

# KNOW — THE — SCORE



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**World Handicap System  
Coming into play**

**2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2020**

# The **NEW** World Handicap System is designed to:

- Attract more players to the game
- Make the game more enjoyable
- Make handicapping easier to understand
- Give golfers a Handicap Index which is portable from course to course



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**NEW**  
World Handicap System  
**COMING  
INTO  
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For more information visit:  
**[englandgolf.org/whs](https://englandgolf.org/whs)**



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**How does the  
World Handicap  
System work?**

## **In order for the World Handicap System to work, golfers will need to obtain a Handicap Index.**

For regular golfers, this will be done by:

- **Calculating the best eight scores from the previous 20 rounds**

For new golfers, they will have to:

- **Submit scorecards of 54 holes (3x 18 holes, 6x 9 holes or any combination of 9 and 18 holes) to their golf club's Handicap Committee**



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# **IMPORTANT**

To ensure a player has only one Handicap Index, golfers will nominate a home club.



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**Course Rating**  
**EXPLAINED**

# Course Rating

What is it?

- A measurement of the playing difficulty of a golf course

How is it calculated?

The rating is assessed by:

- The playing length of the course
- The obstacles that a player will encounter (e.g. size of green and hazards)



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## Course Rating & Bogey Rating

### What is Course Rating?

Golf Course Rating will be used to measure the playing difficulty of a golf course. It measures how many strokes a Scratch Golfer (a player who can play to a Course Handicap of zero on all rated golf courses) should take on any given course.

The rating does this by assessing two main types of challenges which, when combined, result in a common base from which to compare players' abilities:

A Bogey Rating is the measure of playing difficulty from a set of tees when played by a Bogey Golfer (a player who has a Course Handicap of approximately 20 for a male and 24 for a female).

Knowing the Course Rating and Bogey Rating allows the WHS to assess and rationalise the relationship between the two. From this, the difficulty of the course for all other levels of ability can be deduced.

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**Slope Rating**  
EXPLAINED

# Slope Rating

## What is it?

- A number which indicates the relative playing difficulty of a course from a specific set of tees

## Why is it important?

- It's a key component in strokes received calculations and enables acceptable scores from any rated golf course in the world to be submitted



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# Slope Rating

- Each golf course has a Slope Rating value between 55 and 155
- The higher the slope, the more strokes a player is likely to receive
- Slope Ratings are gender specific



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## Slope Rating

Slope Rating is the number which indicates the relative playing difficulty of a course for Bogey Golfers, compared to Scratch Golfers. It is the difficulty comparison between a Bogey Golfer and a Scratch Golfer from the same set of tees.

*(In simple terms it is the combination of the Course Rating and the Bogey Rating, which allows us to calculate the Slope Rating of a set of tees)*

The use of Slope allows a player's Handicap Index to be portable from course to course and country to country. It also enables acceptable scores from any rated golf course in the world to be submitted for a player's handicap purposes.

The Slope Rating is a key component in calculating the number of strokes each player receives to play a particular golf course. Each set of tees will have a Slope Rating value between 55 and 155.

The higher the Slope Rating, the more additional strokes a Bogey Golfer will need to be able to play it. The lower the Slope Rating, the less strokes a Bogey Golfer will require.

### IMPORTANT

**113 is the Slope Rating value where all players play from their Handicap Index (i.e. the course is as equally hard for both Scratch and Bogey players).**

**NEW RULE**

**Bogey Rating**

**-**

**Course Rating**

**X**

**Factor**

**=**

**Slope Rating**



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IN CONJUNCTION WITH



WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM



# 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.

BRING YOUR  
**G8ME**

To find out more on the WHS visit:  
[englandgolf.org/whs](http://englandgolf.org/whs)



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## Handicap Index

### How to safeguard a Handicap Index?

A Soft Cap and Hard Cap will be implemented to limit any extreme upward movement of a player's Handicap Index within a 365-day period. This has been introduced to act as a safeguard to prevent any handicap manipulation.

The Soft Cap will suppress movement by 50% after a 3.0 stroke increase over a player's Low Handicap Index (see glossary of terms later in this toolkit). For clarity in this instance, a Low Handicap Index is the lowest Handicap Index a player has had during the previous 12-month period.

### IMPORTANT

**Caps only start to take effect once a player has at least 20 acceptable scores in their record.**

The Hard Cap will restrict upward movement on 5.0 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.

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**Course Handicap**  
EXPLAINED



# Course Handicap

What is it?

- The number of strokes a player will receive for the set of tees being played

Why is it important?

- All golfers, irrespective of the format of play, are required to calculate their Course Handicap before heading out onto the course



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**NEW RULE**

$$\frac{\text{Handicap Index}}{(\text{Slope Rating} / 113)} = \text{Course Handicap (rounded)}$$



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## Course Handicap

### What is Course Handicap?

Before any player starts their round they must convert their Handicap Index into a Course Handicap.

The Course Handicap will determine the number of strokes a player will receive for any set of tees on a course.

England Golf will provide Course & Slope Rating tables to all golf clubs (as per the example on page 18). Tables should be positioned in conspicuous locations around the club to make it simple for golfers to find prior to beginning their round.

Golfers simply have to choose the tees they are playing off that day and cross reference their Handicap Index on the Course & Slope Rating table to ascertain their Course Handicap. It really is as simple as that - they're then ready to get out on the course and play!





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**Playing Handicap**  
**EXPLAINED**

# Playing Handicap

## What is it?

- A stroke allowance that a player will receive when playing in competition with or against other players

## Why is it important?

- It allows for a level playing field that will promote both enjoyment and inclusivity



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**NEW RULE**

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Course Handicap} \\ \hline \times \\ \hline \text{Handicap Allowance} \\ \hline = \\ \hline \text{Playing Handicap (rounded)} \end{array}$$



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**General Play &  
Competition Rounds**  
EXPLAINED



## How your score counts towards the WHS?

Acceptable formats of play:

- Pre-registered general play 'social' scores
- All individual competition rounds, both 9 and 18 holes, whether played at home or away

Non-acceptable formats of play:

- Scores from fourball better ball
- Other matchplay events



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## General Play & Competition Rounds

### How to submit a score?

After the completion of a competition round, a player has to submit their scorecard as soon as possible in order for their Handicap Index to be updated. Preferably, scores should be posted at the venue being played and on the same day, as this will be when a player's Handicap Index will be updated.

Posting of scores is possible by players utilising the technology available at their golf club.

### How to verify a score?

In order to verify a score and for it to count towards a players WHS, it must be played:

- In accordance with The Rules of Golf
- In an authorised format of play
- Over a minimum number of 10 holes
- With at least one other person
- On a course with a current Course Rating and Slope Rating