SLOPE

When Slope is introduced by the Northern California Golf Association and Southern California Golf Association into their state-wide handicapping system on Jan. 1, 1990, the biggest single change in handicapping will be the index.

The Index:
Exploring the Heart of the Slope System

SLOPE RATING - 130				
INDEX	COURSE HDCP		INDEX	COURSE HDCP
+2.1 TO +1.4	+2		19.6 TO 20.4	23
+1.3 TO +.5	+1		20.5 TO 21.2	24
+.4 TO .4	0		21.3 TO 22.1	25
0.5 TO 1.3	1		22.2 TO 23.0	26
1.4 TO 2.1	2		23.1 TO 23.9	27
2.2 TO 3.0	3		24.0 TO 24.7	28
3.1 TO 3.9	4		24.8 TO 25.6	29
4.0 TO 4.7	5		25.7 TO 26.5	30
4.8 TO 5.6	6		26.6 TO 27.3	31
5.7 TO 6.5	7		27.4 TO 28.2	32
6.6 TO 7.3	8		28.3 TO 29.1	33
7.4 TO 8.2	9		29.2 TO 29.9	34
8.3 TO 9.1	10		30.0 TO 30.8	35
9.2 TO 9.9	11		30.9 TO 31.7	36
10.0 TO 10.8	12		31.8 TO 32.5	37
10.9 TO 11.7	13		32.6 TO 33.4	38
11.8 TO 12.6	14		33.5 TO 34.3	39
12.7 TO 13.4	15		34.4 TO 35.2	40
13.5 TO 14.3	16		35.3 TO 36.0	41
14.4 TO 15.2	17		36.1 TO 36.4	42
15.3 TO 16.0	18			
16.1 TO 16.9	19			
17.0 TO 17.8	20			
17.9 TO 18.6	21			
18.7 TO 19.5	22			

EXAMPLE 1

SLOPE RATING - 98				
USGA HANDICAP INDEX	COURSE HDCP		USGA HANDICAP INDEX	COURSE HDCP
+2.8 TO +1.8	+2		26.0 TO 27.0	23
+1.7 TO +.6	+1		27.1 TO 28.2	24
+.5 TO .5	0		28.3 TO 29.4	25
0.6 TO 1.7	1		29.5 TO 30.5	26
1.8 TO 2.8	2		30.6 TO 31.7	27
2.9 TO 4.0	3		31.8 TO 32.8	28
4.1 TO 5.1	4		32.9 TO 34.0	29
5.2 TO 6.3	5		34.1 TO 35.1	30
6.4 TO 7.4	6		35.2 TO 36.3	31
7.5 TO 8.6	7		36.4 TO 36.4	32
8.7 TO 9.8	8			
9.9 TO 10.9	9			
11.0 TO 12.1	10			
12.2 TO 13.2	11			
13.3 TO 14.4	12			
14.5 TO 15.5	13			
15.6 TO 16.7	14			
16.8 TO 17.8	15			
17.9 TO 19.0	16			
19.1 TO 20.1	17			
20.2 TO 21.3	18			
21.4 TO 22.4	19			
22.5 TO 23.6	20			
23.7 TO 24.7	21			
24.8 TO 25.9	22			

EXAMPLE 2

Thousands of words have been written about Slope in the past few years, but the simple fact is that 99 percent of the golfers in both associations will have to know only two things about Slope: Your index and how to convert that index into a handicap when you play at any course.

What is the Index?

The index is a mathematical calculation which always is expressed in a decimal but, is not used for play. The number represents each golfer's playing ability on a 113-Slope golf course — a course of standard ability. Since golfers play courses of widely differing difficulties, the Slope system mathematically converts differentials into a number that assumes all scores were shot on a 113-Slope course.

How do I use my Index?

Each time you go to a course with a Slope rating (as of 1990 in California, that will be virtually all courses) you convert your index into a course handicap by checking a chart posted at the course. There will be a different chart for each set of tees, since each set probably has a different Slope.

In Example 1, you're playing a course where the middle tees have a Slope rating of 130. If your index is 11.2, you would find that number in the range that says 10.9 to 11.7 which means that you would play to a 13 handicap. If your index is 16.3, you would find your number in the range that says 16.1 to 16.9 and would play to a 19 handicap from this set of tees.

Conversely, in Example 2, you are playing a course where the middle tees have a Slope rating of 98. Now, if your index is 11.2, you would find that number in the range that says 11.0 to 12.1 which means that you would play to a 10 handicap. If your index is 16.3, you would find your number in the range that says 15.6 to 16.7 and would play to a 14 handicap from this set of tees.

That's all you need to know about Slope: Your Index and how to convert it into a handicap.

Golfers will continue to post scores exactly as they have done in the past, with the exception that out-of-state posting sheets will now require both a course rating and a Slope rating. Also, equitable stroke control (adjusting) will be based on the course handicap. The NCGA's computer system will automatically convert all differentials into indexes, which will be distributed to clubs in the same manner as now occurs with monthly handicaps.

The key to Slope is simple: Think Index!