

Florida State Golf Association

Course Rating



What is Slope?

A “Slope Rating” is the USGA’s mark that indicates the measurement of the relative difficulty of a course for players who are not scratch golfers compared to the USGA Course Rating. A Slope Rating is computed from the difference between the Bogey Rating and the USGA Course Rating. A golf course of standard difficulty has a Slope Rating of 113.

Let’s look at the ratings for men from the White tees for men at The Preserve at Turnbull Bay. The Scratch Rating or the Course Rating is 68.6 and the Bogey Rating is 93.5. These are the USGA’s mark that indicates the evaluation of the playing difficulty of a course for a scratch golfer and bogey golfer under normal course and weather conditions. To calculate a Slope Rating for this set of tees, we would subtract the Course Rating from the Bogey Rating and then multiply by 5.381 (4.24 for women) and then round to the nearest whole number. Using our White tee ratings from Turnbull Bay, we have $93.5 - 68.6 = 24.9$ stroke differential. $24.9 \times 5.381 = 133.9869$ rounded to give us a Slope Rating of 134. The published ratings for The Preserve at Turnbull Bay – White tees are indeed 68.6/134.

The public very rarely sees the Bogey Rating and often times the average golfer will compare slopes of other courses with their own. This usually will lead to the statement “Our course is much tougher than course xyz. We need another Course Rating because our ratings are wrong”. We will use The Preserve at Turnbull Bay and Halifax Plantation to illustrate why often times this is not the case.

Halifax Plantation has ratings of 74.0/130

The Preserve at Turnbull Bay has ratings of 68.6/134

So which course is more difficult? The average golfer will compare the Slope Rating of the two courses and determine that Turnbull Bay is more difficult.

We have the Bogey Rating for Turnbull Bay already, it’s 93.5.

Let’s calculate the Bogey Rating for Halifax Plantation, take the Slope Rating 130 and divide by 5.381 = 24.2 and then add to the Course Rating 74.0 that equals 98.2.

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| Halifax Plantation | Course Rating 74.0 | Bogey Rating 98.2 |
| The Preserve at Turnbull Bay | Course Rating 68.6 | Bogey Rating 93.5 |

Now with all the information needed to determine which course is more difficult we can clearly see that Halifax Plantation is the more difficult course. Turnbull Bay has a higher Slope Rating because the course gangs up on the bogey golfer more than Halifax Plantation.