

# SSGOA iCap – Handicap Calculation Explained

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**What is iCap?** iCap is a handicap calculation that is built into our tournament software. **iCap is similar to GHIN.** Many of you have heard of GHIN and some of you subscribe and maintain a GHIN index by posting scores on the internet or at your home golf course. Please read through the Q&A below and then look at the calculation example for Kevin Tucker. Questions can be sent to [admin.manager@ssgoa.org](mailto:admin.manager@ssgoa.org)

- Prior to 2023 – SSGOA simply averaged up to your last 8 quota point scores. This was inaccurate as it did not account for course difficulty. An 85 from the tips was treated the same as an 85 from the forward tees on the same course. The calculation was also susceptible to “sandbagging”
- In 2023, iCap was introduced. iCap is similar to a GHIN index but there are some differences. The calculation used up to 12 of the players most recent scores and discarded the 2 worst scores. Scratch Par (course rating) and Tee Difficulty (slope) were used in the calculation. An iCap was used to set a course handicap and corresponding point quota for tournaments.
- **2024 changes to iCap calculation:** Up to 10 scores are included but now the 2 worst AND 2 best scores are discarded leaving up to 6 scores for the iCap calculation. This eliminated using scores from 2 or 3 seasons ago. It also is moderated by discarding bad scores AND good scores. Again, iCap will be used to set your course handicap and corresponding quota points for tournaments.

## **What are the differences between iCap and GHIN?**

- **How many scores are used in the calculation** The main difference between the two handicap calculation methods is that iCap will use up to 6 out of 10 scores and discards both bad and good scores but GHIN uses up to the best 8 of 20 scores. This difference will cause an iCap and corresponding course handicap to be higher than a GHIN index and handicap calculated using a GHIN index.
- **Terminology** – due to registered trademarks, iCap cannot use the same terms that you might be familiar with from the GHIN system. The terms used with iCap are on the left side of the following equations.
  - iCap = GHIN Index; Variation = Differential; Scratch Par = Course Rating; Tee Difficulty = Slope / 113

**Is my iCap my Handicap?** **NO**, your iCap is similar to a GHIN index and will be used to calculate your course handicap for each tournament. The course handicap calculation uses the “World Handicap” method that uses both slope and the difference between scratch par (course rating) and par for the specific course and tees being played. Before each tournament, you will be able to see your iCap online. Your course handicap will use the slope and course rating for the course and tees that you will be playing. See the example below.

**What will my quota be for Quota Point tournaments?** Your quota will be 36 – your course handicap

**Can I post scores to iCap from rounds played outside of SSGOA tournaments?** **NO**

**Please scroll down or continue reading to see an example iCap and Handicap calculation for Kevin Tucker**

## Example of iCap and Course Handicap calculation for Kevin Tucker

Kevin Tucker  
(How iCap is calculated)

Close

### 1. Handicap Setup is as follows...

Number of scores handicap based on: 10

Minimum number of scores needed: 1

# of Scores Available	Discard Highest	Discard Lowest
1	0	0
2	0	0
3	1	0
4	1	0
5	1	1
6	2	1
7	2	1
8	2	1
9	2	2
10	2	2

Kevin Tucker has 10 scores to calculate a handicap.  
2 high scores and 2 low scores will be dropped and the remaining 6 scores used to calculate the handicap.

**iCap terminology reminder: “Variations” = GHIN “Differentials”, “Scratch par” = GHIN Course Rating, “Tee Difficulty” = GHIN “Slope” /113, most recent 10 scores are used but the 2 lowest and 2 highest variations are discarded leaving the 6 variations highlighted in green to average for Kevin’s iCap of 17.5**

**2. The Variations for these scores are calculated...**

#	Date	Course	Tee	Adjusted Gross Score	Scratch par	Tee difficulty	Variation
1	9/7/2023	Ellsworth Meadows Golf Course	Slate	84C	66.1	1.071	16.7
2	8/10/2023	Windmill Lakes Golf Club	Silver	86C	67.0	1.009	18.8
3	7/13/2023	Turkeyfoot First/Second	White	86C	67.6	1.000	18.4
4	6/29/2023	Fox Den Golf Course	White	80C	68.9	1.053	10.5
5	6/1/2023	Raintree Golf and Event Center	Gold	85C	67.0	1.053	17.1
6	5/18/2023	Sanctuary Golf Club	White	89C	67.1	1.018	21.5
7	9/8/2022	(Away course)	\	86C	68.0	1.000	18.0
8	8/11/2022	(Away course)	\	86C	68.0	1.000	18.0
9	7/14/2022	(Away course)	\	85C	68.0	1.000	17.0
10	6/16/2022	(Away course)	\	82C	68.0	1.000	14.0

The equation for calculating a variation is ...

$$\text{Variation} = ('Adjusted\ Gross\ Score' - 'Scratch\ par') \div 'Tee\ difficulty'$$

**3. Use the variations to calculate handicap**

Variations 'used' are added together...

$$16.7 + 17.0 + 17.1 + 18.0 + 18.0 + 18.4 = 105.2$$

Then divide by the total number used.

$$\text{Pre-Handicap} = 105.2 / 6 = 17.533$$

According to the setup the Handicap Percent is 100%

$$\text{iCap} = 17.533 \times 1.00 = 17.53$$

**Final iCap = 17.5**

Kevin Tucker plays B Division tournaments. His iCap is 17.5 as shown in the preceding calculation. As an example, B Division men would play Black tees at Mayfair. Black tees at Mayfair are approximately 5600 yards, in compliance with course setup guidelines for B Division men.

- The course rating (Scratch Par) for Mayfair Black tees for men is 67.2
- The slope for Mayfair Black tees is 124. The corresponding Tee Difficulty is  $124 / 113 = 1.097$
- Kevin's course handicap would be:  $17.5 \times 1.097$  which equals 19.2 + 67.2 (scratch par) – 71 (par) = 15.4, which would round to a course handicap of 15
- For a point quota tournament, quota = 36 – course handicap so Kevin's quota would be  $36 - 15 = 21$  points

**Tucker, Kevin**

General Handcaps Scores

iCap

Handcaps for...

Tee	Hcp	Equation	Front	Equation	Back	Equation
Gold	20	$= (17.5 \times 1.177) + 70.3 - 71$	12N	$= (17.5/2 \times 1.257) + 36.4 - 35$	7N	$= (17.5/2 \times 1.088) + 33.9 - 36$
White	18	$= (17.5 \times 1.133) + 68.9 - 71$	11N	$= (17.5/2 \times 1.177) + 35.5 - 35$	7N	$= (17.5/2 \times 1.080) + 33.4 - 36$
Black	15	$= (17.5 \times 1.097) + 67.2 - 71$	8N	$= (17.5/2 \times 1.097) + 33.0 - 35$	8N	$= (17.5/2 \times 1.097) + 34.2 - 36$
Red	11	$= (17.5 \times 1.044) + 63.4 - 71$	7N	$= (17.5/2 \times 1.080) + 32.3 - 35$	4N	$= (17.5/2 \times 1.000) + 31.1 - 36$

Equation is:  $Handicap = (iCap \times "Tee\ difficulty") + "Scratch\ par" - Par$