

'New System' GC Handicap guidance

This document collects together all the written guidance we would need to launch a trial of the New System in EACF in April 2015. The following pages are as follows:

Official trial of new GC handicap system - 2015

This is meant to be a replacement for (and equivalent to) the CA webpage "The automatic handicap system (2014 version) for Golf Croquet" (<https://www.croquet.org.uk/golf/gchandicapping/automatic.htm>) and should be hosted on the EACF website. It is the prime description of the new system.

Changing to the New System

This should also be hosted on the EACF site and linked from the page above. It explains how to convert players to the new system – and also how to handle the tricky cases where players from the two systems meet.

Setting Initial Handicaps under the New System

Again, to be hosted on the EACF site and linked from the page above.

Insert for existing handicap card

During the trial, this insert is proposed, rather than re-issuing new cards in a rush. The intention (given the size of Table 2) is to move to a half A4 page rather than a third for this insert. Copies will be printed and sent to clubs to hand out to players by the CA Office; also made available as an A4 poster.

Email to Club Secretaries and Club Handicappers in EACF area

To be sent out to all clubs by Terrey Sparks as soon as we have go-ahead for the trial.

Email to all low-handicap players in EACF area re. level play when visiting other areas

Emails to organisers of the 5 CA Calendar Fixtures including GC handicap play

Official trial of new GC handicap system - 2015

This new system has been developed by the CA Handicap Committee with a view to its introduction nationally in 2016. It has been developed from an analysis of 8,300 games played in the last few years, under both the 2014 Trial System and earlier system.

The East Anglian Croquet Federation AGM has approved the trial, and the CA Council has sanctioned an official trial of this new system within the EACF area the during the 2015 season – feedback from this trial may lead to the system described below being refined for 2016.

The good news is the new system work exactly like the previous ones – only the handicap range and trigger points have altered. It no longer uses “Effective Handicaps”. Further good news is that for the majority of players, the translation to the new system is very simple.

This guidance is to be read in conjunction with Rule 16 – Handicaps of the 4th Edition GC Rules booklet.

The New System

The New System provides a handicap for every player when they play Golf Croquet in accordance with Rule 16 on Handicap Play. The player's handicap is used to determine the number of extra turns that the more able player has to give to the less able player, so that the competition between the two is approximately evenly balanced. The system requires that players record accurately on their Handicap Card the result of every 'qualifying game' – this means all games of GC singles played under tournament conditions to level or handicap rules. The Handicap Card tracks the player's Index - a running total of points that increase when you win, and decrease when you lose.

Ten index points are exchanged in all handicap singles games – the winner's index increases by 10 and the loser's decreases by 10. When a player's index moves through the 'Trigger Point' for the next handicap level, their handicap is changed. The change is not always immediate and may be held back until the end of a day's play or the end of a short tournament as defined below. The relation between index and handicap is given in Table 1.

Table 1 – New System trigger points

Handicap	Trigger Point		Handicap	Trigger Point		Handicap	Trigger Point
-6	2800		2	1800		10	1200
-5	2650		3	1700		11	1150
-4	2500		4	1600		12	1100
-3	2350		5	1500		14	1050
-2	2200		6	1400		16	1000
-1	2100		7	1350		18	950
0	2000		8	1300		20	900
1	1900		9	1250			

If a player reaches a trigger point and their handicap changes, it cannot immediately change back again as a result of the next couple of games. For example, if a 7 handicap player with an index of 1390 wins 10 points from a handicap game, his index becomes 1400, the trigger point for 6. Once the handicap has changed, that player would then have to lose 5 games in a row to have his index drop down to 1350 before he again reaches the trigger point for 7, and so becomes a 7 again.

Although a 'handicap' is not used when playing level games, full records of all level games are also kept as they improve the accuracy of the player's handicap for when they do venture into handicap play. The points interchanged by players after a level game are calculated on a sliding scale as shown in Table 2 below. The points the better player can win are significantly reduced; alternatively should the weaker player win, they gain significantly more than 10 points.

