

USGA Handicap System (pre-2020): The USGA Course Rating System is the foundation of the USGA Handicap System and allows each player's Handicap Index to be transported from one course to another. The system is widely used around the world but not by all current handicapping systems.

Rule Change for 2020: The USGA Course Rating System will be referred to as "The Course Rating System" and will join "The Rules of Handicapping" to form the World Handicap System.

Reasons for Change:

- The Course Rating System will be implemented by National Associations and allow a player's Handicap Index to be portable from course to course and country to country.
- To enable acceptable scores made at any rated golf course in the world to be submitted for handicap purposes.
 - For those who travel internationally, this will be a welcomed change as scores made outside the U.S. will easily be factored into their Handicap Index calculation.
- To provide an accurate and consistent measure of the difficulty of a golf course by ensuring that playing length and obstacle factors are evaluated the same way worldwide.
 - Since golf courses are rated by qualified teams trained by Authorized Associations, the integrity of the World Handicap System will be maintained.