

DG WHS 2020 Update 3

What Happens When I Hand A Card In?

Broadly, things happen exactly as now; a player hands his or her card in and it gets processed. Competition positions aside, the end result may or may not be a change to handicap. That said, it's worth looking into some aspects in a little more detail.

First, however, it's important to repeat the point made in Update 1 that, contrary to rumour, there is no requirement to return a card after every round. As far as this is concerned, things stay exactly as now.

Also, some seem to be under the impression that they need to return additional cards before 2 November. This also isn't true - the system will work from your existing handicap record. However, we suggest that everyone has returned at least 3 cards since January 2018 but even that isn't essential.

Qualifying Competitions

Aside from recommending handicap allowances for the various formats of competition, WHS 2020 has no impact on the running of a competition. The person or persons with the best score win - no change!

However, the handicap calculations are completely different. This is for two reasons; first, each player's net score has a slope rating adjustment made (to make it a slope rated 113 course equivalent) and the result added to the player's scoring history as the latest score.

Then, second, a new average of the best 8 in latest 20 is calculated to give the new handicap index.

Unlike the current system, under the WHS2020, handicaps have the potential to both fall and rise (not at the same time) quickly. For example, a 12 handicap can be increased to 30 in just 10 weeks if the player returns 2 awful cards each week. Whilst there are no limits to how quickly a handicap can come down, caps are applied to prevent a rapid increase. Indeed, the maximum a handicap can increase in any 365 day period is 5 shots.

General Play

The term 'general play' means play when an organised competition isn't being contested and includes casual golf and competitions that aren't organised by the committee. Contrary to rumour, under WHS, players are not required to submit a card every time they play but can if they want to.

Under the old handicap system the term supplementary was used for such cards. This term no longer applies and any such cards will be referred to general play cards.

In order for a general play score to become a qualifying score, it must become, effectively, a mini, one person, competition, subject to all normal rules of competition.

As with supplementaries now, for a general play round to become a qualifying event (i.e. affecting handicap), the player **must** pre-register **before playing**. In a normal comp, failing to return a card results in a penalty. Failing to return a pre-registered general play card also results in a penalty.

The one significant difference between supplementary play today and general play from 2 November is that general play cards can be returned from any affiliated golf club. If you wish to use this facility, you will need to pre-register with the away club before playing and abide by its general play requirements (they may differ slightly from club to club). When the round is over, you must log the score there - not wait until you return to your home club.