

Breaking down the Playing Conditions Calculation in the World Handicap System

What is the Playing Conditions Calculation?

The Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC) is a daily calculation that compares actual scores made at each course to the expected scores of the players who made them. If the composite of scores is significantly higher or lower than what's expected, an adjustment will be **applied automatically** to the score differential calculation of those who played that day.

The PCC can result in an adjustment of **-1.0, 0.0, +1.0, +2.0, or +3.0**.

- A 0.0 adjustment means the course played as expected.
- A -1.0 adjustment means the course played easier than normal.
- A +1.0, +2.0 or +3.0 adjustment means the course played more difficult than normal.

Note: The calculation is designed to be conservative and will result in no adjustment on most days.

What are the requirements for PCC?

The PCC considers 9 and 18-hole scores from all rated sets of tees, however:

- Only scores made by players with a Handicap Index of 36.0 or below are considered, and
- At least 8 acceptable scores must be posted for a PCC to take place.

How is the PCC applied?

The PCC is applied at midnight, so the morning after a score is posted, the final score differential from the round will be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Score Differential} = (113 / \text{Slope Rating}) \times (\text{adjusted gross score} - \text{Course Rating} - \text{PCC adjustment})$$

To ensure that all scores are included in the PCC data pool, players are expected to post their scores on the same day of play. However, if a player is late in posting their score, any adjustment will still be applied to their score differential.

If a PCC results in an adjustment, it will be clearly identified within the player's scoring record.

Why is this good for handicapping?

- The PCC is an automatic calculation – so players and golf staff don't have to do additional work.
- The PCC will allow a higher score made in difficult playing conditions to be recognized as such.
- If a PCC adjustment is being applied at a course more than expected, the golf association can provide assistance and confirm that there is consistency between the course set-up and ratings.