Table 2 -

		Points Exchanged in Level Play																													
		-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	16	18	20							
	-6	10	7	4	2																										
	-5	13	10	7	4	2																									
	-4	16	13	10	7	4	3	2																							
	-3	18	16	13	10	7	5	3	2																						
W	-2		18	16	13	10	8	6	4	3	2																				
I	-1			17	15	12	10	8	6	4	3	2																			
N	0				18	17	14	12	10	8	6	4	3	2																	
N	1					18	16	14	12	10	8	6	4	3	2																
E	2						17	16	14	12	10	8	6	4	3	2	2														
R	3							18	17	16	14	12	10	8	6	4	3	3	2	2											
	4								18	17	16	14	12	10	8	6	5	4	3	3	2	2									
H	5									18	17	16	14	12	10	8	7	6	5	4	3	3	2	2							
A	6										18	17	16	14	12	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	3	2	2					
N	7											18	17	15	13	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	3	2					
D	8												18	17	16	14	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	3				
I	9													18	17	15	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3				
C	10														18	17	16	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4			
A	11															18	17	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5			
P	12																18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6		
	14																	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7		
	16																		18	17	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	
	18																			18	17	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	
	20																				18	18	17	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10

Qualifying Games

Qualifying games are all singles games in CA Calendar Fixtures, Federation Leagues, inter-club contests (including friendlies) and internal club competitions played in accordance with the rules of the game. Friendly club games, walkovers and abandoned games are specifically excluded from the system.

Changing Handicap

Handicap changes do not necessarily become effective immediately. They only become effective at the end of the tournament if it is a CA Calendar Fixture or any other tournament lasting no more than four days. In all other cases handicap changes become effective at the end of the day. If a player's index goes through a trigger point and then goes back through the same trigger point during the tournament or day, their handicap does not change.

Changing to the New System

Please see [Changing to the New System](#) for a description of the trial in the EACF area for 2015, and how to apply it.

Changing to the New System

To convert your existing handicap to the New System:

a) if your existing handicap is in the range 3 to 12 , convert your index as follows:

- If your existing handicap is between 6 and 12, keep your handicap and add 1100 to your existing index to get your new index.
- If your existing handicap is 5, keep your handicap and add 1150 to your existing index.
- If your existing handicap is 3 or 4, keep your handicap and add 1200 to your existing index. If your new index is 1800 or above (so your old index was 600 or above) your new handicap becomes 2; otherwise you keep your old handicap.

b) if your existing handicap is 12 and you have been struggling to get your index much above 0, ask your club handicapper to reset your handicap to 14 with a new index of 1050.

c) a new complete beginner should be started on 16 – with an index of 1000 (but start with a lower handicap if they have some previous experience – see [Setting Initial Handicap.](#))

d) if your existing Actual Handicap is 2 or below, take your current CGS Grade (“ranking grade”) and use that as though it were your handicap index, to lookup your new handicap from the trigger point table (Table 1). Take the handicap of the next trigger point at or below your grade. Note however that if this method would result in your handicap increasing, then instead keep your existing handicap but with the new index taken from Table 1 for that handicap.

Example for (d): if under the existing system you are a -1 Actual Handicap (-5 Effective Handicap) with a CGS Grade of 2383, you will start on the New System as a -3 with an index of 2383.

Handicap Card

For 2015, continue to use the existing type of handicap card. You may continue with a card you already have or start a new one, as you wish. Please make clear on the card where the games switch to being under the New System – perhaps by ruling a line across and writing ‘New System’ as a title.

Analysis and feedback

At the end of the 2015 season, handicap cards will be requested from clubs across the EACF area, so that an analysis can be undertaken of how fairly and accurately the New System works. Feedback from clubs and individuals will also be sought – comments may be sent to martin.french@btinternet.com .

