



## UNDERSTANDING THE SLOPE NUMBER

The Slope Number is a figure derived from the ratings that indicates the difficulty of the course for the two types of player, the scratch and bogey golfer. The difference of the two ratings is multiplied by 5.381 (men) and 4.24 (women) to give the Slope Number.

**\*Note:** It is only relative to the set of tees rated, and cannot be compared with the slope number of other courses.

**Example 1:** Hamilton Golf Club - blue tees, 6,800 yards

Course Rating 72.1  
Bogey Rating 96.0  
Slope Number  $96.0 - 72.1 = 23.9 \times 5.381 = 129$

**Example 2:** Hamilton Golf Club - white tees, 6,345 yards

Course rating 70.2  
Bogey rating 94.3  
Slope Number  $94.3 - 70.2 = 24.1 \times 5.381 = 130$

The white tees are over 450 yards shorter than the blue, which is reflected in the Course Rating. However for the Slope Number to be higher on the shorter course, the obstacles must be more severe from those tees for the bogey golfer, in comparison to how they rate from the blue tees.

### What is the slope number used for?

The Slope Number provides a player with a course handicap after multiplying a Handicap Index by the Slope Number, then dividing by 113. It allows for the portability of our handicap index.

The Slope Number is also used when putting a player's round in perspective in comparison to all other courses. Once a player has returned a score, the Course Rating is deducted from the adjusted gross; the difference is multiplied by 113 and then divided by the Slope Number.

When playing a course that has a high Slope Number, most golfers are going to require some assistance. At Kauri Cliffs the Slope Number from the white tees is 138. The scratch player, or low handicap golfer, can carry the ball the distances required at this course, but it is a far greater challenge for the higher handicapper. At Pauanui Lakes where the Slope Number is 91, the bogey golfer is at a great advantage in comparison with the scratch golfer, as it is a short course with little trouble, and the Slope Number allows for the adjustment required.

Example: Knowing the formula to find a course handicap is;  $\text{Handicap Index} \times \text{slope number} / 113$ , the following happens for two players. One is on 2.0 and the other 21.0

Martinborough Slope 114; Course handicaps stay the same. The higher handicapper receives 19 strokes

Kauri Cliffs Slope 138; Course handicaps become 2 and 26. The higher handicapper receives 24 strokes

Pauanui Lakes Slope 91; Course handicaps become 2 and 17. The higher handicapper receives 15 strokes