

What is the USGA Definition of Course Rating, Slope Rating, Bogey Golfer and Bogey Rating?

Course Rating: A rating reflecting the playing difficulty of a course for scratch golfers under normal course and weather conditions. It is expressed as strokes taken to one decimal place, and is based on yardage and other obstacles to the extent they affect the scoring ability of a scratch golfer. Course rating is equivalent to the better half average of a scratch golfer's scores under normal playing conditions.

Slope Rating: Slope rating is computed by the following formula: Bogey rating minus Course Rating multiplied by (5.381 for men, 4.24 for women).

Bogey Golfer: A bogey golfer is a player with a USGA Handicap Index of 17.5 to 22.4 strokes for men and 21.5 to 26.4 for women. A male bogey golfer can hit tee shots an average of 200 yards and reach a 370 yard hole in two shots at sea level.

A female bogey golfer can hit tee shots an average of 150 yards and reach a 280 yard hole in two shots.

*Contrary to popular opinion, a player's handicap is intended to show a player's potential, not a player's average score.

Bogey Rating: Bogey Rating is the measurement of the relative difficulty of a course for the bogey golfer under normal course and weather conditions. It is based on

yardage, effective playing length and other obstacles to the extent they affect the scoring ability of the bogey golfer. Bogey rating is equivalent to the better half average of a bogey golfer's scores under normal playing conditions. The USGA calculates the typical score a bogey golfer would shoot on a golf course in good conditions to determine the **Slope Rating**. It does this by evaluating in detail what a typical bogey-per-hole golfer would shoot.

Statistics have determined that the difficulty of a course will impact bogey golfers more than scratch golfers, and the **Slope Rating** is a measure of this difference.

It is expressed by a number from 55 to 155, with 113 being the average **Slope Rating**. A course that poses difficulty and leads to higher scores by bogey golfers will have a higher **Slope Rating** than a course that is less challenging.

Some real world examples: John Conrad is a par 72 course with a course rating of 71.0 from the mens/white tees. The slope is 123. The USGA is saying the average bogey golfer, taking the better half average of his scores, (example 20 rounds of golf, then take his best 10 scores) will average shooting 91.5. $91.5 - 70.1$ (difference between bogey rating minus course rating) = 21.4 ($21.4 \times 5.381 = 115$) Typical scratch golfer should average shooting 2 under.

From the Competition tees, the course rating = 74.0 and slope = 126. USGA says average bogey golfer will shoot 95. $95 - 72 = 23$. $23 \times 5.381 = 124$.

Typical scratch golfer should average shooting even par.

Lincoln West is a par 71 course with a course rating of 67.9 from the white tees. The slope is 119. The USGA has determined, based on factors such as length, obstacles, etc., a bogey golfer will average shooting 90. $90 - 67.9 = 22.1$. $22.1 \times 5.381 = 119$ Typical scratch golfer should average shooting 3 under.

From the Championship tees, the course rating = 69.8 and slope 124. USGA says a bogey golfer will average shooting 93. $93 - 69.8 = 23.2$ $23.2 \times 5.381 = 124$
Typical scratch golfer should average shooting one under.

From the Tournament Black tees, the course rating is 72.2 and the slope is 131.
USGA says bogey golfer will average shooting 96.5. $96.5 - 72.2 = 24.3$. $24.3 \times 5.381 = 131$. Typical scratch golfer should average shooting one over.

Firelake is a Par 70 course with a course rating of 68.5 from the white tees.

The slope is 116. The USGA says a bogey golfer will average shooting 90. $90 - 68.5 = 21.5$. $21.5 \times 5.381 = 116$. Typical scratch golfer will average shooting 1.5 under.

From the Blue Championship tees, the course rating is 71.1 and slope is 124. USAG says a bogey golfer will average shooting 94.2. $94.2 - 71.1 = 23.1$.

$23.1 \times 5.381 = 124$. Scratch golfer will average one over.