-1d). Yardage must be measured accurately. An error of only 22 yards on overall length will change the Course Rating by 0.1 stroke for men. An error of only 18 yards will change the Course Rating by 0.1 stroke for women.
- (ii) Yardage Ratings for both scratch and bogey golfers are determined by applying the effective playing length to the appropriate USGA Yardage Rating formulas. (Section 13-1d and 13-3d).
- (iii) USGA Course Rating is the scratch Yardage Rating of a course modified by the obstacle factors as they affect the scratch golfer (Section 13-1e).
- (iv) Bogey rating is the bogey Yardage Rating of a course modified by the obstacle factors as they affect the bogey golfer. (Section 13-1f and 13-3g).
- (v) Slope Rating is the difference between the bogey rating and the Course Rating multiplied by 5.381 for men and 4.24 for women. (Section 13-1f and 13-3h).

b. Effective Playing Length

On each hole, the Rating Team evaluates four factors that effect the playing length: roll, elevation, dogleg (forced lay-up), and prevailing wind.

The effect of these factors, plus the altitude above sea level of the course as a whole, is converted to yardage that is added to or subtracted from the measured length to yield effective playing length.

Effective playing length, in turn, is applied to the Yardage Rating formulas to produce scratch and bogey Yardage Ratings.

(i) Roll

Unirrigated, thin fairways and downhill landing areas result in the ball rolling farther than the normal 25 yards for men or 20 yards for women. Irrigated and lush fairways and uphill landing areas result in the ball rolling less than 25 [20] yards.

(ii) Elevation

Holes that are uphill from tee to green play longer than those that are downhill from tee to green.

(iii) Dogleg (Forced Lay-up)

Holes in which the fairway bends short of the normal drive zone often will force the player

to hit less than a full tee shot. The same is true on holes where an obstacle, such as a water hazard, is situated in the drive zone.

(iv) Prevailing Wind

The force and direction of the prevailing wind affect the playing difficulty of the golf course.

(v) Altitude above Sea Level

The ball will carry a greater distance in high altitudes. The Yardage Rating of a course at an altitude above 2,000 feet is adjusted downward.

c. Obstacle Factors

The Rating Team evaluates ten obstacle factors on a scale of 0 through 10, after considering separately their effect on the play of scratch and bogey golfers on each hole. When the evaluation process has been completed, the numbers for each factor are totalled and multiplied by a relative weight factor. The total weighted obstacle values are applied to scratch and bogey formulas, and then are converted to strokes. These strokes, which may be positive or negative, are added to the Yardage Ratings to produce the USGA Course Rating and Bogey Course Rating.

The obstacles are evaluated as follows:

- (i) *Topography*: the difficulty of stance in the fairway landing areas and any elevation change from the landing areas into the green;
- (ii) *Fairway*: the effective width of the landing area, which can be reduced by a dogleg, trees or fairway tilt;
- (iii) *Green Target*: the size, firmness, shape, and slope of a green in relation to the length of the approach shot;
- (iv) *Recoverability and Rough*: the existence of rough and other penalizing factors in the proximity of the landing area and around the green;
- (v) *Bunkers*: the existence of bunkers on the proximity of the landing areas and around the green;
- (vi) *Out of Bounds/Extreme Rough*: the existence of out of bounds in the proximity of the landing areas and around the green, or the existence of extreme unmown rough that is similar in effect to out of bounds;
- (vii) *Water Hazards*: the existence of water hazards, particularly in the proximity of the landing areas and around the green;
- (viii) *Trees*: the strategic location, size, height and density of trees, along with the probability of recovering from the trees.
- (ix) *Green Surface*: the contour and normal speed of the putting surface;
- (x) *Psychological*: the mental effect on play created by the presence of a combination of difficult obstacles in a target area.

d. Yardage Rating Formulas

Yardage Ratings are obtained by using the following formulas:

(i) **Scratch Yardage Rating for Men**

Scratch Yardage Rating: (**Scratch** Effective Playing Length of Course / 220) + 40.9

Example: If the effective playing length of the course is 6,419 yards, the Scratch Yardage Rating for men is calculated as follows:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \text{Playing Length / 220 :} & 6419 / 220 & = 29.18 \\ \text{Result + 40.9 :} & 29.18 + 40.9 & = \\ & 70.08 & \\ \text{Scratch Yardage Rating (rounded) :} & & = 70.1 \end{array}$$

