New Handicap Calculation for 2023 Season – iCap Explained

presented by Kevin Tucker, March 2023

What is iCap?   iCap is a handicap calculation that is built into our tournament software. **iCap is similar to GHIN.** Many of you have heard of GHIN and some of you subscribe and maintain a GHIN index by posting scores on the internet or at your home golf course. Please read through the Q&A below and then look at the calculation example for Kevin Tucker. Questions can be sent to Administrator@ssgoa.org

What method did we use before and why are we changing? Previously, we took a simple average of your last 8 quota point scores (less if recently joined). This did not incorporate the difficulty of the course into the calculation. Example: A score of 82 on a par 71 course = 25 quota points and was being treated the same whether scored on a course/tee with a rating of 73.7, slope of 135 (men-Ellsworth Meadows, Black tees) **OR** scored on a course with a rating of 64.6, slope of 111 (men-Ellsworth Meadows, Tan tees).

The quota point method for calculating handicaps was obviously flawed as it did not accurately rate playing ability and was forcing excessive movement between tournament divisions. The GHIN and iCap calculations for the scores in the example above would tell you that Ellsworth Meadows-Black tees for men is approximately 10.8 strokes more difficult than Ellsworth Meadows-Tan tees for men so that equal scores of 82 on the same course but from different sets of tees would not be treated the same. The simple average of only up to 8 scores counting and no high scores being discarded was also susceptible to "sandbagging".

What are the differences between iCap and GHIN?
- **How many scores are used in the calculation**   The main difference between the two handicap calculation methods is that iCap will use up to the best 10 of 12 scores but GHIN uses up to the best 8 of 20 scores. Stated another way, iCap will not count the worst 2 scores out of 12 while GHIN does not count the worst 12 scores out of 20. This difference will most likely make an iCap slightly higher than a GHIN index for those that maintain a GHIN index.
- **Terminology** – due to registered trademarks, iCap cannot use the same terms that you might be familiar with from the GHIN system. The terms used with iCap are on the left side of the following equations.
  - iCap = GHIN Index; Variation = Differential; Scratch Par = Course Rating; Tee Difficulty = Slope / 113

Is my iCap my Handicap? NO, your iCap is similar to a GHIN index and will be used to calculate your course handicap for each tournament. The course handicap calculation uses the "World Handicap" method that uses both slope and the difference between scratch par (course rating) and par for the specific course and tees being played.   Before each tournament, you will be able to see what your iCap calculation and what your course handicap will be for the course and set of tees that you will be playing. See the example below.

What will my quota be for Quota Point tournaments?   Your quota will be 36 – your course handicap

Can I post scores to iCap from rounds played outside of SSGOA tournaments? NO, there is no way to audit and verify scores entered and this will ensure consistency in the calculations.

Please scroll down or continue reading to see an example iCap and Handicap calculation for Kevin Tucker

Example of iCap and Course Handicap calculation for Kevin Tucker

1. Handicap Setup is as follows...

Number of scores handicap based on: 12
Minimum number of scores needed: 1

# of Scores Available	Discard Highest	Discard Lowest
1	0	0
2	0	0
3	1	0
4	1	0
5	1	0
6	1	0
7	2	0
8	2	0
9	2	0
10	2	0
11	2	0
12	2	0

Kevin Tucker has 12 scores to calculate a handicap.
2 high scores and 0 low score will be dropped and the
remaining 10 scores used to calculate the handicap.

iCap terminology reminder: "Variations" = GHIN "Differentials", "Scratch par" = GHIN Course Rating, "Tee Difficulty" = GHIN "Slope" /113, best 10 of 12 variations are being used (highlighted in green)

2. The Variations for these scores are calculated...

#	Date	Course	Tee	Adjusted Gross Score	Scratch par	Tee difficulty	Variation
1	9/8/2022	(Away course)	\	86C	68.0	1.000	18.0
2	8/11/2022	(Away course)	\	86C	68.0	1.000	18.0
3	7/14/2022	(Away course)	\	85C	68.0	1.000	17.0
4	6/16/2022	(Away course)	\	82C	68.0	1.000	14.0
5	5/19/2022	(Away course)	\	82C	68.0	1.000	14.0
6	9/2/2021	(Away course)	\	87C	70.0	1.044	16.3
7	8/5/2021	(Away course)	\	85C	70.0	1.044	14.4
8	7/22/2021	(Away course)	\	87C	70.0	1.044	16.3
9	6/10/2021	(Away course)	\	87C	70.0	1.044	16.3
10	5/13/2021	(Away course)	\	85C	70.0	1.044	14.4
11	9/10/2020	(Away course)	\	78C	68.0	1.000	10.0
12	8/13/2020	(Away course)	\	81C	68.0	1.000	13.0

The equation for calculating a variation is ...
Variation = ('Adjusted Gross Score' - 'Scratch par') ÷ 'Tee difficulty'

3. Use the variations to calculate handicap

Variations 'used' are added together...
10.0 + 13.0 + 14.0 + 14.0 + 14.4 + 14.4 + 16.3 + 16.3 + 16.3 + 17.0 = 145.7

Then divide by the total number used.
Pre-Handicap = 145.7 / 10 = 14.570

According to the setup the Handicap Percent is 100%
iCap = 14.570 x 1.00 = 14.57

Final iCap = 14.6

Kevin Tucker is in the B Division. His iCap is 14.6 as shown in the preceding calculation. The first quota point tournament in 2023 is at The Sanctuary and B Division men will be playing the White tees, which will be set up at approximately 5600 yards. As shown below, for White tees at The Sanctuary, Kevin's handicap will be 11 which means that Kevin's quota will be 25 (36 – 11 handicap).

Tucker, Kevin   Save   Close

General   Handicaps   Scores

iCap 14.6   X   Calculate iCap   How is iCap calculated?

Handicaps for...

Sanctuary Golf Club ▼

	Tee	Hcp	Equation	Front	Equation	Back	Equation
	Gold	18	$= (14.6 \times 1.133) + 72.8\text{-}71$	8N	$= (14.6/2 \times 1.088) + 35.0\text{-}35$	10N	$= (14.6/2 \times 1.177) + 37.8\text{-}36$
	Silver	16	$= (14.6 \times 1.097) + 71.0\text{-}71$	10N	$= (14.6/2 \times 1.142) + 36.9\text{-}35$	6N	$= (14.6/2 \times 1.053) + 34.1\text{-}36$
	Black	14	$= (14.6 \times 1.062) + 69.3\text{-}71$	6N	$= (14.6/2 \times 1.018) + 33.2\text{-}35$	8N	$= (14.6/2 \times 1.097) + 36.1\text{-}36$
	White	11	$= (14.6 \times 1.018) + 67.1\text{-}71$	8N	$= (14.6/2 \times 1.044) + 35.0\text{-}35$	3N	$= (14.6/2 \times 0.991) + 32.1\text{-}36$
	Green	9	$= (14.6 \times 0.973) + 66.0\text{-}71$	6N	$= (14.6/2 \times 0.956) + 34.0\text{-}35$	3N	$= (14.6/2 \times 0.991) + 32.0\text{-}36$

Equation is: *Handicap = (iCap × "Tee difficulty") + "Scratch par" - Par*

Show equations for front and back handicaps