

Hole(s) Not Played Under the World Handicap System™

How many holes must be played for a score to be acceptable for handicap purposes?

Beginning in 2024, for a 9-hole score to be acceptable for handicap purposes, all 9 holes must be played on a course with a Course Rating™ and Slope Rating™.

If 10 to 17 holes are played, an acceptable score can be posted, and an 18-hole Score Differential™ will be determined automatically. However, when 10-17 holes are played, the player will be required to post their score using the hole-by-hole score posting option.

When 10-17 holes are played, how is an 18-hole Score Differential determined?

An 18-hole Score Differential will be determined by adding the player's Score Differential from the holes played to the player's expected Score Differential for the number of hole(s) not played.

$$\text{Score Differential from holes played} + \text{Expected Score Differential for holes not played} = \text{18-hole Score Differential}$$

What is an "Expected Score"?

A player's expected score is based on the score a player is expected to achieve on a course of standard difficulty, over the number of holes not played. It is based on the average Score Differential of players with a given Handicap Index® and a normal distribution of scores.

Can I see an example?

A player with a Handicap Index of 10.0 plays 14 holes before stopping play due to severe weather. Through 14 holes, the player had an adjusted gross score of 64. After posting the 14-hole score hole-by-hole, a Score Differential will be calculated based on the score of 64 and the Course Rating information for the 14 holes played, and that result will be added to the expected Score Differential over 4 holes for a 10.0 Handicap Index player to determine an 18-hole Score Differential.

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	IN
Yardage	393	133	375	490	333	378	155	416	357	3030	341	152	360	131	471	323	314	375	340	2807
Par	4	3	4	5	4	4	3	4	4	35	4	3	4	3	5	4	4	4	4	35
Stroke Index	5*	17	9*	1*	11	7*	15	3*	13		8*	16	6*	18	2*	10*	14	4*	12	
Player A	4	4	5	6	5	5	4	5	3	41	4	4	6	4	5	-	-	-	-	23

Handicap Index
10.0

14-hole Score Differential	+	4-hole Expected Score Differential	=	18-hole Score Differential
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64	+	23	=	87
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What are the benefits of this change?

Although 10–17-hole rounds are uncommon for most players and are typically a result of circumstances such as darkness, inclement weather, or match play where players do not finish the round after the match has been decided, this change will result in more flexibility in terms of posting scores and more accurate Score Differentials. Here's why:

- » Prior to 2024, scores made on holes 10-13 are disregarded if fewer than 14 holes are played. This change allows scores made on those holes to be retained and used to create an 18-hole Score Differential.
- » By replacing net par with the use of expected score, players will see more equity and consistency – since the expected score is not course specific or reliant upon the course's stroke index allocation.