

Handicap was born in the 17th century to let two or more individuals to compete on equal terms in any Sport.

In golf, the PAR introduction allowed a maximum of one shot only per hole because, at the time, maximum handicaps were 18 – 21, the second figure being the ladies handicap I suppose since the documents I consulted were no more specific on the matter.

The increased number of golfers highlighted that golfing ability to play such handicaps was not so widespread among beginners, so, intelligently, the handicap raised to 24 than to 28-30, my initial handicap, later to 36 and lately to 54.

This acceleration of the maximum handicaps, positive in its intentions, had been responsible of what I have named the 'sanctioned robbery'.

Handicap definition is: the number of shots needed to par each hole, thus the course's par. Routinely it is considered course's par only, so a player who returned a score with 90 shots on a par 72 golf course, needs 18 shots to par the course, thus a handicap 18.

An absolutely different thing is when "I am codified an 18 handicapper no matter"; these are the words of Mr. Bernard Darwin, 1926, that I report here below:

"I have played delightful matches against a distinguished naval officer who is neither very young nor very long but of an admirable steadiness. On the course where we play there is a large number of what are called two-shot holes—that is to say, holes such as I pretend to myself that I can do in four. My opponent with his first drive just clears the bunker from the tee: with his second he is comfortably short of the bunker guarding the green: with his third he is on the green and he is a good putter. If I have to give him a stroke—and I give him too many—the outlook at these holes is a cheerless one for, whatever I pretend, I am by no means good enough to do them all in fours. It is only at the really long holes, or at the short ones when there are some nice deep bunkers, that I begin to pluck up hope against that terrible sailor. If all who receive strokes cut their coat according to their cloth, so judiciously and methodically, what a lot more matches they would win."

This perfectly represents my thinking on the actual handicap system that make the game extremely iniquitous to all established handicapped golfers that happens to have a handicap just below the actual beginner's handicap, always higher of what his ability needs.

When the 'beginner' reaches his real golfing level, he, in turn, will fall victim of the new beginners.

I am the first in line as a testimony; I have got about 30 golf awards, all of them won in the first part of my golfing life with a 28 handicap, the maximum at the time; they continued to regularly come in until I reached handicap 20; then they started to thin out for the double in time and down to a quarter in quantity, to completely disappear when I reached my hard-fought 16 handicap, since then the only increasing number had been my handicap that suddenly disappeared when I abandoned for good the competitions both as a golfer

and as a Golf Referee since when on golf courses almost all players started playing 'whatever they pleased' instead of playing at Golf abiding by its Rules, but those same Rules play a big role in this decay.

To be "codified a 23 handicapper no matter" means that a player receives handicap stroke/s even when he scores a par or better, this is the practice that I call a 'sanctioned robbery' where the perpetrator is absolutely innocent.

This is the distortion I cure with my DAY HANDICAP[®]: a player receives handicap shot/s only for scores above par, a computer takes care of it.

The direct consequence of such a way of thinking about handicap, prompted me to create the LIQUID HANDICAP[®], in short, the direct award of handicap's administration to the player himself that will use the available shots if and when it pleases him.

A PLAYER, AFTER ALL PLAYERS OF THE MATCH HAVE HOLED THEIR BALL, IS ENTITLED TO USE OR NOT TO USE ONE OR TWO SHOTS MAXIMUM OF HIS HANDICAP. THE RESULTING SCORE FOR THE HOLE MAY NOT BE BELOW ITS PAR, PROVIDED THE ALLOTTED SHOT/S ARE STILL AVAILABLE TO HIM.

THE GREAT ELASTICITY OF THE SYSTEM GUARANTEES THAT NOT ONE SINGLE SHOT WILL BE LOST; MY EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTED THAT ONLY TWO THIRD OF THE ACTUAL PLAYER'S HANDICAP MAY BE ALLOTTED.

Example: medal play limited to double bogey. Bob's LIQUID handicap is 3. On first hole he gets a par, he may use no handicap shot; on second hole he scores a bogey, he MAY use ONE shot only, but he is not forced to; on sixth hole he gets a triple bogey, he may or may not use up to two shots of his handicap, provided they are still available. It is obvious that once all shots are used he has to play all remaining holes at scratch.

All this means that strategy becomes the name of the game, only an intelligent one will bring the maximum advantage.

