



World Golf Handicap System

Most of you will have heard about the World Golf Handicap System (WHS) that is due to come into existence on 2nd November this year.

This will be taking over from the previous CONGU handicap system and will be the only handicap system available.

Your Competitions and General Committee wanted to send out a summary of what this is, as well as point you in the direction of where you can find out more.

Why is WHS being Implemented?

The main aim is to make handicapping easier to understand and allow adjustments to players handicaps based on the standard or difficulty of the course that is being played. It will also be worldwide so all golfers across the globe will have their handicap calculated in the same way.

What do I need to do to gain a WHS handicap?

If you have a current CONGU handicap, which most of our members do, then you don't need to do anything.

WHS software will automatically provide you with a new Handicap Index, which is calculated by using an average of the best eight scores from your last 20 qualifying rounds.

Any new members to the club will need to provide three 18-hole scorecards for their handicap index to be calculated, in the same way as is currently done. This will then develop further as more scores are added.

If there aren't 20 scores for a member currently on the system, the handicap index will be calculated based on what is available and then developed as more scores are added.

What is a Handicap Index?

This is the key number in WHS, as mentioned above it is initially calculated from an average of the best eight of your last 20 returned scores.

When a new score is submitted, the Handicap Index is automatically recalculated and updated at the end of the day's play, ready for use the following day.

The maximum Handicap Index is 54 (Men's and Ladies) and a player must be a member of a golf club to obtain one.

How is a course rated?

Two calculations are made – Course Rating and Bogey Rating.

Course Rating is how many strokes a scratch golfer (someone with a Course Handicap of 0) should take on that course.

Bogey Rating measures playing difficulty for a bogey golfer (someone with a handicap of roughly 20 for a man and 24 for a woman).

Knowing these ratings allows WHS to determine the difficulty of the course and to produce a slope rating for each set of tees and allows golfers to work out how many strokes they will receive on any particular course.

How do you work out a course handicap?

Every golf club should have clear signage that shows the Course and Slope rating for every set of tees.

A player can then cross reference their handicap Index with the table to find out their playing handicap for that course.

Does every round count for my handicap?

No, they don't. Although a recreational round can be counted as one of your last 20 rounds, although this will need to have been pre-registered before teeing off.

If the round is not pre-registered, then it cannot be submitted.

What formats count for submission of the last 20 rounds?

A singles competition score or pre-registered social score from a course that has a slope rating can count.

Singles medals, Stablefords and Par/Bogey formats all count

How can I submit scores going forward to count towards my Handicap Index?

When you are due to play in a singles competition, you must sign in prior to starting your round. This can be done either:

- via the Howdidido App or Website – using laptop / tablet / phone / computer etc
- via the competition's computer in the Clubhouse.

Once the round has been completed the score must be recorded via the App/website or computer on that day, it is recommended that you submit your score within a few hours of completion of your round otherwise your score may not count.

There will also be an option to state that you are intending to play a social round that you would like to count. Again, you must sign in prior to play and submit your score on that day.

Can I submit scores playing by myself?

No. Rounds can only be counted if they are played with at least one other person.

Will playing conditions be taken into consideration?

Yes. The system includes a "Playing Conditions Calculation" that looks at how all players who have entered a score on a course have performed on that day, compared to their expected performance.

At the end of each day's play a Playing Conditions Calculations will be made by the system. This means that all scores for that day must be submitted on that day of play.

Where can I find out more about WHS?

The best place to find further information is the England Golf Website:

<https://www.Englandgolf.org/whs/>