

HANDICAPPING MR. WOODS

How many strokes would Tiger give you?

Hard to believe, but with the help of a few (or many) handicap strokes you could be the victor in a match against the best player in the world. Let's presume that Tiger Woods was a member of an RCGA member club and your opponent in an upcoming match play event. Using Tiger's scores from a five tournament stretch in which he won four events and placed second in the other, we can generate a 20-game Scoring Record and the resulting Handicap Factor.

To calculate Tiger's Handicap Factor we do the following:

The RCGA Handicap Factor formula is based on the best handicap differentials in a player's scoring record. If a player's scoring record contains 20 or more scores, then the best 10 handicap differentials of the most recent 20 scores are used to calculate their RCGA Handicap Factor.

Total of Tiger's 10 lowest

differentials = -80.1

Average = -8.01

Average multiplied by

96% = -7.6896

Delete all numbers after the tenths digit = -7.6

As the number derived is a negative, the Handicap Factor is expressed as a plus, which leaves Tiger with an eye-popping +7.6 Handicap

Factor (i.e. 7.6 strokes better than a scratch golfer). We realize the course set-up for the PGA Tour events used in our example are probably a little different than those you play in your weekly round, but the numbers serve to illustrate our point.

Lucas Glover made the cut in the same five-tournament stretch as Tiger, but his Handicap Factor for those 20 scores is a mere +6.3. If Woods and Glover were to play an 18-hole match from the back tees (Men's Slope Rating of 140) at Hamilton G&CC, site of the 2006 Canadian Open, they would first have to determine their Course Handicap.

$$\text{Course Handicap} = \frac{\text{Handicap Factor} \times \text{Slope Rating}}{113}$$

After rounding to the nearest whole number we determine that Tiger's Course Handicap for that match is +9 and Glover's Course Handicap is +8, meaning Tiger must give Glover one handicap stroke. Lucas must use the handicap stroke on the #1 Handicap Stroke hole at Hamilton, which happens to be the second hole.

Go ahead and determine Course Handicaps for you and Tiger from the set of tees you usually play at your home course. How do you like your chances against Mr. Woods?

GLOSSARY

Adjusted Gross Score is a player's gross score adjusted under RCGA Handicap System procedures for unfinished holes, conceded strokes and holes not played, or not played under the Rules of Golf, or Equitable Stroke Control. [See Section 4 of the RCGA Handicap Manual].

Course Rating is the evaluation of the playing difficulty of a course for scratch golfers under normal course and weather conditions. It is expressed as strokes taken to one decimal place, and is based on yardage and other obstacles to the extent that they affect the scoring ability of a scratch golfer. [See Section 13 of the RCGA Handicap Manual]

Slope Rating is the evaluation of the relative difficulty of a course for players who are not scratch golfers compared to the Course Rating (i.e., compared to the difficulty of a course for scratch golfers). The lowest Slope Rating is 55 and the highest is 155. A golf course of standard playing difficulty has an RCGA Slope Rating of 113.

Handicap Differential is the difference between a player's adjusted gross score and the RCGA Course Rating of the course on which the score was made, multiplied by 113, then divided by the RCGA Slope Rating from the tees played and rounded to the nearest tenth. Handicap differentials are expressed as a number of strokes rounded to one decimal place, (i.e. 12.8).

—Matt MacKay, RCGA Handicap & Course Rating Coordinator

COURSE NAME	ADJUSTED COURSE RATING	COURSE RATING	SLOPE RATING	HANDICAP DIFFERENTIAL
Cog Hill G&CC	72	75.4	142	-2.7
Cog Hill G&CC	67	75.4	142	-6.7
Cog Hill G&CC	66	75.4	142	-7.5
Cog Hill G&CC	68	75.4	142	-5.9
Warwick Hills G&CC	66	74.3	133	-7.1
Warwick Hills G&CC	66	74.3	133	-7.1
Warwick Hills G&CC	66	74.3	133	-7.1
Warwick Hills G&CC	66	74.3	133	-7.1
Medinah CC - #3	69	78.1	151	-6.8
Medinah CC - #4	68	78.1	151	-7.6
Medinah CC - #5	65	78.1	151	-9.8
Medinah CC - #6	68	78.1	151	-7.6
Firestone CC - South	67	75.1	128	-7.2
Firestone CC - South	64	75.1	128	-9.8
Firestone CC - South	71	75.1	128	-3.6
Firestone CC - South	68	75.1	128	-6.3
TPC of Boston	66	74.8	143	-7.0
TPC of Boston	72	74.8	143	-2.2
TPC of Boston	67	74.8	143	-6.2
TPC of Boston	63	74.8	143	-9.3

We have a winner Zander Katz of Chillwack, B.C. is the lucky winner of an all-inclusive week for two at Dreams Resort & Spa in Cancun, Mexico, thanks to the RCGA Membership Contest. The contest also included three early bird draws for \$500 apparel packages. The winners were: Norm Gessell, Winnipeg, MB, Martin Shaughnessy, Quesnel, BC and Joan Hiegel, Welland, ON