

The "Official Callaway System"

(source http://www.usga.org/playing/handicaps/understanding_handicap/articles/handicapping_the_un.html)

The Callaway System is a so-called "one-round" system or "worst-holes system" that compresses the spread of gross scores when converted to net scores. It produces a result such that the player with the lowest gross score almost always becomes the low net score winner. Most players with higher gross scores end up with net scores within a few strokes of the winner so that most players can feel competitive.

By the Callaway System, a player's allowance is determined after each round by deducting the scores of the worst individual holes during the first 16 holes. The table shows the number of "worst hole" scores he may deduct and the adjustment to be made, based on his gross score.

For example, if his gross score for 18 holes is 96, he turns to the table and opposite that score finds that he may deduct the total for his three worst holes scored on holes 1 through 16 inclusive. Thus, if he has one 9, one 8, and a 7, his deduction totals 24. Further adjustment is then made according to the table below each column. For the sample score of 96, the deduction is reduced by 2 strokes, resulting in a final allowance of 22. Thus 96 minus an allowance of 22 equals a net score of 74.

Score					Deduct
--	--	70	71	72	no holes and adjustment
73	74	75	--	--	1/2 worst hole and adjustment
76	77	78	79	80	1 worst hole and adjustment
81	82	83	84	85	1-1/2 worst holes and adjustment
86	87	88	89	90	2 worst holes and adjustment
91	92	93	94	95	2-1/2 worst holes and adjustment
96	97	98	99	100	3 worst holes and adjustment
101	102	103	104	105	3-1/2 worst holes and adjustment
106	107	108	109	110	4 worst holes and adjustment
111	112	113	114	115	4-1/2 worst holes and adjustment
116	117	118	119	120	5 worst holes and adjustment
121	122	123	124	125	5-1/2 worst holes and adjustment
126	127	128	129	130	6 worst holes and adjustment
Adjustment to Deduction					Maximum Handicap - 50
-2	-1	0	+1	+2	

Notes:

1. No hole may be scored at more than twice its par.
2. Half strokes count as whole.
3. The 17th and 18th holes are never deducted
4. In case of ties, lowest handicap takes preference.