

**LOW HANDICAP INDEX AND LIMIT OF UPWARD MOVEMENT OF A HANDICAP INDEX**

**Low Handicap Index**

The Low Handicap Index represents the demonstrated ability of a player over the 365-day period preceding the day on which the most recent score in their scoring record was played and provides a reference point against which the current Handicap Index can be compared.

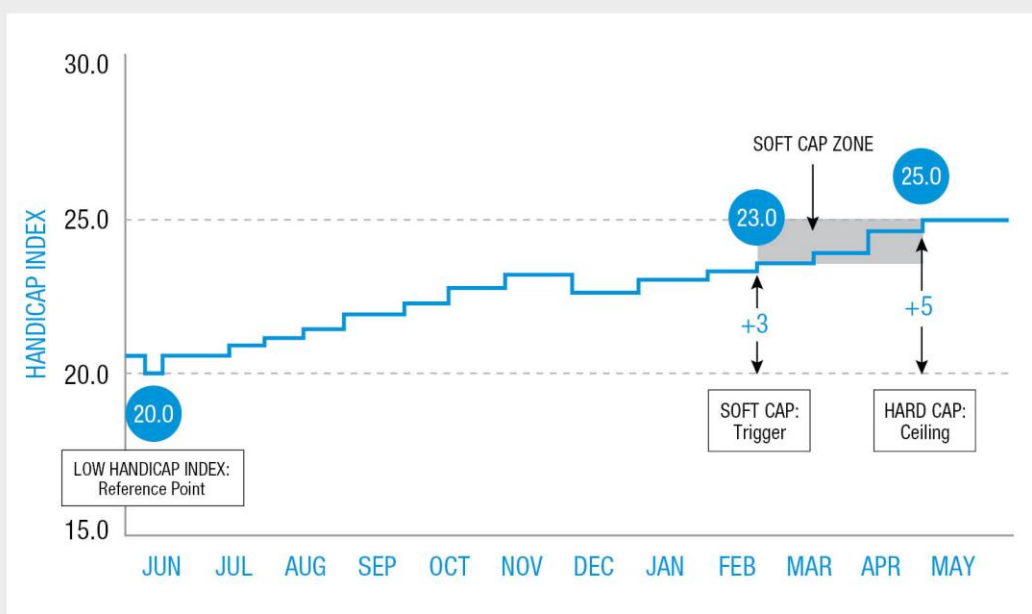
- A Low Handicap Index is established once a player has at least 20 acceptable scores in their scoring record.
- Once a player has established a Low Handicap Index, it is re-evaluated every time a new acceptable score is submitted and is displayed in the player’s scoring record.
- A newly determined Low Handicap Index is considered in the processing of the player’s next acceptable score whenever the next round is submitted.

**Limit of Upward Movement of a Handicap Index**

A “Soft Cap” and “Hard Cap” will be included within the Handicap Index calculation. There are two trigger points within the cap procedure:

- The Soft Cap is triggered when the difference between a player’s newly calculated Handicap Index and their Low Handicap Index is greater than 3.0 strokes.
  - When a calculated Handicap Index increase is greater than 3.0 strokes, the value above 3.0 strokes is restricted to 50% of the increase
- The Hard Cap triggers to restrict the amount by which a player’s Handicap Index can increase, after application of the Soft Cap, to no more than 5.0 strokes above their Low Handicap Index.

**DIAGRAM 5.8: THE SOFT CAP AND HARD CAP**



***Reasons for Change:***

A new term, "Low Handicap Index" will be included within the Rules of Handicapping and will be made visible to players. This value will serve as the baseline for the Soft Cap and Hard Cap procedures.

There is no limit on the amount by which a player's Handicap Index can decrease, but the Soft Cap and Hard Cap will ensure that a temporary loss of form does not cause a player's Handicap Index to increase to a level inconsistent with their demonstrated ability.

The automatic calculation will prevent extreme upward movement of a Handicap Index, as well as assist Handicap Committees as an anti-abuse safeguard.

When special circumstances exist, such as injury, the Handicap Committee will have the ability to override the Soft Cap or Hard Cap.

This procedure will favour the consistent player, as players who have significant volatility in their scoring history over a 12-month period will be impacted by it more often.