





ENGLAND
GOLF

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World Handicap System (WHS)
Coming into play **2nd November 2020**

Handicap Index

Golfers in England will now have a Handicap Index, calculated from the best eight rounds from their last 20 scores. A Handicap Index is portable on any course around the world and will promote inclusivity within the game.

To find out more on the WHS visit:
englandgolf.org/whs



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How to safeguard a Handicap Index?

With Handicap Index being calculated by working out an average of the best eight rounds from a player's last 20, golfers might be apprehensive that the change in their Handicap Index may be volatile. However, through the implementation of a Soft Cap and Hard Cap, the WHS will limit any extreme upward movement of a player's Handicap Index within a 365-day period, therefore, protecting against handicap manipulation.

The Soft Cap will suppress movement by 50% after a three-stroke increase over a player's Low Handicap Index. For clarity in this instance, a Low Handicap Index is the lowest Handicap Index a player has had during the previous 12-month period.

The Hard Cap will restrict upward movement of five-strokes over the Low Handicap Index. Restricting the extreme upward movement of a Handicap Index will ensure that a player's temporary loss of form does not cause the Handicap Index to move too far away from their actual ability. It is important to note that caps will only start to take effect once a player has at least 20 acceptable scores in their record.