We often play it among we three pals, the Sceptic, normally entitled of three hcp shots, when given 3 LIQUID hcp shots becomes unbeatable, while with only 2 hcp shots he plays an equitable match.

The Sceptic recognised the system as very intriguing and pleasing.

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A remark made on TV by one of the golf commentators during a Valderrama Master, 2018 I believe, was: "Valderrama's new Board opposes a red double figures final result of the tournament, in the fear that Valderrama could look a too easy and unworthy golf course."
Garcia won the Master at -12.

Thinking about the issue, I agreed with the Board's point of view. Appearances in the media or press, today, is one of the first parameter by which a vacation in a resort or a golf course is chosen, so it could be worth finding a new way to rank players in a golf tournament.

What's the problem? Course's and hole's PAR is its name. A fixed number of shots measure a hole while the number of shots a player takes on that hole is highly variable depending on many factors always different in time, intensity and place. A par 5 may easily range from 3 to 7 and a par 70 round may be played in 60 or 80.

Those minimum and maximum numbers do not reflect the quality of the course or the hole, they only reflect the conditions in which that hole or course had been played not in that day but in those 15 minutes or in that morning that could have differed from the afternoon of the same day.

Measuring a golf course worthiness by the delta par played on a Tour Tournament is a nonsense.

The same course is played on Thursday in 63 and on Saturday in 78 shots, how do you rank it? Easy or difficult?

Only somebody really inside the golf world can correctly answer those questions.

I solved the problem not coming up with a completely new idea, just optimizing the Old Way of ranking; not the par, just THE LEADER TOTAL SHOTS ARE THE REFERENCE ON WHICH ALL PLAYERS ARE RANKED.

Once upon a time it was said and written on newspapers that Tom Morris at 241 total was leading, followed by Young Tom Morris at 2 shots behind and all others 3, 4 ,6 shots behind. etc.

Total shots played by the leader was the measure of the difficulty the course presented to players that week, not the ultimate course's worthiness.

Optimizing an old system means that something new had been created: my NEW LEADERBOARD® do not count the total shots played of every player only.

ALL PLAYERS' SCORECARDS IN THE COMPUTER START WITH EACH HOLE'S PAR ALREADY FILLED IN, THEN THE COMPUTER UPDATES THE SINGLE PLAYER'S HOLE PAR WITH THE ACTUAL SCORE ON EACH HOLE.

WHEN EACH PLAYER REACH THE 15TH HOLE AND HE IS 5 SHOTS BEHIND THE LEADER OR LESS, ON A SIDE COLUMN APPEAR HOW HE HAS TO PLAY THE REMAINING HOLES IN ORDER TO FORCE A PLAY OFF.

RANKING SHOWS ALSO THE LEADER IN CLUB HOUSE TOTAL SHOTS AND HOW MANY THERE ARE IN THAT POSITION.

The total number of shots of the first three players on the first tee display 70, the course's par; at the end of the first hole the computer updates all scorecards with their actual scores: par, birdie, par; the birdie's TOTAL score on the leaderboard will read 69, having become the leader, his score will read 0 (zero) and the two pars will read 1 and 1; supposing they play other 17 par, the final leaderboard will read again 0, 1, 1 with a total of 69 shots for the leader.

The second day, supposing the leader is the same, those 3 scores on the first tee will read: a total of 139 shots with the leader at zero and the other two at 1.

On next page there is an actual leaderboard simulation:

	①	②	③	④	⑤
	PROJECTED BEST SCORE	leader in club house		PROJECTED	club house
	64/1	66/1			
	behind	hole - leader	How to play to PLAY OFF		
1 ° Jason Day	0	14	PRJ		
2 ° Rickie Fowler	1	16		-1/2	1/2
3 ° Jordan Spieth	2	18	CLH		
3 ° Alex Noren	2	16		-2/2	0/2
5 ° Tyrrell Hatton	3	18			
5 ° Louis Oosthuizen	3	18			
5 ° Sergio Garcia	3	17		-3/1	-1/1
5 ° Henrik Stenson	3	16		-3/2	-1/2
9 ° Justin Rose	4	16		-4/2	-2/2
9 ° Hideki Matsuyama	4	15		-4/3	-2/3
11 ° Rory McIlroy	5	18			
11 ° Adam Scott	5	16			
13 ° Dustin Johnson	6	18			
13 ° Jon Rahm	6	16			
15 ° Justin Thomas	7	16			
15 ° Paul Casey	7	16			
17 ° Patrick Reed	8	18			

Column 1: box Projected best score shows the FINAL result if the leader shall play all remaining holes in par; Day on hole 14 has a projected final score of 64 but he must play 17 and 18 in par to maintain it; his ranking is 0, zero. He started with a Projected score of 70 = course par. Should he finish the tournament at -16, on 4th day it would read 264, an almost insignificant number for 98% of the people.

