

## Denby Starling

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**From:** Denby Starling <donotreply@golfgenius.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 06, 2019 9:06 PM  
**To:** denby.starling@gmail.com  
**Subject:** WHS TIPS TO KNOW #2-SCORE DIFFERENTIALS AND THE PLAYING CONDITIONS CALCULATION



If you look at your score history on the GHIN phone app or on your semi-monthly VSGA Handicap Index revision update, there is a column of numbers named “Diff.” Diff stands for “differential” (or more properly, “score differential”) and today your Handicap Index is calculated by taking 96% of the average of the best 10 of your last 20 differentials (I could show the formula for calculating your differential, but I promised to keep these simple.)

In WHS, differentials will still be with us and they will be calculated pretty much the same way they are today. BUT...there will be 2 big differences in how differentials are used:

1. Your handicap index will be the average of the best 8 of your last 20 differentials, rounded to the nearest tenth (no more 10 and no more 96%)
2. The differential may be adjusted up or down by a **Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC)**

Course Ratings are based on normal playing conditions, but the difficulty of a golf course can vary substantially from day to day, due to course conditions, weather conditions, and/or course set-up. The playing conditions calculation (PCC) determines whether playing conditions on the day differed from normal conditions to the extent that an adjustment is needed to compensate. It is a daily statistical procedure that compares the scores submitted by players on the day against expected scoring patterns.

Put more simply, PCC recognizes that it may be harder to shoot a 90 in harder playing conditions than an 80 in easier ones. If the PCC determines that acceptable scores submitted are in line with expected scoring patterns, then no adjustment is made.

What should you know?

- The PCC can be a positive OR a negative adjustment, dependent on whether the course is playing harder or easier. It will be applied to all players on that course, that day.
- The PCC is done automatically for every course, generally once a day, using acceptable 9- and 18-hole scores submitted from all rated tees by players of both genders. At least 8 acceptable scores must be posted by players with a Handicap Index of 36 or below for a PCC to be calculated.
- You should always post your score on the day you play and regardless of playing conditions so it can be considered in the PCC. If you do post your score late (more on this in a later mail) the PCC will still be applied to your differential **for the day you tell GHIN you played**, so you need to get the date right!

Cheers,  
Denby  
KMGGA Handicap Chair  
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Check out the videos here: <https://youtu.be/unwnBd1cnsQ> and here: <https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/videos/2019/10/03/golf-world-handicap-system-playing-conditions-6091782589001.html>

## WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM

### Course and Weather Conditions Calculation

Course Ratings and Slope Ratings measure course difficulty under normal conditions

Course Rating: 71.8  
Slope Rating: 127

Not every day is normal - factors such as weather and course set-up can change the way a golf course plays

None of these things should affect the integrity of your Handicap Index.

But, as every golfer knows...

The result is a higher score on a tough day may still count as a good score and may be used to calculate your updated Handicap Index - ensuring it continues to reflect your ability

HIGH SCORE = TOUGH DAY = GOOD SCORE

21.6

Score

Course Handicap

Expected Scores

Worse

Better

The PCC compares actual scores against expected scores. If scores submitted match expectations, no adjustment is made.

To ensure they don't, a Playing Conditions Calculation is carried out automatically for each course, each day, provided at least eight eligible players have submitted acceptable scores.

Expected Scores

Match Expected Scores

Better

Worse

PLAYING CONDITIONS CALCULATION

WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM  
R&A USGA