

**Slope Rating**  
EXPLAINED

**What is it?**

- A number which indicates the relative playing difficulty of a course from a specific set of tees

**Why is it important?**

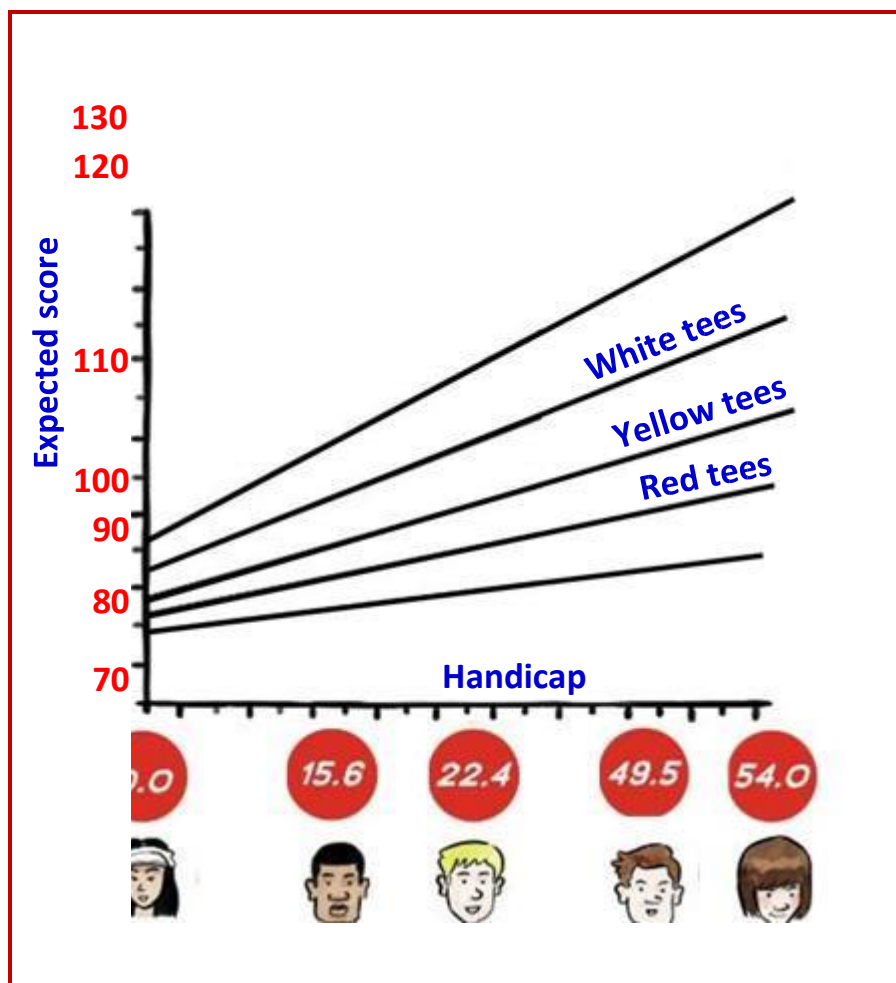
- It's a key component in strokes received calculations and enables acceptable scores from any rated golf course in the world to be submitted

- Each golf course has a Slope Rating value between 55 and 155
- The higher the slope, the more strokes a player is likely to receive
- Slope Ratings are gender specific

If you have played golf in Europe or the USA you will probably have seen references to Slope Rating on the scorecard and wondered what does this mean?

**Slope Rating** is a number that indicates the relative playing difficulty of a course from a specific set of tees. It has nothing to do with the number of hills on the course - if that was the case, Mapperley would have a very high Slope Rating!

In the previous article we learnt about **Course Rating**, the expected score on a course for a Scratch player (0 handicap) and **Bogey Rating**, the expected score on a course for a Bogey player (20 handicap). Knowing the Course Rating and Bogey Rating for any set of tees allows a straight line to be drawn between the two. The line can be used to determine the expected score for a player of any handicap.



*Note: the picture is for illustration purposes only (not actual values)*

The bigger the difference between Course Rating and Bogey Rating, the steeper the gradient of the line, hence the term **Slope Rating**.

Slope Rating values range from 55 to 155, with 113 being the value indicating a course of 'standard' relative difficulty.

### How does Slope Rating affect your handicap?

The Slope Rating is a key component in the calculation of the number of strokes each player receives when playing a particular golf course. The higher the Slope Rating, the more strokes will be received.

The Course Ratings and Slope Ratings for Davenport GC are shown in the extract from our Course Rating Certificate below:

## NOT OURS

TEE NAME	LENGTH	GENDER	COURSE RATING / SLOPE RATING	FRONT NINE	BACK NINE
White	6307	Men	71.2/127	34.9/123	36.3/130
White Alternate	6124	Men	70.3/125	34.9/123	35.4/126
Yellow	5895	Men	69.1/123	33.8/116	35.3/129
Yellow Alternate	5719	Men	68.3/120	33.8/116	34.5/124
Red	5387	Men	66.9/117	33.6/116	33.3/117
Red	5387	Women	72.4/128	36.5/128	35.9/128

You will see that there are also ratings for the front 9 and back 9 which will allow 9 hole scores for handicap purposes to be submitted from either nine.

### Summary

A finally, click here to watch a short [Course Rating & Slope Rating key features video](#)

### Coming Next:

The next article will explain how Slope Rating is used to determine your **Course Handicap**, the number of handicap strokes you will receive on any given course.

