

# **DG WHS 2020 Update 4**

## ***More Useful Points***

### **Course Rating (CR) and Recalculation of Handicap Index**

Course Rating replaces Standard Scratch (SSS) and represents the score that a scratch golfer is expected to achieve. Unlike SSS, which is a whole number, Course Ratings will be to the nearest 0.1.

Currently, at the end of each comp, and taking into account all scores submitted, the handicap system determines whether, on average, scoring is the same, better or worse than expected and adjusts SSS accordingly. The adjusted figure is the CSS or Competition Standard Scratch. It's important because handicap adjustments are based in it.

Under WHS, Handicap calculations take place just once a day, shortly after midnight and taking into account all qualifying scores from the day - not just those from competitions. Based on all these scores an adjustment is applied to the Course Rating (similar to CSS) before individual handicap index calculations take place.

An issue arises for the afternoon round for anyone playing in 2 comps in any one day because any handicap adjustments will not take place until midnight. Anyone in such a position must inform the afternoon's comp organiser before playing the round.

### **Competitive Handicaps**

Currently, in order for us to retain a competitive handicap, we each must submit 3 qualifying scores each calendar year. This ensures our handicaps are reasonably up to date and so can provide a basic level entry criteria to competitions.

Under WHS, the 'competitive handicap' concept is removed. For years, there's a been a debate about whether 3 cards a year is adequate and so the national criteria is swept away and it will be up to each golf club to set its own entry criteria. Likewise, leagues will set their criteria.

The situation becomes so flexible that, potentially, every single comp could have its own minimum requirement although that's unlikely. Some clubs will retain something similar to what exists at the moment, for a while at least, but many are looking to increase their minimum criteria.

Here at DG, the likely criteria for board competition will be to have played in 3 qualifying competition in the 12 months immediately prior to the event in question. For other competitions, the only criteria will be to have a valid handicap in order to encourage wider participation.

From 2 November, we will all have to remember to check entry requirements carefully to ensure we have sufficient recent scores in our handicap record.

### **And Finally ....**

Two reminders! First, you do not need to do anything. Your new handicap index will be calculated automatically from your existing handicap record and, second, contrary to popular belief, you will not need to submit a card each time you play but you can if you want to.