

Handicaps All Change - A Reminder

This weekend sees a fond farewell to the handicap system we have all come to know so well.

From Monday morning, we move into the era of the new World Handicapping System 2020 or WHS2020 for short.

The first thing you will see is your new Handicap Index. This effectively replaces your old 'exact' handicap. It is not a playing handicap but is essential to calculate your course and playing handicaps according to the difficulty of the course and tees you are playing on (also known as slope rating). The slope rating is divided by the world average course slope rating (average difficulty) to define course difficulty rating. This all means that your course and playing handicaps will always be adjusted to the difficulty of the course being played.

In general play, your course and playing handicaps will be the same. In competitions, handicap allowances (95% for example) may apply and adjust your course handicap to give a playing handicap. Competition entry rules will set out handicap allowances applicable.

Examples for course handicap calculation for "Golfer" on courses/tees with different slope ratings:

Handicap Index x Course Slope rating (tees) / World Avr Course Slope Rating (113) = Course Handicap

Player	Course & tee	Handicap index	x	Course Slope rating (tees)	/	World Avr course Slope Rating	=	Exact Handicap	Course Handicap
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Golfer	DG, yellow tee	13	x	132	/	113	=	15.2	15
Golfer	DG, white tee	13	x	138	/	113	=	15.9	16
Golfer	Pebble Beach, blue tee	13	x	145	/	113	=	16.7	17

As an additional reference, you can look up your course handicap on the new boards positioned at golf clubs, usually either by the Pro Shop or the first tee. At DG, ours is by the first tee. An England Golf app will also be available soon.

To find out more please refer to the four "WHS 2020" update emails we have issued over the past few weeks or alternatively you can also go to the England Golf website - www.Englandgolf.org.