(ii) **Bogey Yardage Rating for Men**

Bogey Yardage Rating: (**Bogey** Effective Playing Length of Course / 160) + 50.7

(iii) **Scratch Yardage Rating for Women**

Scratch Yardage Rating: (**Scratch** Effective Playing Length of Course / 180) + 40.1

(iv) **Bogey Yardage Rating for Women**

Bogey Yardage Rating: (**Bogey** Effective Playing Length of Course / 120) + 51.3

e. Course Rating Formulas

(i) **USGA Course Rating for Men and Women**

USGA Course Rating: Scratch Yardage Rating + Scratch Obstacle Stroke Value

(ii) **Bogey Course Rating for Men and Women**

Bogey Course Rating: Bogey Yardage Rating + Bogey Obstacle Stroke Value

f. Slope Rating Formulas

USGA Slope Ratings are obtained by using the following formulas:

(i) **Men**

USGA Slope Rating: 5.381 x (Bogey Course Rating - USGA Course Rating)

(ii) **Women**

USGA Slope Rating: 4.24 x (Bogey Course Rating - USGA Course Rating)

The USGA Slope Rating for a course of standard difficulty is 113. A course is given this Slope Rating when the difference between the Bogey Rating and Course Rating is 21 strokes for men, or 26.65 strokes for women (21 multiplied by 5.381, a fixed value, equals 113; 26.65 multiplied by 4.24, a fixed value, equals 113).

Note: Full details on Course Rating are contained in the booklets entitled "the USGA Course Rating System Manual" and "USGA Course Rating System Guide", which are available only to authorized golf associations.

USGA HANDICAP SYSTEM, SECTION 14

INSTALLING COURSE RATINGS IN A COUNTRY

14-1. NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS TO RATE COURSES

All courses must be rated in accordance with USGA approved procedures by a Course Rating Team representing an authorized National Association. A Course Rating Review Committee established by the *National Association* shall evaluate each Rating. **If more than one golf association covers the same territory, a joint Rating team is suggested.**

Clubs may not rate courses (See Section 14-6.).

Uniform Ratings are required to make sure that all EGA Exact Handicaps are determined on the same basis.

A separate Course Rating and Slope Rating shall be made from each set of tee-markers.

An *Affiliated Club* must accept and use the Course Ratings and Slope Ratings that have been issued by the authorized *National Association*. If a club disagrees with its Ratings, it may request the *National Association* to review the Ratings.

14-2. NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS TO RERATE COURSES

Authorized *National Associations* shall periodically review the Ratings of courses and revise them as necessary. Newly constructed courses change rapidly in the first few years and should be rerated every three years for a period of nine years. A course must be rerated at least every ten years, even if it has not been changed in any way.

A course may no longer use its Course and Slope Ratings or the Slope System if its Ratings are more than ten years old. To be rerated, the course should contact its *National Association* or *Area Authority* if so delegated.

14-3. PERSONNEL OF COURSE RATING TEAM

A Course Rating Team shall be composed of at least three trained and experienced individuals. A Rating Team should be assisted by a club representative, preferably a player with a low EGA Exact Handicap (or the club professional), who can inform the Team of any unusual conditions, including wind. Team members should have a practical knowledge of scratch golfers. The members of the team should be as permanent as possible, so that the Ratings will remain consistent.

One member of the Team must be designated by the *National Association* as the Team Leader. The Team Leader must have attended a USGA Course Rating Seminar.

The Team evaluates each obstacle on each hole on a scale of 0 through 10, and should attempt to agree, within one number, on the evaluation for each obstacle. If an agreement is not reached, the opinion of the Team Leader should prevail. While rating a course, Team members may hit shots to assist them in evaluating obstacles.

The Team should play the course to substantiate the rating results before or after the course has been rated. The Team Leader shall submit completed ratings forms to the *National Association* for review by the Course Rating Review Committee. This Committee may modify the results within

specified limits, or it may direct a rerating by another Rating Team. After the Course Rating Review Committee has finalized the Course Rating and Slope Rating, the *National Association* shall issue these Ratings to the club.

14-4. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION RECORDS

a. Information To Be Kept.

