

# GOLFRSA – USGA CRS Implementation

## Club training sessions – questions raised with answers

### **Question 1:**

In competitions, should all players play the same course?

#### **Answer:**

*It depends on the nature of the competition. We encourage clubs to allow players to play off whichever tee they would get the most enjoyment from, since the Course Handicap calculation ensures equity amongst golfers of different capabilities. The Tournament Organising Committee (TOC) can stipulate the colour course to be used in their published Conditions of Competition. Ideally, the Condition of Competition should only stipulate a certain course be used under exceptional circumstances, and only for specific events such as club champs or major trophy events.*

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### **Question 2:**

The new rules, particularly those affecting stroke and distance, will have an impact on course ratings. What will the effect be on the ratings being introduced in September? Will we have to modify cards again?

#### **Answer:**

*The impact of, for instance the penalty areas rule to be implemented in 2019, will affect certain courses only. Courses where this rule may lead to changes in the Course (CR) and Slope (SR) ratings, will be prioritised for re-rating in 2019. There will be engagement with the clubs to determine how they plan to do the marking of their courses using the new rules, and an assessment will then be done on whether or not the course should be re-rated. IF the CR and SR change, clubs must include the new ratings on their scorecards when they reprint. While they still have their old scorecards the equivalent of a "Pin Sheet" should be attached to scorecard. The HNA system will be updated, new Course Handicap Conversion Tables will be issued to the club, and the Course Handicaps of the golfers will be calculated using the new ratings when they play on a re-rated course.*

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### **Question 3:**

What handicap (or handicap index) do we give a non-registered golfer?

#### **Answer:**

*Strictly speaking, it is unfair to allow a non-registered golfer to play against golfers who have a Handicap Index. However, as it's a reality that this happens at certain events such as corporate days, the organising committee for the event must make the final decision on this - they can select whatever Course Handicap they are comfortable with. It is suggested that the organising committee should consider the Course and Slope Ratings of the course be played in the competition, when deliberating on the maximum Course Handicap to be used for non-registered golfers.*

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### **Question 4:**

How do you determine Divisions? Are there going to be guidelines issued, and if so, when?

#### **Answer:**

*The Divisions are to be determined by the Tournament Organising Committee as a Condition of Competition and it is recommended that the Handicap Index be used to determine the divisions. GolfRSA (SAGA/WGSA) will not be publishing guidelines.*

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**Question 5:**

Will the implementation of the USGA Course Rating System change the course record?

**Answer:**

*No - Course records are the lowest gross score and the implementation of the USGA Course Rating System would have no impact on course records.*

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**Question 6:**

How do you handle par 3 holes with a distinct angle of approach?

**Answer:**

*The different playing angles are taken into account when the course rating is done, especially with carries from different angles. However, a hole is rated from where it is played from, 'on average'*

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**Question 7:**

Will the 96% calculation used for determining the Handicap Index of a player fall away in the future, why keep it?

**Answer:**

*Currently South Africa is only implementing the USGA Course Rating System which will ensure equity by taking the Course Rating and Slope Rating into account when issuing a Course Handicap to the player for the day, based on the colour course they selected at a club. The decision to keep all the differential calculations the same was taken by the SAGA in order to minimise the variables during this implementation. However, in 2020 South Africa will be joining the rest of the world with a single method of calculation and the differential calculation will be the same worldwide.*

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**Question 8:**

NOMADS have an adjusted handicap calculation. How are they going to adjust to this?

**Answer:**

*This is a decision for NOMADS to make since they are not using an official method for handicap calculations.*

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**Question 9:**

Can competitions be played on different sets of tees?

**Answer:**

*Yes – this is to be encouraged.*

**Question 10:**

Is the rating of courses specific for a season of the year?

**Answer:**

*No - the standard prescribed by the USGA Course Rating System determines that when a rating is done, it is based on 'mid-season' – in South Africa this is April or October, so it is averaged out.*

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**Question 11:**

How will a person adjust from course to course?

**Answer:**

*The Slope Rating and the new Course Rating ensures that the golfer gets an equitable Course Handicap which will make it a lot fairer for a golfer, and it's one of the primary reasons why the WHS committee chose the USGA Course Rating System as the standard to be used for the rating of golf courses throughout the world.*

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**Question 12:**

Is the 72 hour for entering your score still applicable?

**Answer:**

*Yes - a decision was taken that no other changes will be implemented at this time.*

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**Question 13:**

From which Course Handicap will a touring pro play off?

**Answer:**

*A touring pro will have a Handicap Index of +6. The Course Handicap will depend on the Course and Slope rating of the colour course (tees) he/she elects to play off.*

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**Question 14:**

What is the maximum Handicap Index allowed in South Africa?

**Answer:**

*The maximum Handicap Index allowed is 36 for both men and women.*

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**Question 15:**

If there are course alterations and adjustments after implementation, how will this affect the course rating?

**Answer:**

*Should any significant changes be done by the club to the length of the holes or the obstacles taken into account during the original rating process, the club must contact GolfRSA immediately. Distance is still the major driver to determine the Course Rating. A change of 20 metres on the Average Playing Length means 0.1 on the player's Handicap Index. If a club makes major changes (or even temporary changes such as when greens are re-done and temporary greens are used), the Average Playing Length of the course may be affected, and adjustments should be made in the system.*

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**Question 16:**

What percentage value did you use for effective playing length and for obstacle stroke value?

**Answer:**

*The values are standardised in the mathematical calculation used in the USGA Course Rating System application which determines the Course and Slope rating of a course. Distance is the major factor and accounts for over 90% of rating.*

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**Question 17:**

If a golfer does not enter his/her score within the prescribed time, will the HNA system penalize the golfer in the same manner?

**Answer:**

*Yes. A decision was made that no other changes will be implemented now.*

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**Question 18:**

What are the guidelines for Juniors, using on the new system?

**Answer:**

*As is the case for ANY golfer now, Juniors can select the tee they wish to play off and the Handicap Index calculation will be based on the Course and Slope rating of the colour course (tee) the Junior selects. The calculation of Course Handicap and Handicap Index is the same for ALL golfers including Juniors. Remember - the Handicap Index is fully transportable from Club to Club.*

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