

WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM (WHS) GOES LIVE 2ND NOVEMBER 2020

KEY CONCEPTS TO KNOW ABOUT WHS

HANDICAP INDEX

This is your new handicap calculated from the average of your best 8 scores out of the last 20 qualifying scores since Jan 2018. There is a different calculation for those with less than 20 scores on record. Everyone who has a current handicap even if they have no recent scores on their record will be given a handicap index. This will be an exact number to one decimal point

Your handicap index will be adjusted according to the scores that you enter.

Your handicap index is the number you take with you to any course that you are going to play where you will convert it to a course handicap.

COURSE HANDICAP

When playing any course at **home or away** you must convert your handicap index to a course handicap. There will be course conversion tables to look up your course handicap. To do this you must know your **exact** handicap index. Your course handicap will be a whole number.

Your course handicap will be **different** on each set of tees depending whether you are playing blue, red, white or yellow tees, 9 or 18-hole courses.

PLAYING HANDICAP IN COMPETITIONS/MATCH PLAY ONLY

Playing Handicap is calculated using a stroke allowance that is implemented in competitions to ensure equity within the competition.

The allowance for individual stroke play and stableford competitions is 95% of your **course** handicap. There are different allowances for other formats of play. The allowances are always applied to the course handicap.

When playing a competition, golfers must play with their course handicap in mind for handicap purposes, but the competition will adjust scores afterwards to reflect the 95% allowance.

Golfers do not need to do anything to calculate it; it will be incorporated into the competition set up. Just play the competition using your course handicap and the computer will do the rest. Record and submit your score according to your course handicap and be aware that you might have 1 or 2 points fewer in the competition results.

COURSE RATING

The Course Rating is the measure of the playing difficulty of a golf course for a scratch player, and has 1 decimal place.

SLOPE RATING

Slope Rating is the number which indicates the relative playing difficulty of a course for Bogey Golfers, compared to Scratch Golfers.

113 is the slope rating against which all courses are measured. Your handicap index is calculated against a slope rating of 113. Your handicap index will need to be converted to a course handicap according to the difference in slope rating. A course with a higher slope rating will convert to a higher course handicap giving you extra strokes.

SCORE DIFFERENTIAL

This is the score recorded on your handicap record. It is the difference between a player's adjusted gross score and the course rating and the playing conditions calculations, with a further calculation reflecting the slope rating.

ACCEPTABLE SCORES

These are scores from an authorised format of play which will be submitted to your handicap record. All singles stroke play, medal and stableford competition rounds, both 9 and 18 holes are acceptable and mandatory. Preregistered general/social play rounds (new name for supplementary scores) are also acceptable.

PLAYING CONDITIONS CALCULATION (PCC)

If scores from the day are unusually high or low due to adverse weather conditions, then the playing conditions calculation will adjust the scores. This will range from -1 to +3 (minus meaning course was playing easier than expected and plus meaning course was playing harder than expected).

UNFINISHED ROUNDS

An incomplete round can be acceptable for handicap purposes if you did not play a hole for a **valid reason**. You must have played at least 10 holes for an 18-hole round score. 9-hole rounds must have all holes played for the score to be acceptable. You will enter hole not played on score entry.

The system will award a net par on the holes not played for handicap purposes only. The score is not valid for the competition.

Valid reasons for not playing a hole include failing light/bad weather, player injury/illness, or a hole being declared out of play.

Invalid reasons include not playing a hole for the purpose of gaining a scoring advantage. This will be monitored by the handicap committee.

HANDICAP INDEX CAPS

Caps will be implemented to limit any extreme upward movement of a player's handicap index. The handicap index will not increase more than 5 strokes over 1 year. This takes effect once there are 20 scores on a player's record.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

The definitions/concepts above all come with much more detail than are given in this very brief overview. Additional information at a level to suit each player's personal requirements can be found using the resources below.

[YouTube WHS Tutorial](#) for CRGC golfers by Chris Finden-Browne, Men's handicap secretary.

England Golf website education hub <https://www.englandgolf.org/whs/golfers/>

England Golf FAQ's <https://www.englandgolf.org/download/golf-club-world-handicap-system-faqs/>

The Rick Shiels Golf show [podcast](#) Episode 31

An hour-long interview with Gemma Hunter from England Golf answering questions. Thank you to Lesley for finding this. You may want to skip through the first 10 minutes before Gemma is introduced.