Playing opponents under the existing 2014 Trial System

As the CA wants to trial the New System before rolling it out nationally, it may be that at times during 2015, your opponent might be on a different handicap system to you. The following explains the solutions.

Handicap play

There are just 5 events in the CA Fixtures Calendar for GC handicap play – as most handicap play is within a federation rather than a nationally-advertised event. For the majority of players, their handicap under the New System will start out the same as their handicap under the 2014 Trial System (the “existing system”), with only players at the extremes of the range being directly affected – so in many cases any impact of a “clash of systems” will be negligible.

If the event is held in a federation running the existing system, then a visiting player from the EACF region should take with them a) their previous handicap card under the existing system, and b) their new handicap card under the New System. They must make a point of showing these to the Tournament Manager or Handicapper before play begins, to agree what handicap they should play off during the event. Results for these games should be recorded on the players' handicap cards, and contribute to their index, but with a note of which system they were played under.

If the event is held in the EACF, running the New System, then a visiting player from outside the EACF region should take with them their handicap card and must make a point of showing it to the Tournament Manager or Handicapper before play begins, to agree what handicap they should play off during the event. Results for these games should be recorded on the players' handicap cards, and contribute to their index, but with a note of which system they were played under.

Note: the All England Handicap Final at Colchester will be run under the existing system.

Level play

To maintain your handicap card and include all level play games where the players are from the two different systems, you may use the following table to convert the opponent's handicap to show on your card and make your index calculations:

a) Handicaps 12 to 3 – just use the opponent's handicap directly
b) To convert Existing System Actual Handicaps 2 down to -2 to New System EITHER [<i>accurate method</i>] find their CGS Grade and use Table 1 OR [<i>approximate method</i>]: > 2 becomes 1; > 1 becomes 0; > 0 becomes -1; > -1 becomes -3; > -2 becomes -5
c) To convert New System h'caps to Existing System Actual Handicaps: > 1 becomes 2; > 0 becomes 1; > -1 and -2 becomes 0; > -3 and -4 becomes -1; > -5 and -6 becomes -2

Setting Initial Handicaps under the New System

Players New to Croquet

When a new player starts playing competitive Golf Croquet, it is essential they be given an appropriate handicap – not every beginner is the same! It is generally the task of the Club Handicapper to set the initial handicap.

There are a few simple guides to setting the initial handicap. These are quite approximate and any initial handicap must be reviewed after the player has recorded their first five to ten results, and corrected if necessary.

The simple test for players new to croquet is known as the **Three Times Round** test. The player starts from corner four and counts the number of strokes required to run hoops one to six inclusive, completing the exercise three times. Table 3 is then used to convert the aggregate number of strokes taken for the three exercises into an initial handicap. If the player's aggregate is less than 50 the player's handicap should be separately assessed. It should not be used for players who have played Association Croquet and have AC handicaps less than 10

Table 3 – Three Times Round test

Strokes Taken	Initial Handicap	Initial Index
50-54	7	1350
55-60	8	1300
61-64	10	1200
64-70	12	1100
71-78	14	1050
>78	16	1000

The practice of setting all beginners at a handicap of 16 must be avoided. Most players have some natural ability which deserves a handicap less than 16 – only set a handicap as high as 16 if the Three Times Round test suggests it is necessary.

It is entirely reasonable for Clubs and Federations to set an upper handicap limit for players in their leagues, matches and events, such as 12 for example.

Existing AC Players

The following table suggests an equivalent GC handicap for an AC player with a handicap of less than 10:

AC Handicap	Suggested GC Handicap
Less than -1	-3
-0.5 to -1	-1
0 to 0.5	0
1 to 1.5	1
2 to 3	2
3.5 to 5	3
6 to 7	4
8 to 9	5

Insert for existing handicap card

GC Handicap 'New System' trial 2015

Please use the existing standard CA handicap card during 2015. Disregard the Points Exchanged and Trigger Points tables inside the front cover, and use the following instead.

For handicap games the winner's index increases by 10, the loser's decreases by 10.

