

WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM

The new World Handicap System (WHS) goes live in November 2020 and this note provides the latest position, information about our Club and how this will affect you.

England Golf short videos introducing and explaining the fundamentals of the new system (Click on the following link): [YouTubeVideos](#)

England Golf WHS web page where further information can also be found (Click on the following link): [EGU Info](#)

Additionally, a summary of key WHS terminology together with the Slope and Course Rating for our Club as well as some explanatory calculations of how this affects your handicap is given below.

Members are reminded that the new system is based on your best 8 qualifying scores from your last 20. Although there is provision to determine your Handicap Index from as few as 3 scores, it would be in your interest to try to build a playing history over the Summer so your Index is as true a representation of your golf as possible. This is particularly true for new members with newly assigned handicaps.

World Handicap System (WHS) - Key Terminology

- **Course Rating:** This will replace Standard Scratch (SSS) in the new system and represents the score that a 'scratch' golfer is expected to achieve on a course. Course Ratings will be to the nearest 0.1
- **Slope Rating:** This represents the relative difficulty of a course (as defined by a specific set of tees) for a 'bogey golfer' (Handicap of 20 for men, 24 for women) compared to a 'scratch' golfer. A course with many hazards, long carries and thick rough will have a higher slope rating because these features are more of a challenge to 'bogey' golfers.
- **Handicap Index:** The measure of your ability to play a golf course of standard playing difficulty (Slope Rating 113). Think of your Handicap Index as your "raw" number, and one that you will never actually play with.
- **Course Handicap:** The number of shots you receive when playing from a specific set of tees. This is arrived at by "converting" your Handicap Index to the specific Slope Rating of tees played. It is expressed as a whole number.
- **Playing Handicap:** Your Course Handicap adjusted for any handicap allowances or Terms of the Competition being played. It represents the actual number of shots you receive for the round being played in an event and is expressed as a whole number.

The Course Ratings and Slope Ratings for Vicars Cross are shown below

Tees	Group	Course Rating	Slope Rating
White	Men	71.8	136
Yellow	Men	70.1	135
Red	Men	67.7	125
Yellow	Ladies	76.8	145
Red	Ladies	73.4	138

WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM

The Handicap Allowance for common forms of play are shown here:

Formats of Play	Handicap Allowance
Individual stroke play	95%
Individual stableford	95%
Four-ball stroke play	85%
Four-ball stableford	85%
Four-ball par / bogey	90%
Individual match play	100%
Four-ball match play	95%
Foursomes	50% of combined team handicap
Greensomes	60% Low handicap + 40% high handicap

Here is an example for Vicars Cross:

You have a handicap Index of 12.4 and play individual stroke play off the men's white tees (Slope Rating 136)

Step 1: Convert your Handicap Index to the appropriate Course Handicap for the tees being played off and your group:

- $\text{Course Handicap} = \text{Handicap Index} \times (\text{Slope Rating}/113)$
- $12.4 \times (136/113) = 14.9$ or 15

Step 2: Calculate your Playing Handicap based on the form of play:

- Handicap allowance for Individual Stroke Play = 95%
- $\text{Playing Handicap} = 15 \times 0.95 = 14.2$ or 14.

The number of strokes you receive is 14.

The good news is that all clubs will have a Course Rating Table to look up the result of Step 1 so you will not need to do this calculation yourself. Additionally, for competitions, the computer will calculate and determine the number of strokes you receive.

Note: You will see that the Course Rating itself is not needed for the above calculation. It is however used in determining your Handicap Index. See the WHS links above for further details.

More communications are expected from England Golf which we will share as and when it becomes available.

Steve Kelly, Mens Handicap Secretary

Jo O'Brien, Ladies Handicap Secretary

10th July 2020