The 2nd number tells how many players there are in that position. All other players are at 1, 2, 3 behind the leader.

On 2nd day all players shall start with a Projected score equal to the course par + the actual score of the previous day and so on. DAY on 2nd day would start at 70 + 65 = 135 shots.

Columna 2: last hole played

Columns 2-3: Leader in club house, shows the total shots taken and how many they are. Below, nn the name's line appears **CLH** for the leader in club house or **PRJ** = Projected Leader because ha has still to play the remaining holes in par.

Columns 4 e 5 are new, column 4 refers to the Projected Leader and 5 to the Leader in Clubhouse. The two numbers in each column states: the first to the left how, relative to hole's par, the player has to play the remaining holes to force a playoff with the leader. Example: Fowler who already played the 16th must play the two remaining holes at -1, that is one birdie and one par to force the playoff with Day and he may play +1, a bogey and a par, to pair Spieth while Noren needs two birdies to reach Day and two par to stay even with Spieth.

These indications will be displayed only after the 15th hole, provided the player is at 5 or less.

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I created it in 2007 and it had been in use at my former Golf Club for over 5 years. In parallel with the traditional system and sometimes as the contest formula.

Is based on the true concept of handicap: the actual number of shots needed to par a hole or the course. The player gets the necessary shots to par each hole when played over par only or the actual total number of shots to par the course.

Ranking is based on scores and QUALITY of each hole's score; quality is determined by the hole's difficulty sequence.

The best round possible is the GOLDEN round (1 in 10 thousand) where the player has played all his bogey according to the hole's difficulty sequence.

Example: total score of 5 over course's par, all bogey played on holes of difficulty 1 to 5.

The second best round is the SILVER round (1 in 1 thousand) where the player has played all his bogey or double bogey on any hole, disregarding the hole's difficulty sequence and no double bogey for below 19 handicap or triple bogey for over 18 handicap had been played.

Example: total score of 9 over course's par, scattered over any hole but no wrong double/triple bogey.

The third best round is the BRONZE round (1 in 1 hundred) where the player has played any handicap but any double/triple bogey had been recovered.

The last type of round is the NORMAL one where anything may happen as usual.

MY DAY HANDICAP[©] REVEALED AND DEFINED A NEW CATEGORY OF PLAYERS: THE GOLFERS THAT ARE TOTALLY DIFFERENTIATED FROM THE ACTUAL ALL INCLUSIVE 'AMATEURS' CATEGORY.

DAY HANDICAP[©] is still within the main stream of actual handicap system. It maintains a decent variability of the winners, a main stream percentage of par scores of 25-30%, also the SILVER and BRONZE rounds expectations were respected, just the GOLDEN round never happened in over 12 thousand rounds.

Then on the 4th year a small group of youngsters started to pull them out of the statistics with an almost continuous flow of BRONZE rounds and too many SILVER rounds plus a peculiarity: their handicaps did not change, but for a couple of decimals.

The reason was the decision of the Board to create a team of players to represent the Club in regional and national Club's competitions. They had been assigned, twice a week, a Coach that was also a PGA Touring player.

Evidently the training had not been aimed to better the player's golfing ability in terms of power or of a better swing, that training had been about REPETITIVENESS and GAME'S STRATEGY. The result had been that those players game had become unbeatable, talking of Golfers.

Their handicaps did not decrease, rightly, since they were representative of different handicap categories, but their frequentation of net par increased from 30% to 80%.

I had been forced to pull them out of the regular ranking, creating one for them only.

AMATEUR IS THE KIND OF PLAYER WHOSE PLAY IS AIMED FOR VICTORY ONLY AND HE RECEIVES A SPECIFIC TRAINING FOR THAT TASK.

GOLFER PLAYS FOR HIS OWN AMUSEMENT INSTEAD TO TRAIN HIMSELF, OF COURSE HE WELCOMES VICTORY BUT WON'T GRIEVE FOR ITS LACK.

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