

WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM (WHS)

THE WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM EFFECTIVE IN IRELAND FROM 2 NOV 2020.

On 2 Nov 2020 the World Handicap System (WHS) replaced the Unified Handicapping System (CONGU) as the handicapping authority for golf club members in Ireland. Craddockstown GC has embraced this change. The WHS is the biggest change to golfing handicaps in more than 30 years.

A series of educational resources on WHS, such as videos & FAQs are available at www.golfnet.ie/whs. Members are encouraged to access and familiarise themselves with the new system through these resources.

WHAT HAS CHANGED FROM THE PREVIOUS HANDICAP SYSTEM?

OLD TERMS – NO LONGER USED

Handicap Categories gone, Point 1 handicap increase gone, Buffer Zones gone, Exact Handicap gone, SSS & CSS gone.

NEW WHS TERMS

Handicap Index replaces Exact Handicap, **Course & Slope Ratings** replace SSS, **Playing Conditions Calculation** (PCC) replaces CSS.

Course & Slope Ratings are new and are based on the relative difficulty of a golf course for players who are not scratch players compared to those players who are.

The PCC is a statistical calculation in determining if the conditions on the day of play (Weather, Course Conditions & Course Set-up) differed from normal playing conditions that they impacted on players' performance. It ranges from -1 to +3 similar to the old CSS calculated after a competition.

HANDICAP INDEX - COURSE HANDICAP - PLAYING HANDICAP & HANDICAP ALLOWANCE!

Members now have a **Handicap Index** instead of the old Exact Handicap. This is expressed to one decimal place and a Handicap Index is transportable worldwide.

A **Course Handicap** is dependant of the set of tees being played and members should reference the Course Handicap Tables to obtain the appropriate Course Handicap before going out to play. The Course handicap **MUST** be entered on a scorecard.

However, neither a Handicap Index nor a Course Handicap is necessarily the handicap used for a round of golf.

The **Playing Handicap** (Strokes Received) is determined by the Format of Play and any **Handicap Allowance** that might be applicable to the type of round being played, Singles,

Fourball, Foursomes etc. A lookup table will indicate the Handicap Allowance for the round being played.

So, to recap –

- An 18 - Hole Course Handicap is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Course Handicap} = \text{Handicap Index} \times (\text{Slope Rating} \div 113)$$

- (see appropriate Course Handicap Tables where the above calculation has already been computed)
- A Playing Handicap is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Playing Handicap} = \text{Course Handicap} \times \text{handicap allowance}$$

- The calculated Playing Handicap is rounded to the nearest whole number, with 0.5 rounded upwards. The Handicap Allowance is dependant of the format of play and type of round.

COURSE AND SLOPE RATING – CRADDOCKSTOWN GOLF CLUB

The Course and Slope Rating Certificate for Craddockstown Golf Club was issued by Golf Ireland on 2 Nov 2020. It shows the various Course & Slope Ratings for all our Tees.

Full Cert can be seen by clicking [here](#).

Tee Name	Length yards	Gender	Course Rating™/ Slope Rating	Front Nine	Front Nine Par	Back Nine	Back Nine Par	Total Par
Blue	6712	Men	72.4/128	36.3/126	36	36.1/129	36	72
White	6308	Men	70.3/125	35.3/126	36	35.0/124	36	72
Yellow	6043	Men	69.3/120	34.8/122	36	34.5/118	36	72
Red	5451	Women	72.7/130	36.8/133	37	35.9/127	36	73



CALCULATION OF EXACT HANDICAP INDEX

A Handicap Index is based on an average calculation of the best 8 of the last 20 acceptable scores returned.

Handicap Indices are recalculated at the end of the day and the calculation is no longer dependant on closing a competition.

COURSE & SLOPE RATING CERTIFICATE, COURSE HANDICAP TABLES & HANDICAP ALLOWANCE TABLE

The Course & Slope Rating Certificate for Craddockstown Golf Club can be viewed [here](#).

The following link will show the various Course Handicap Tables for Craddockstown Golf Club that are used to determine members' Course Handicaps while playing off a particular set of tees in either an 18-hole or 9-hole event.

Course Handicap Tables click [here](#).

The Handicap Allowance Table can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

SUMMING UP

From your Handicap Index, find your Course Handicap on the correct Course Handicap Table and apply the Handicap Allowance appropriate to the type of round you are playing.

e.g. A Player with Handicap Index 14.2 playing from White Tees at Craddockstown with a Slope Rating of 125 in a Singles Stableford Competition with a 95% Handicap Allowance will have a Playing Handicap of **15**.

Course Handicap is $14.2 \times (125/113) = 15.70$ which rounds up to 16. This figure is entered on the score card as your Course Handicap. The Playing Handicap to calculate your score is $16 \times (95/100) = 15.2$. So this player goes out to play the round off **15**.

Don't worry about all the above calculations as the club's competition software will do it all and the Course Handicap Tables will be available in an emergency.

As mentioned earlier members are encouraged to view the WHS information available on www.golfnet.ie.

For those members who wish to view the Course and Slope ratings of other golf clubs across Ireland and further afield around the world simply click and search the USPGA Course and Slope Rating database at <https://ncrdb.usga.org/>