Slope

The handicap system used in Australia changed on 23 January 2014 to incorporate the use of Slope Ratings.

Under Slope, a golfer's playing Handicap on any given day will be determined according to the difficulty of the tees or course to be played. See examples below.

Golf Australia believes that this will be fairer than our current one-handicap-fits-all-courses method.

What are the features of Slope?

Every set of tees on every golf course around the country will have a Slope Rating which has been determined in accordance with the new course rating system.
The maximum Slope Rating is 155 (most difficult) and the minimum is 55 (least difficult).

The Neutral Slope Rating is 113.

Every set of tees will also have a Scratch Rating.

The Handicapper will calculate a nationally-standardised handicap index for every player.

This will be called the **GA Handicap**.

A **GA Handicap** will be calculated by using the best 8 of a player's most recent 20 scores (i.e. best 8 of 20, x 0.93).
See Table below for sliding scale to be used if a player does not have 20 scores in his history.

However, every score in every player's score history will first be standardised by the Handicapper against a Slope Rating of 113.

As a result, the GA Handicap will reflect a golfer's ability on a course which has the neutral Slope Rating of 113.

The **GA Handicap** is not intended for use as a playing handicap. It is to be used in conjunction with the Slope Rating of the set of tees being played to calculate a golfer's playing handicap for the day.

This will be called the **Daily Handicap**.

How will Slope make things fairer?

Generally speaking, a high-marker finds it harder to adjust to a difficult course than a low-marker does.
Slope adjustments will play a balancing role. For example, if the Black Tees are harder than the White Tees, a high-marker may play the Black Tees off a handicap of 28 and the White Tees off 24. The elite player finds it easier to adjust, so they may play the Black Tees off 4 and the White Tees off 3.

Every time before you play a round, you should check what your Daily Handicap will be.

After each game the Handicapper will enter the score for the day, calculate the **Played to** (standardised to Neutral Slope of 113) determine new GA Handicap plus Daily Handicap for next game & circulate to members

Daily Handicap = GA Handicap located on "Look up Chart" for a particular course & set of tees

Number of Scores in Handicap Record	Scores to be used in Calculation
1 to 7 Games	Best/Lowest 2
8 to 12 Games	Best/Lowest 4
13 to 14 Games	Best/Lowest 5
15 to 16 Games	Best/Lowest 6
17 to 18 Games	Best/Lowest 7
19 to 20 Games	Best/Lowest 8

When the handicap record contains more than 20 scores, the GA Handicap calculation uses the best 8 of the player's most recent 20 games (earliest game drops out as latest game comes in).

Handicaps under Slope

INTRODUCTION

Under our old handicap system, a player's handicap had a tendency to adjust to their home course.

In order to get a proper understanding of a golfer's underlying ability, golfers would typically ask each other not only what the other's handicap is, but the club of which they were a member.

If they were at any "easy course", their handicap would be lower than if they were at a "harder course". So players at easy courses would find it difficult to compete when they went to harder courses.

Slope gives everyone a nationally standardised handicap (i.e. a **"GA Handicap"**). You have strokes added on to your national handicap when you play at a hard course (this adjusted handicap is called a **"Daily Handicap"**), and you have strokes taken off your national handicap when you play on an easy course.

The Slope Rating is a measure of how much the difficulty of a course increases for the handicap golfer. The Slope Rating determines how many handicap strokes you get from a specific set of tees.

HOW TO CALCULATE A GA HANDICAP

To calculate a player's GA Handicap: you must firstly identify the player's most recent 20 scores,

Then determine the 'Played To' value for each of these scores.

The best 8 'Played To' values are averaged, and finally average is multiplied by 0.93. The resultant figure (to one decimal place) is the player's GA Handicap.

If a player's handicap record contains a lesser number than 20 scores, the number of scores used to calculate the player's handicap is as listed in the table.

Calculation of GA Handicap Document

There is no requirement for a player's most recent 20 scores to have been returned within a specific timeframe. For example, the most recent 20 scores may span a period of three years or they may span a period of three months.

