

Calculating your true handicap

Golf is a tough game, often made tougher by poor choices in equipment combinations and attire. The choices you make before you put your brush T in the ground can often make or break a round of golf. The following is a handy guide for determining your approximate handicap based on your pre-game preparation and will serve as a great guide for betting with new people.

How does it work? Take your current USGA handicap and after each item listed below, add or subtract strokes for each choice you have made for the day.

This “adjusted” handicap should give you an approximate goal score for the day, and again, should aid greatly in betting with new people who may be vanity handicappers or sandbaggers:

- _____ Bag name matching iron brand name -2
- _____ Bag name matching 2nd most prominent club name -1
- _____ Brush clipped to bag +2
- _____ Hat matching bag -2
- _____ Cargo shorts +2
- _____ Mock shirts +2
- _____ Tube socks +3
- _____ Golf Sandals +5
- _____ Ironed clothing -3
- _____ Belt matching shoes -1, not matching +2
- _____ Belt with silver metallic thingies (circa 98'- 05') +3
- _____ Running-style golf shoes +4
- _____ Ball retriever +8
- _____ Iron covers +4
- _____ F2 wedge or Alien wedge +5
- _____ “Perfect club” and/or chipper +2
- _____ Ben Crenshaw/Woody Austin-style shirt +4
- _____ Brush T -2
- _____ Rangefinder, Skycaddie -3
- _____ Baby wipes in bag -2
- _____ Vaseline in bag -2
- _____ Drawn lines on ball -2
- _____ Custom-fit putter -2, Cameron putter custom-fit -3
- _____ “Staff” bag +4
- _____ Name on bag -3
- _____ Using the word GOLF as a verb +10

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_____ Adjusted Handicap