

## From the Handicap Committee

During the past few months some of our QCLGA members have had a soft cap applied to their handicap index. So why is the cap given??

**Low Handicap Index:** After a player has accumulated 20 scores they receive a Low Handicap Index. This LHI will remain the same for 365 days and then will be recalculated.

When a score is posted, the existing Low Handicap Index is used to calculate the player's new Handicap Index. Each time a new HI is calculated the player's 8 of 20 average scores is compared to their Low Handicap Index. If their 8 of 20 average is more than 3.0 strokes higher than their LHI, the soft cap slows upward movement beyond 3.0 strokes by 50%. The Hard Cap prevents any additional upward movement from taking place beyond 5 strokes after the soft cap has been applied. (Your handicap index cannot go up more than 5 strokes). If a player's 8 of 20 average is 7.0 or more above their Low H I they have reached the hard cap.

The cap is part of the Handicap Index calculation and applied automatically

The caps do not prevent a Handicap Index from increasing, just the amount it can increase.

Research suggests that most players who experience a cap will return to their "normal" demonstrated ability.

### Soft cap example:

Low H I	Current 8 of 20	Amount of increase average	Amount suppressed beyond 3.0 strokes	Calculated value (50% of 1.0)	Final Handicap index (after soft cap)
10.0	14.0	1.0	0.5	13.5	13.5

The soft/hard cap concept can be confusing. Please reread the above statements a few times to get clarification. To find out when "your" Low Handicap Index" will be recalculated go to the GHIN app and look under the Handicap History column (found on upper right of GHIN page).

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