

Minimum Length to Obtain a Course Rating™ and Slope Rating™

Rule prior to the 2024 Revision: To be eligible for a Course Rating™ and Slope Rating™, a tee set must be at least 3,000 yards for 18 holes or 1,500 yards for 9 holes.

Rule change for the 2024 Revision: The World Handicap System™ has approved lowering the minimum length for a tee to be issued a Course Rating and Slope Rating to 1,500 yards for 18 holes or 750 yards for 9 holes.

- As a result, more than 600 additional golf courses (mostly par-3 courses) qualify for a Course Rating and Slope Rating, if desired.

Reasons for change:

- Handicap research shows that equity and portability within the system is retained down to the new minimum tee length.
- This change enables scores made at shorter length courses to be acceptable for handicap purposes and allows players with a Handicap Index® to determine a Course Handicap™ and Playing Handicap™ for use during their rounds at such facilities.
- In recent years, more short courses are being built and shorter length tees are being added at full length courses to accommodate players of all abilities.
 - These courses are often played by either beginners or golfers with shorter hitting distances, and this change provides these players the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of maintaining a Handicap Index.
- This change also allows courses that have not previously utilized the WHS™ to create a club structure, affiliate with their local Allied Golf Association, and register golfers for a Handicap Index.