For level play games use the table below to determine the number of points exchanged.

		Points Exchanged in Level Play																													
		LOSER's HANDICAP																													
		-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	16	18	20							
	-6	10	7	4	2																										
	-5	13	10	7	4	2																									
	-4	16	13	10	7	4	3	2																							
	-3	18	16	13	10	7	5	3	2																						
W	-2		18	16	13	10	8	6	4	3	2																				
I	-1			17	15	12	10	8	6	4	3	2																			
N	0				18	17	14	12	10	8	6	4	3	2																	
N	1					18	16	14	12	10	8	6	4	3	2																
E	2						17	16	14	12	10	8	6	4	3	2	2														
R	3							18	17	16	14	12	10	8	6	4	3	3	2	2											
	4								18	17	16	14	12	10	8	6	5	4	3	3	2	2									
H	5									18	17	16	14	12	10	8	7	6	5	4	3	3	2	2							
A	6										18	17	16	14	12	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	3	2	2					
N	7											18	17	15	13	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	3	2					
D	8												18	17	16	14	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	3				
I	9													18	17	15	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3				
C	10														18	17	16	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4			
A	11															18	17	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5			
P	12																18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6		
	14																	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7		
	16																		18	17	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	
	18																			18	17	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	
	20																				18	18	17	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10

Handicap Trigger Points

Handicap	Trigger Point	Handicap	Trigger Point	Handicap	Trigger Point
-6	2800	2	1800	10	1200
-5	2650	3	1700	11	1150
-4	2500	4	1600	12	1100
-3	2350	5	1500	14	1050
-2	2200	6	1400	16	1000
-1	2100	7	1350	18	950
0	2000	8	1300	20	900
1	1900	9	1250		

Extra Turns in Handicap Games

Length of game	Handicap Difference																										
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
19 point	0	1	3	4	6	7	9	10	12	13	15	16	18	19	20	22	23	25	26	28	29	31	32	34	35	37	38
13 point	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
7 point	0	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6	7	8	8	9	9	10	10	11	11	12	12	13	13	14

To: Club Secretaries and Club Handicappers, EACF clubs

Subject: Golf Croquet Handicap System for 2015

Dear Club Secretary or Handicapper,

You will be aware that in 2014, the CA trialled a revision to the GC handicap system that introduced Effective Handicaps for low players. These were not popular, but fortunately only affected a small number of players. This winter, the CA Handicap Committee has collected results for 8,300 handicap singles games under both the 2014 trial and previous systems. From an analysis of this, a New System has been developed which it is believed will be stable over the long term and will treat all players fairly.

It has been agreed by the CA Council and by the EACF AGM that this new system should be trialled in the EACF area for 2015. It is expected to roll out nationally in 2016, but there is a strong desire to test it thoroughly first – so the rest of the country will continue with the 2014 trial system for 2015, while we use the New System.

Use of the New System is mandated for all EACF league matches, tournaments and fixtures – we hope you will use it for all your club events and games too.

The good news is the New System works exactly like the previous ones – only the handicap range and trigger points have altered. Further good news is that for the majority of players, the translation to the new system is very simple. The only tricky part might be the rare occasions when someone with an EACF handicap plays elsewhere in the country, or vice versa – but we have added some guidance on how to manage this.

I'd like to ask for your assistance in getting the trial underway at your club for the new season – it is effective immediately. Please will you actively ensure all your members who currently keep a GC handicap card – and any others who start competitive play this season – understand they are on the New System, have a correct initial handicap and index under the New System, and know how to find out information about the New System. At the end of the season, I will contact all EACF clubs and ask for copies of handicap cards for anyone who plays a reasonable number of games during the season – so we can analyse how the trial went and confirm it treated players of all standards fairly. Martin French will be available at any time to help with any problems you find with the New System or the documentation supporting it; he will do his best to assist you:

(martin.french@btinternet.com; 01473 288448; 07718 630804).

