Calculating Your Competition Playing Handicap

A Handicap is at the foundation of competitive golf, but it needs to be current and accurate. Further, it needs to be exact. The MyEG app will give you a Course Handicap for any course/tee, but, being a whole number, that is only good for *General Play*. Where a Playing Handicap involves a reduction (say, 95% for *Competition* singles stroke play…) exactitude comes from a calculation to a single decimal point.

For the present WHS system (from April 2024) this calculation is as follows:
Handicap Index x **(Slope ÷ 113) + (Course Rating – Par)** x **Handicap Allowance**
This calculation needs to be made in a single step to one decimal place. Only at the end is the result rounded from the first decimal place to a whole number. For the avoidance of doubt, a final figure of 10.45 would be 10.4, rounded to 10 and 10.55 would be 10.5 rounded to 11. This calculation is sometimes seen referred to as "machine precision".

An example using Forrester Park white tees for a medal competition and a Handicap Index of 9.5:
9.5 x (124 ÷ 113) + (69.3 – 71) x 95% = 8.288
10.424778 + -1.7 x 0.95 = 8.288….rounded to 8

Is this degree of exactitude important?
Yes! If you were to look up your Course Handicap in MyEG for the above example, it would show 9 – then, applying 95% would give 8.5, which would round to 9.
As we all know, that extra stroke can mean the difference between winning and losing…

Yes, it's a bit of a phaff, but it is how it is! Until the WHS gurus come up with a simplification, no point whinging about it, let's get on with it and it'll soon become familiar and 'second nature'.