Calculation of GA Handicap – Best 8 of 20, Multiplied by 0.93 [already in effect]

To calculate a player's *GA Handicap*, you do the following:

- Firstly identify their most recent 20 scores.
- Then average the **Differentials** from the **best 8** of them.

Differential is the calculation of the difference between the player's gross score and the scratch rating for the course played.

- Finally you multiply this average by 0.93 (This is a statistical rounding number used by Golf Australia).

The resultant figure is the player's *GA Handicap.*

GA Handicap is then used to calculate the next **Daily Handicap** by using "Look up" charts for next course.

The Following examples show how the slope rating of courses determine how the DAILY HANDICAP will vary

EXAMPLE 1

Adam's **GA Handicap is 18.4** and he plays from a set of tees with a **Course Slope Rating of 128**

(18.4 x 128 ÷ 113 = 21)

Adam's Daily Handicap is 21

EXAMPLE 2

Adam's **GA Handicap is 18.4** and he plays from a set of tees with a **Course Slope Rating of 95**

(18.4 x 95 ÷ 113 = 15)

Adam's Daily Handicap is 15

SEE IF YOU CAN GUESS WHO'S RESULTS THESE ARE FOR???

He has played 12 stroke or stableford games (Ambrose events can't be used for handicap reviews) therefore his best 4 games are used to calculate GA Handicap. The average of the 4 games is 27.1, this is multiplied by 0.93.

This gives a GA Handicap of 25.2 for playing next game at The Glades.

Find 25.2 on Look up Chart for The Glades to get his playing Handicap for the day of 27.

Date	Course	Gross	Net	H/cap	Differential	Played to
17/07/2016	Mt Warren Park	102		102	32	31.7
14/08/2016	Gainsborough	98		98	30	28.5
11/09/2016	Robina Woods	112		112	41	36.5
22/01/2017	Palm Meadows	111	81	30	41	37.7
12/02/2017	Emerald Lakes	108	78	30	40	40.0
12/03/2017	Gainsborough	106	76	30	36	33.3
23/04/2017	Gailes	108	75	33	37	33.7
16/07/2017	Sanctuary Cove	104	72	32	34	30.7
13/08/2017	Royal Pines	109	77	32	38	34.1
10/09/2017	Robina Woods	116	84	32	45	40.0
3/12/2017	Mt Warren Park	100	71	29	30	29.7
21/01/2018	Palm Meadows	91	60	31	21	19.3

Played to	27.1
X Multiplier	0.93
GA Handicap	25.2

These are examples of a player's last 20 games, so the average of the top 8 are used to calculate GA Handicap.

Date	Course	Gross	Net	H/cap	Differential	Played to
18/10/2015	Pelican Waters	99	79	20	30	26.7
15/11/2015	Riverlakes	100	80	20	33	32.1
6/12/2015	Emerald Lakes	93	72	21	25	25.0
17/01/2016	Palm Meadows	111	89	22	41	37.7
14/02/2016	Carbrook	95	76	19	25	23.2
13/03/2016	Emerald Lakes	88	70	18	20	20.0
17/04/2016	Colonial	94	74	20	24	21.9
15/05/2016	Sanctuary Cove	103	83	20	33	29.8
17/07/2016	Mt Warren Park	92	73	19	22	21.8
14/08/2016	Gainsborough	92	71	21	24	22.8
11/09/2016	Robina Woods	90	68	22	19	16.9
4/12/2016	The Glades	99	78	21	29	26.9
22/01/2017	Palm Meadows	101	80	21	31	28.5
12/02/2017	Emerald Lakes	93	73	20	25	25.0
12/03/2017	Gainsborough	88	66	22	18	16.7
23/04/2017	Gailes	89	68	21	18	16.4
16/07/2017	Sanctuary Cove	92	72	20	22	19.9
13/08/2017	Royal Pines	100	81	19	29	26.0
10/09/2017	Robina Woods	103	84	19	32	28.5
21/01/2018	Palm Meadows	94	74	20	24	22.0

Played to	19.4
X Multiplier	0.93
GA Handicap	18.0