



Introducing the World Handicapping System

The World Handicapping System (WHS) will be coming into force from the beginning of November. There are a lot of new terms and concepts but you do not need to worry about any of it as you will be assigned a Handicap Index automatically. You should be able to play and compete without having to do any calculations yourself, the computer system will take care of it all. For those of you who are interested in what is behind your new Handicap and how those calculations are done, this document will introduce the basic concepts and show you where to find further information.

England Golf are drip feeding information in a series of publications over the next few weeks and will be going into everything in a lot more detail. If you have not done so already, sign-up for your England Golf account at <https://www.englandgolf.org/my-account-member/>. By signing up you can receive England Golf WHS newsletters directly. Once WHS is launched you will be able to track your handicap through the England Golf WHS Platform.

The idea behind the WHS is to unify all the methods of calculating handicaps around the world so that everyone can play equitably. You may not want to play against an American or Australian but as every golf course in the UK has been Slope Rated you will be able to compete against players who received their handicap index at a more difficult course on equal terms. If you play at a different course your handicap will be adjusted depending on the difficulty (the Slope Rating).

These are few of the new terms used by the WHS and knowing what they mean will help your understanding. The following is a selection of the most important ones. (For the complete Glossary see <https://www.englandgolf.org/download/whs-glossary-of-terms/>)

Handicap Index

The measure of a player's demonstrated ability calculated against the Slope Rating of a golf course of standard playing difficulty (Slope Rating 113). This will be communicated to you via HowDidiDo.

Course Handicap

The number of handicap strokes a player receives, before handicap allowances, from a specific set of tees as determined by your Handicap Index and the Slope Rating.

Playing Handicap

The Course Handicap adjusted for any Handicap Allowances (see below). It represents the actual number of strokes the player receives for the round being played.

Handicap Allowance

The percentage of a Course Handicap recommended to create equity for all players participating in a specific format of play. This will be 95% for Stableford and Strokeplay singles competitions.

Course Rating

An indication of the difficulty of a golf course for the scratch player under normal course and weather conditions.

Slope Rating

An indication of the relative difficulty of a golf course for players who are not scratch players compared to players who are scratch players. The neutral Slope Rating is 113; the average UK rating is 125. At a course with long carries, narrow fairways and thick rough the Slope Rating will be higher.



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We have the Slope Rating for 18 holes and 9 holes off each tee. We have also applied for Slope Rating of the Yellow tees for ladies and the Red tees for men.

EGC Course and Slope Ratings for 18 holes:

Gender	Tee	Course Rating	Slope Rating
Men	White	71.9	127
Men	Yellow	70.7	127
Women	Red	73.5	126

Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC)

The statistical calculation that determines if conditions on a day of play differed from normal playing conditions to the extent that they significantly impacted players' performance. This can reduce the Score Differential (see below) by -1 if the course played unusually easily and up to +3 if the conditions were exceptionally difficult. The PCC is applied at the end of the day based on all scores entered that day on that course; it is therefore imperative that you submit your score for the round on the day it is played.

Adjusted Gross Score

A player's gross score, including any penalty strokes, adjusted for when :-

- The player exceeds their maximum hole score
- A hole is not played or
- A hole is started but the player does not hole out

The maximum score for each hole played is adjusted to net double bogey. That is

Par of the hole + 2 strokes + any handicap strokes received on that hole

For instance,

A player with a Course Handicap of 10 receives 1 stroke on holes with stroke index 1 to 10.

On a par 4 hole with a stroke index 10, their maximum hole score is

$$4 \text{ (par)} + 2 \text{ (double bogey)} + 1 \text{ (stroke received)} = 7$$

Score Differential

The difference between a player's Adjusted Gross Score and the Course Rating, reflecting the Slope Rating and the Playing Conditions Calculation. It is the numerical value attributed to a score achieved on a golf course on a specific day that is posted into the player's scoring record. A Score Differential must be an 18 hole value or its calculated equivalent.