The EACF website is hosting the pages describing the New System:

www.angliacroquet.co.uk/2015/gctrail/new_system.php - most of these are pages that could transfer to the CA website at the end of the season ready for the national roll-out. Players with an existing handicap of 2 or less and with a current CGS Grade (a “ranking”) should see the page “Changing to the New System” to see how to find their starting handicap and index. For most other players, their handicap will remain the same, but with a new index taken from the trigger point table.

We will not be changing the GC handicap card for the New System trial, so instead the CA Office will be posting to clubs an A5 insert giving the critical information players need: trigger points table, points exchanged in level play table, and extra turns in different length games (so replacing all the information inside the front cover of the existing handicap card). This will also be available from the EACF website as an A4 poster for the club notice-board.

Please ensure this information is communicated to your players, and that they mark clearly on their card when they change to using the new system (so that the end of year analysis works smoothly).

If there is any further information you need, don't hesitate to ask. We believe this new system will be a great improvement over the 2014 Trial System and previous system, and that the EACF area is fortunate to be moving to it now, rather than in a year's time. Many thanks in anticipation of your help with this trial.

regards, Terrey Sparks

To: all those players in EACF area who appear in the GC Rankings

Subject: GC Handicap system for 2015

Dear players,

The EACF AGM and the CA Council have agreed to trial the GC handicap “New System” in the EACF area for 2015, prior to a national rollout in 2016. You should get details of this via your club or they can be found on the EACF website www.angliacroquet.co.uk/2015/gctrail/new_system.php. This email is to explain how to work out your handicap under the New System and also what to do if you play in a level play event outside the EACF area during 2015.

You will be aware that in 2014, the CA trialled a revision to the GC handicap system that introduced Effective Handicaps for low players. These were not popular and will not continue in the New System. This winter, the CA Handicap Committee has collected results for 8,300 handicap singles games under both the 2014 trial and previous systems. From an analysis of this, a New System has been developed which it is believed will be stable over the long term and will treat all players fairly.

While the rest of the country will continue with the 2014 trial system for 2015, we in East Anglia will use the New System. The good news is the New System works exactly like the previous ones – only the handicap range and trigger points have altered. There are no longer Effective Handicaps to worry about.

How to work out your new handicap

If your current Actual Handicap is 3 or higher, then you keep that same handicap as you go onto the New System. Look up in Table 1 below to find what your new starting Index is.

If your current Actual Handicap is between 2 and -2, then to find your new handicap and index, we will be using the CGS Ranking System, as research has shown a good correlation between ranking and handicap. So, go to <http://rank.wfcroquet.org/gcrank/rank.php> and enter your first and surnames under Player Full Record. Make a note of your most recent “Grade” from the table – that will be your starting handicap index. Next, check this index against Table 1 below - take the handicap of the next trigger point at or below your grade:

Handicap	Trigger Point		Handicap	Trigger Point		Handicap	Trigger Point
-6	2800		2	1800		10	1200
-5	2650		3	1700		11	1150
-4	2500		4	1600		12	1100
-3	2350		5	1500		14	1050
-2	2200		6	1400		16	1000
-1	2100		7	1350		18	950
0	2000		8	1300		20	900
1	1900		9	1250			

So for example, if your CGS Grade is 2383, then checking the above table, your new handicap will be -3 with an initial index of 2383. Note however that if this method would result in your handicap increasing, then instead keep your existing handicap but with the new index taken from Table 1 for that handicap. If you are uncertain, ask me for help.

You use this handicap directly for handicap games and also for keeping a record of your level play games. Effective Handicaps no longer apply.

As before, keep a record of all your qualifying games on your handicap card. If you are continuing a card from last season, please rule a line across and write "New System", so we can analyse the results correctly at the end of the season. We will be sending to clubs an insert for the card giving the new trigger points, points exchanged in level play table and so on – this can also be downloaded from www.angliacroquet.co.uk/2015/gctrial/GC_Handicap_card_insert_2015_A5.pdf.