A complete file on the Ratings of each course shall be kept by the *National Association* for future reference. The check-list for the file should include a score card, the names of the persons rating the course, the date on which the course was rated, information regarding weather and other conditions on the day of rating, the fairway watering system, types of grasses, height of rough, official measurements of the holes, names of persons who have measured the golf course, and the presence of permanent yardage markers. (For parallel construction)

b. List of All Ratings

When all courses in an area have been rated, the Course Rating Review Committee shall compile a list of Course Ratings. The list shall show total yardage and the Course Rating and Slope Rating for each course. The Committee shall periodically review this list for accuracy.

An alphabetical listing of the Course Ratings, Slope Ratings and Pars of all courses in a country or area should be sent to each club for posting to facilitate returning of scores made away from home. This listing must be identified as Course and Slope Ratings issued by the *National Association*. A copy shall be submitted to the **USGA Handicap Department and the EGA Handicap and Course Rating Committee annually.**

14-5. MODIFICATION OF COURSES

a. Temporary Changes

When temporary tees and/or greens are used, the *Affiliated Club* should notify the *National Association* or *Area Authority*. The association should decide whether or not scores made under those conditions shall be accepted for handicap purposes, and whether the Course Rating and Slope Rating should be modified temporarily.

b. Permanent Changes

The *Affiliated Club* shall notify the *National Association* or *Area Authority* when permanent changes are made to the course. The course shall be rerated by the authorized *National Association* or *Area Authority* when permanent changes are made.

14-6. TEMPORARY RATING BY A GOLF CLUB

An *Affiliated Club* may never rate its own course, but if the club is unable to obtain a Course Rating from the *Area Authority*, it should immediately contact the *National Association* for assistance. If the *National Association* issues a temporary Course Rating, the *Affiliated Club* shall use it only until an official Course Rating and Slope Rating are issued by the *National Association*. A club cannot use the Slope System until it has been issued an official Slope Rating by the *National Association*.

An *Affiliated Club* may never establish its own Slope Rating in order to use the *EGA Handicap*

System. If a club is unable to obtain a Slope Rating, it should contact the *National Association* for assistance.

USGA HANDICAP SYSTEM, SECTION 15

COURSE SET-UP

15-1. KEEPING COURSE DIFFICULTY CONSTANT

A golf course is rated on its effective playing length and its playing difficulty under normal conditions. Each hole should be evaluated in determining the course set-up from a distance standpoint, in order to provide a fair test and to require a player to use most or all of his clubs during a round.

If the length or normal playing difficulty changes materially, handicaps will be distorted. A difference of 22 yards for men or 18 yards for women will change the Yardage Rating 0.1 stroke. The *Handicap Committee* should seek the cooperation of the Green Committee in maintaining both length and normal playing difficulty at a constant level, seven days a week. The object is to provide a fair test, not a tricky one.

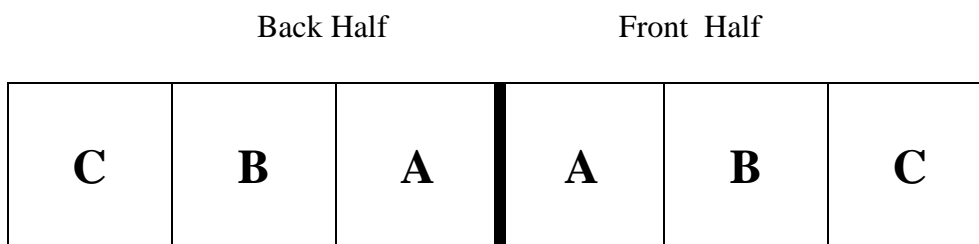
15-2. BALANCING PLACEMENT OF TEES

Placement of tee-markers should be balanced so that the course's effective playing length is approximately the same from day to day. Adjustment may be made to allow for weather and turf conditions.

A permanent yardage marker must be installed at the side of each tee to indicate the point from which the hole was measured, normally, the middle of the teeing area used. Score card yardage should reflect measurement from that point. (See Section 12.).

In the Rules of Golf the "teeing ground" is defined as a rectangular area two club-lengths in depth, the front and the sides of which are defined by the out-side limits of two tee-markers. In view of this definition, the tee-markers must always be at least two club-lengths forward of the back edge of the teeing area.

In the illustration below, the total area represents the usual teeing ground, and the heavy line in the center indicates the point of the permanent marker from which the hole was measured.