Score Differential = $(113/\text{Slope Rating}) \times (\text{Adjusted Gross Score} - \text{Course Rating} - \text{PCC adjustment})$

Again, you will not need to worry about this calculation as it will happen automatically overnight and, if there is any change in your Handicap Index, you will receive a notification.



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Acceptable Scores

There are two categories :

1. Competition Scores – scores in all singles competition rounds of Individual Strokeplay (Medal) and Stableford played over a qualifying measured course from a particular tee
2. General Play Scores – scores in non-competition and social golf can be used but pre-registration is required. Like Supplementary Scores currently, you register your intention to submit a score for handicap purposes prior to commencement of the round. These can be played over 9 or 18 holes.

Team and Matchplay scores are currently excluded in England.

Calculating your Handicap Index

Your Handicap Index will be calculated in a very different way to the current system. It will be an average of the best 8 Score Differentials from your previous 20 rounds of golf. In order to move from CONGU to WHS handicaps, all players' current Handicap Records will be reprocessed using the WHS principles. The calculation will identify the best 8 of the last 20 Qualifying Scores, if posted during the last 2 years, and factor in:

- The adjusted Gross Score
- The Course Rating (or SSS)
- Any PCC (or CSS) adjustments
- The Slope Rating of the tees played

Players are encouraged to submit plenty of scores between now and November 2020 so that their new Handicap Index is a good reflection of current playing ability. 9 hole scores are acceptable.

If less than 20 Qualifying Scores have been posted in the last 2 years, your Handicap Index will be calculated as follows:-

- 3 scores entered : lowest score -2
- 4 scores entered : lowest score -1
- 5 scores entered : lowest score
- 6 scores entered : average of lowest 2 scores -1
- 7 to 8 scores entered : average of lowest 2 scores
- 9 to 11 scores entered : average of lowest 3 scores
- 12 to 14 scores entered : average of lowest 4 scores
- 15 to 16 scores entered : average of lowest 5 scores
- 17 to 18 scores entered : average of lowest 6 scores
- 19 scores entered : average of lowest 7 scores
- 20 scores entered : average of lowest 8 scores

Once you have 20 Acceptable Scores, the oldest score will age off when you enter the next one. Consequently, you could have a fairly average round and see your Handicap Index go up or down because either your worst or best Score Differential ages off.



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Example of 8 of 20 Calculation

- 14.5
 - + 12.8
 - + 15.8
 - + 13.5
 - + 15.6
 - + 11.0
 - + 10.4
 - + 13.1
- Adding together the best 8 differentials out of the last 20:
- And averaging the total: = 106.7 ÷ 8

Handicap Index of 13.3

Score No.	Date Played	Course	Course Rating	Slope Rating	Adjusted Gross Score	Score Differential
1	25/9/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	89	14.5
2	22/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	91	18.5
3	5/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	92	19.4
4	1/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	99	25.8
5	28/8/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	89	16.7
6	23/8/20	River GC	71.3	127	92	18.4
7	26/7/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	87	12.8
8	14/7/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	97	24.0
9	4/7/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	88	15.8
10	19/6/20	River GC	71.3	127	87	13.5
11	16/6/20	Valley GC	69.9	118	95	24.0
12	12/6/20	Forest GC	70.1	115	86	15.6
13	5/6/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	85	11.0
14	2/6/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	82	10.4
15	30/5/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	94	21.2
16	25/5/20	Valley GC	69.9	118	89	18.3
17	22/5/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	97	24.0
18	29/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	85	13.1
19	14/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	93	20.3
20	10/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	94	21.2
21	3/4/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	86	12.1

You will be able to check the Slope Rating chart for each tee (White, Yellow, Red) in the Shop and at the 1st Tee. Our course is slightly more difficult than the average and you may gain a shot to give you your Course Handicap.

Course Handicap = Handicap Index x (Slope Rating)/113

Depending on the format of play a Handicap Allowance is applied to the Course Handicap giving you your Playing Handicap. This is 95% for Strokeplay and Stableford competitions.

For all the up to date information on WHS, see the England Golf Education Hub for Golfers:

<https://www.englandgolf.org/whs/golfers/>