What to do if playing in a level play event outside the EACF area

The one real difficulty for this year only will be dealing with games where the players are on different systems. If you are involved in any handicap games outside the EACF area, the website explains how to deal with this.

And for level play results where the players are from the two different systems, please use the following table to convert the opponent's handicap into its New System equivalent to record on your card and make your index calculations:

a) Handicaps 12 to 3 – just use the opponent's handicap directly
d) To convert Existing System Actual Handicaps 2 down to -2 to New System EITHER [<i>accurate method</i>] find their CGS Grade and use Table 1 OR [<i>approximate method</i>]: > 2 becomes 1; > 1 becomes 0; > 0 becomes -1; > -1 becomes -3; > -2 becomes -5

If you have any queries or problems with the New System or its documentation, please contact me at:

martin.french@btinternet.com; 07718 630804; 01473 288448. I will do my best to help you. Many thanks.

regards

Martin French

To: Managers of GC tournaments outside the EACF area

Subject: CA trial of GC Handicap New System in the EACF area

Greetings,

I am writing to you because you are shown as organising or managing GC handicap events advertised in the CA Fixtures Calendar for 2015. The CA has sanctioned an official trial during 2015 of the GC Handicap New System in the EACF area – this system is intended for national roll-out in 2016. I am writing to you in case you receive any entries from EACF players – if you do not, you may safely disregard the following.

Players based at clubs in the EACF area will be trialling the New System. For most players, their handicap will be the same as it was under the previous system which remains in used for 2015 across the rest of the country. Only the lowest handicaps (2 or lower) and beginners will have different handicaps. However, the indices and table of trigger points are quite different under the New System. Any players from EACF visiting handicap tournaments elsewhere in the country have been asked to take both current and previous handicap cards with them, and to confirm with the Tournament Manager or Handicapper before play begins what handicap they should play off. In the great majority of cases, this will be simple – it will be the one shown on their latest card. However, if their recent performance has improved or declined sharply, it is possible you might wish to set a slightly different handicap for them for your event.

Should you need further information, full details of the New System trial, how to convert between the systems and how to deal with players from out of their home area are given on the EACF website at www.angliacroquet.co.uk/2015/gctrail/new_system.php. If you have any queries, I will do my best to help you – please contact me on 01473 288448, 07718 630804 or martin.french@btinternet.com. Many thanks.

regards

MF

To: Managers of GC tournaments inside the EACF area

Subject: CA trial of GC Handicap New System in the EACF area

Greetings,

I am writing to you because you are shown as organising or managing GC handicap events advertised in the CA Fixtures Calendar for 2015. The CA has sanctioned an official trial during 2015 of the GC Handicap New System in the EACF area – this system is intended for national roll-out in 2016. I am writing to you in case you receive any entries from players outside the EACF region – if you do not, you may safely disregard the following.

Players based at clubs in the EACF area will be trialling the New System. For most players, their handicap will be the same as it was under the previous system which remains in used for 2015 across the rest of the country. Only the very lowest handicaps (2 or lower) and beginners will have different handicaps. However, the indices and table of trigger points is quite different under the New System. Any players from outside the EACF area entering your handicap tournament will of course be on a different system to the “home” players. I suggest the Tournament Manager or Handicapper checks their cards before play begins and confirms what handicap they should play off. In the great majority of cases, this will be simple – it will be the one shown on their latest card. However, if their current handicap is 2 or below, you will probably want to assign them a temporary handicap for the event using their current CGS Grade. Use their Grade as their handicap index, and look-up what their New System handicap should be.

Should you need further information, full details of the New System trial, how to convert between the systems and how to deal with players from out of their home area are given on the EACF website at www.angliacroquet.co.uk/2015/gctrail/new_system.php. If you have any queries, I will do my best to help you – please contact me on 01473 288448, 07718 630804 or martin.french@btinternet.com. Many thanks.

regards

MF