Balancing of tee placement is done as follows:

a. Normal conditions

Place tee-markers on odd-numbered holes on front half in area A (or B, or C); on even numbered holes, place tee-markers on back half of same-lettered area. When changing tee-markers, place odd-hole markers on back half and even-hole markers on front half. In other words, alternate between the halves and rotate among lettered areas, always using areas of the same letter at the same time, except under conditions outlined below.

b. Abnormal conditions

Use rear areas for a fast course and forward areas for a slow course.

For example, when the course is hard and fast, place front half markers in A and back-half markers in C. When the course is soft and slow, place front-half in C and back-half markers in A.

Under extreme conditions, all markers may be placed in the back-half or the front-half of all tees, depending upon what is necessary to try to achieve normal playing distance.

The above recommendation should be followed for each set of tee-markers.

15-3. PLACEMENT OF HOLES

Many factors affect the selection of hole locations. The first and most important is good judgement in deciding what will give fair results. Hole locations should not be tricky.

- (i) Study the design of the hole as the architect intended it to be played.
- (ii) There must be enough putting green surface between the hole and the front and the sides of the green to accommodate the required shot. For example, if the hole requires a long-iron or wood shot to the green, the hole should be located deeper in the green and farther from its sides than should be the case if the hole requires a short pitch shot.

In general, the hole should be located at least five paces from any edge of the green.

If a bunker is close to the edge, or if the ground slopes away from the edge, the distance should be greater, especially if the shot is more than a pitch.

Consideration should be given to fair opportunity for recovery for a reasonably good shot that just misses the green.

- (iii) An area two to three feet in radius around the hole should be as nearly level as possible and of uniform grade. In no case should holes be located in tricky places, or on sharp slopes where a ball can gather speed. A player above the hole should be able to stop the ball at the hole.
- (iv) **Consideration should be given to the condition of nearby turf, especially old hole plugs which have not completely healed.**
- (v) Holes should be cut as nearly to vertical as possible.
- (vi) There should be a balanced selection of hole locations for the entire course with respect to left, right, central, front and back positions. For example, avoid too many left positions with

resulting premium on drawn or hooked shots.

- (vii) A way of balancing hole locations is to select six difficult locations, six which are moderate and six which are relatively easy.
- (viii) The superintendent who cuts the holes should make sure to observe the Rules of Golf, especially the requirements that the hole-liner not exceed 4¼ inches in outer diameter, and that it be sunk at least one inch below the putting green surface.

If heavy rain is expected, the Committee would be well advised to locate the holes where puddles of water are least likely to accumulate.

15-4. PREPARING THE COURSE

In determining the location of the tee markers, both the length and the various obstacles of each hole should be taken into consideration in order to provide a consistent and fair test which accurately reflects the Course Rating and the Slope Rating.

There are many factors involved in preparing the course which are outlined in detail in “*How To Conduct a Competition*”. In general, the following preparation helps to make a course fair and consistent for daily play.

a. Putting Greens

The firmness of the greens should be such that they will hold a crisply hit iron shot from the fairway, but will not hold a mis-hit shot or a "flier" from the rough.

The practice putting green should be of the same character and putting quality as the greens on the course, and must be managed in the same manner as the greens on the course.

b. Fairways

A course should **be set up to require accuracy as well as length**. For example, a 27-yard fairway is adequate on a short par-4, but on a long par-4 the fairway should be wider to allow players to "let it out".

c. Rough

The rough should be of sufficient height to provide a problem, but not so difficult that a player in the rough off the tee will have to take a wedge and hack the ball sideways to the fairway.

The USGA believes that the penalty for straying off the fairway should be about one-half stroke. The desired height of the rough depends on the type of grass involved and its density.

d. Bunkers

The settled depth of sand in bunkers should be four to six inches, except that the sand in the faces of bunkers must be shallow enough and firm enough to prevent balls from plugging and perhaps becoming lost. When fresh sand is put into bunkers and there is no heavy rainstorm, the sand should be soaked artificially, so that it will be firmly settled.

15-5. MARKING THE COURSE

It is extremely important for the Committee to ensure that the course has been properly and completely marked. It is difficult to play under the Rules of Golf on an unmarked golf course. If boundaries and water hazards are clearly defined and all areas which should be classified as ground under repair have been marked as such, the Committee will have few problems during the golf season.