The Beauty of Local Handicaps

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Local Handicaps, as used by the Callippe Senior Golf Club, are based solely on member scores in our club events. Although they are cast as handicap indexes, the Course Handicaps derived from them are, in fact, *independent* of USGA/WHS course ratings, as illustrated below.

The sample Callippe Senior scoring record presented here, with adjusted gross scores (AGS) and score differentials (D), was chosen because it is representative of our club: it yields a Local index of 19.2 (our club average at the time) and all rounds were played on the Yellow tees (Course Rating: 67.9, Slope Rating: 118). Evaluations of the Local Handicap index (LI) and corresponding Course Handicap (CH) for the Yellow tees are included.

Date	Tee	AGS	D
2020-03-04	Y	95	26.0
2020-01-15	Y	95	26.0
2019-09-18	Y	88	19.2*
2019-08-21	Y	89	20.2*
2019-08-07	Y	89	20.2
2019-06-05	Y	89	20.2
2019-05-01	Y	89	20.2
2019-04-17	Y	87	18.3*
2019-02-20	Y	88	19.2*
2019-02-06	Y	92	23.1

Differential Average (lowest 4* of 10):
$$<D> = (19.2 + 20.2 + 18.3 + 19.2) / 4 = 19.225$$

Local Handicap Index (<D> rounded to nearest tenth):
$$LI = 19.2$$

Course Handicap (rounded to nearest whole number):
$$CH = LI \times (Slope / 113) + (CR - Par)$$
$$CH = 19.2 \times (118 / 113) + (67.9 - 72)$$
$$CH = 20.05 - 4.1 = 15.95$$
$$CH = 16 \; \Leftarrow$$

A score differential—the basis of your Handicap Index—is evaluated by: (1) subtracting the Course Rating from an adjusted gross score, then (2) dividing that result by the relative Slope Rating:

$$D = (AGS - CR) \times (113 / Slope)$$

Note those two operations are the *inverse* of those used to convert a Handicap Index to a Course Handicap, where: (1) we multiply the index by the Slope Rating then (2) add the Course Rating (as shown above in the sample Course Handicap calculation). This means course ratings "factor out" of our Local Course Handicaps. Therefore, we can evaluate Course Handicaps *directly* by simply averaging the four lowest adjusted gross scores and subtract Par to yield the correct CH value, as follows:

$$CH = (88 + 89 + 87 + 88) / 4 - 72 = 88 - 72 = 16 \; \Leftarrow$$

as long as the low differentials were obtained from the same set of tees.

This demonstrates that our Local Handicaps—specifically *Local Course Handicaps*—are "pure": they are independent of *artificial* course ratings, their underlying scores are based on competitive play on a single course, they are recorded with proper adjustments and, of course, cannot be manipulated.