



Dear Golfer,

This month we cover the significant handicap changes that were implemented over the past three years and provide you with a sneak preview of our new Golfer Login section which is due to go live soon.

Historical Handicap Changes

There has been some criticism that the SAGA has made too many changes to the handicap calculation over the past few years. We recently analysed these and when you look at the significant changes, as outlined below, I am sure you will agree that while there have been a few, these were necessary to bring us more into line with global handicaps.

2011

1. The introduction of 9 hole rounds being recorded for handicap purposes. This included scoring incomplete 18 hole rounds, where more than 9 holes have been played as 9 hole scores.
2. The late score entry penalty changed from 6 below handicap to the lowest of the last 20 scores.
3. The limit on the number of shots a handicap could change monthly was removed.

2012

1. The maximum score on a hole was increased to 2 over par for handicaps below 19 and to 3 over par for handicaps 19 and higher.
2. The practise of clubs having un-rated senior tees on every hole was replaced with properly rated forward tees for use by all club members with the appropriate reduction in handicap when players were competing off differently rated tees.

2013

1. The maximum score on a hole revised to 2 over par except where a player has 2 strokes on a hole, in which case the maximum score is 3 over.
2. Introduction of the Most Likely Score rule to avoid players always taking the maximum score allowed. Players are obliged to complete the hole and putt out, where possible, but when they are conceded a putt or do not finish the hole they must record the score they would most likely have made on average, up to the maximum allowed. i.e. a given putt from the edge of the green is more likely a 2 putt than a 1 putt.

Handicap Calculation Summarised

The standard handicap calculation is based on the best 10 scores from your last 20. In the case that you have 2 or more exceptional scores in your last 20, the best 8 scores will be used until there is only one exceptional score in your last 20, at which point the calculation will revert back to your best 10.

If you enter your score more than 3 days (72 hours) after you played, you will receive a penalty score equal to the lowest of your last 20.

The maximum score on a hole is 2 over par unless you have 2 handicap strokes on the hole, in which case the maximum is 3 over par.

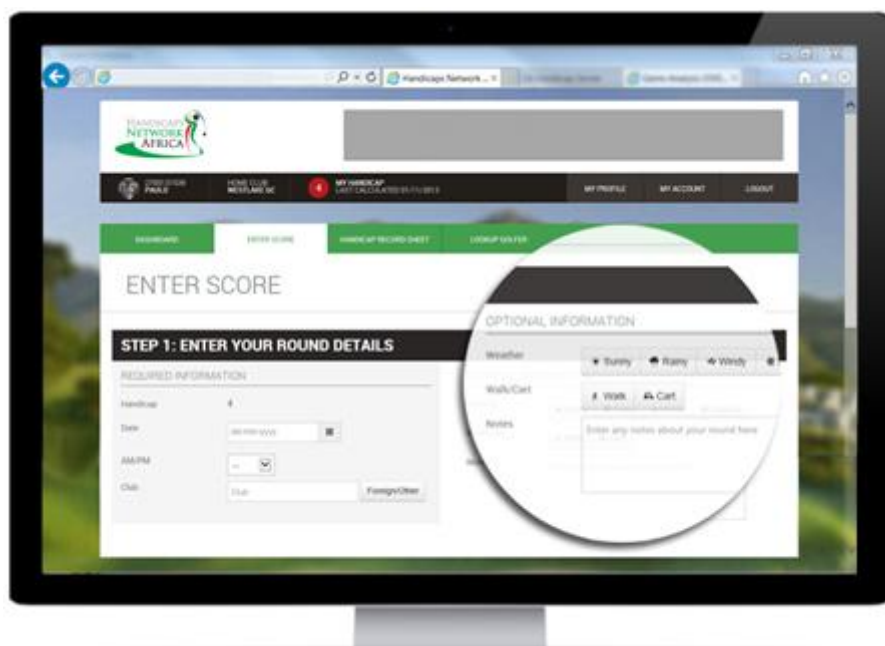
New Look Golfer Login

We are very excited to announce that a new and improved Golfer Login section on Handicaps.co.za will soon be taken live. The changes will certainly be hard to miss with the sleek new design and layout being the first thing that will catch your attention.

We have opted for a clean and simple look making it easy to navigate through the various pages and functions.



A completely new addition to Golfer Login is the Dashboard page which provides you with an overall view of your handicap profile including: exact handicap, previous handicap, number of courses and scores entered as well as graphs depicting your handicap and scoring trends. The graphs are an excellent way for you to gauge your form over recent rounds or months and all important handicap and round information can be brought up by simply placing your cursor on the various points plotted on each graph.



The score entry page has been simplified, allowing users to enter a score more quickly and easily. We have also included an optional information section where players can add notes, list weather conditions and record whether a cart or good old fashioned walking was used.



A detailed round analysis page is provided for each and every score entered and allows golfers the ability to view previous rounds, edit notes, as well as share your good or bad rounds with friends and family via Facebook, Twitter and Email.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts and feedback on these changes to the site once they go live.

Season's Greetings

We wish you all safe travels and happy golfing over the festive season as well as a very prosperous new year.

Swing Easy!

The Handicaps Team