

How to “Pop” a Golf Scorecard

When a tournament uses hole-by-hole scores to determine tournament winners, a player’s handicap is distributed over the 18 holes based on a hole’s difficulty (This is called “**Popping a Scorecard**”).

Term Definitions:

- **Pops** – The number of handicap strokes a player gets on each hole. Most tournament scoring systems use dots on a scorecard to indicate the handicap strokes.
- **Handicap Index** – A decimal number you receive from a handicap scoring system like NCGA or USGA which represents your level of skill.
- **Course Handicap** – When playing on different courses or on different Tees, your Handicap Index will be converted to a Course Handicap using Course Handicap Conversion Tables or a Handicap Conversion Application. Handicap Calculator at USGA : <https://www.usga.org/course-handicap-calculator.html>
- **Hole Rating (HDCP)** – Each hole is assigned a level of difficulty from 1 to 18 (1 being the hardest, and 18 being the easiest). Most scorecards label the Hole Rating line as HDCP. Please note: There is often a Men’s HDCP and a Women’s HDCP, and some courses, like Lake of the Pines, use a different HDCP for each set of tees. So, be sure you are popping with the correct HDCP for the Tees you are playing.

Please Note – The Lake of the Pines Women’s Golf Club prefers that you use a small number in the top-right corner as opposed to dots.

To Pop a Scorecard:

1. **For Handicaps 0 – 18:** Your Course handicap equals the number of hardest holes you get 1 handicap stroke on and 0 handicap strokes on the remaining holes. **For example:** A Course Handicap of 10 means you get 1 handicap stroke on the 10 hardest rated holes and 0 handicap strokes on the remaining holes. (See Player 1 on the Sample Scorecard on Page 2.)
2. **For Handicaps 19 – 36:** Subtract 18 from your Course Handicap, and the difference equals the number of hardest rated holes you get 2 handicap strokes on and just 1 handicap stroke on the remaining holes. **For example:** A Course Handicap of 29 - 18 = 11, so you get 2 handicap strokes on the 11 hardest rated holes and just 1 handicap stroke on the remaining holes. (See Player 2 on the Sample Scorecard on Page 2.)
3. **For Handicaps 37 – 54:** Subtract 36 from your Course Handicap, and the difference equals the number of hardest rated holes you get 3 handicap strokes on and just 2 handicap strokes on the remaining holes. **For example:** A Course Handicap of 42 - 36 = 6, so you get 3 handicap strokes on the 6 hardest rated holes and just 2 handicap strokes on the remaining holes. (See Player 3 on the Sample Scorecard on Page 2.)
4. **Check your Math:** Adding up the number of handicap strokes on all 18 holes should equal your Course Handicap.
5. **Example Score Below:** Please note that Player 1 & 2 are playing on the **Red Tees** and the hole handicaps are popped using the **Red Hcp** ratings, and Player 3 is playing on the **Green Tees** and the hole handicaps are popped using the **Green Hcp** ratings.

Lake of the Pines CC

											Date	Scorer										Attest										Hole			
Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	IN	Total													
71.8/130 Red	337	161	304	271	263	310	98	462	311	2517		467	330	237	115	335	140	303	463	408	2798	5315													
Red Hcp	8	14	10	12	6	16	18	2	4			1	9	17	13	3	15	11	5	7			Tee												
68.5/124 Green	265	108	272	186	263	249	92	401	311	2147		467	330	216	115	335	127	276	398	373	2637	4784													
Green Hcp	10	16	8	14	4	12	18	2	6			3	9	13	15	1	17	11	5	7			Tee												
Par	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	5	4	35	Init	5	4	4	3	4	3	4	5	5	37	72	R/G	Hcp	Net	Adj									
Player 1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1			1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1			R	10											
Player 2	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	2			2	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	2			R	29											
Player 3	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	3			3	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	2			G	42											