

Inter Club

Q. Would the YLCGA be willing to extend the deadline for matches into August?

Q. Could matches arranged for April could be rearranged for later in the year?

A. Both answered in report.

Q. What arrangements are there for toilets.?

A. Toilet facilities are down to the individual clubs. Home Captain to inform Away Captain of arrangements.

Q. Are the penalties for not fielding full teams the same this season ie exclusion from the following season?

A. The rules still stand. We have put measures in place to try and enable the Championships to go ahead in a Covid safe way and also extended the season.

Q. Harrogate GC sent in an email in the form of a statement with last point being trying to play in two's on courses filled with other members who are desperate to play.

A. This is for clubs to manage. The leagues are singles leagues and this is what they entered.

Q. Do we still have handbooks?

A. Yes, all been delivered to clubs, two copies per club.

Q. Is the A division HI upper limit 27.4?

A. Yes

Q. Will restrictions be lifted when things change?

A. We will follow Government and England Golf guidelines.

Competitions

Q. Our County foursomes were due to be held within a few days of returning to play, Is it possible that it can now be played over a few days instead of just one day.

A. For this year only, because of the exceptional circumstances, it will be permitted.

Handicaps

Q. Do the Committee need to nominate a stroke play competition as an England golf Medal when they set up the competition on the local software?

A. Simple answer: No. No input required from a club.

Club qualifying rounds will no longer need to be medal rounds. All forms of individual 18 hole stroke play competitions will be included in the calculation of the club winner; including Stableford, medal, maximum score and par/bogey. No scaled-up scores to be used (for example: a 14 hole competition, scaled up to an 18 hole score for handicapping; or 9 hole competitions). No handicap limit.

I am assured that EG will be providing the necessary report at the end of the Season, on the WHS portal (not necessarily the local ISV). They tell me it is all in hand. However, I strongly recommend that you retain all 18 hole competition cards until the end of the season. They also assure me that there will be more precise Terms of Competition provided in due course.

Competitions will no longer need to be nominated on the software as England Golf Medal qualifiers. Instead, all competitions meeting the eligibility criteria will be included in the calculation of

the club winner (player with the lowest aggregate differential of four best scores). In the event of a tie the winner shall be decided on the lowest aggregate of the lowest 3 scores, then lowest 2 scores, then lowest 1 score. There will no longer be a maximum number of competitions included in the calculation to determine the club winner (although, of course, the minimum is still 4!).

Q. When will the Annual Review report be available on the portal?

A. It will be available for clubs well before it is the time to run it. Clubs should not be altering any player HI until the end of the 2021 playing season; except in exceptional circumstances. I have been involved in the production and functionality of the report; and it looks really good and very easy to use. I can tell you that alterations to handicap are minimal in number, as a player HI is based on the average of their actual scores. Even a temporary lack of form is not considered a reason to alter a HI. You have to be a very poor average to merit an increase, it is such a conservative algorithm. Players will be recommended for a one or two stroke alteration, as they used to be. But with a very different thinking attached: my HI of 14.2 would need to be averaged at 26.4 to merit a one stroke increase. Obviously, GP adjustments can be done if found to be necessary: but again, be conservative. I will send out full details on AR when we get near to it: there will be a strict time limit for carrying it out, probably November to February, but I will let everyone know.

Q. Have Yorkshire Ladies got a policy re Elite golfers about acceptable scores/ general play cards or do the same Rules of Handicapping apply?

A. An elite lady golfer has a HI of 2.0 or less. WHS has no specific Rules regarding their handicapping; other than their HI cannot be altered manually without County approval. The County does not have the Authority to change any WHS Rules. Obviously, if manipulation of HI is suspected, the player would be dealt with like any other, but with County approval. And related to that.....

Q. Can we increase the HI of one of our ladies by 8 strokes due to her illness last year?

A. WHS requires at least 3 scores to be returned by a player as proof of current playing ability, so the HI can be correctly assessed. We cannot base a HI on last year. If the assessment for an increase indicates a rise of over 5 strokes, this can only be carried out by the County on the central platform.

Q. Under CONGU there were clear guidelines/rules about the condition of the course for a score to count for handicap (ie no more than 2 temporary greens etc); where can we find these for playing under WHS? Other than the number of temporary greens or tees which are stipulated under Rule 2.1/3, are there guidelines, for example, about whether scores are acceptable if bunkers are GUR etc??

A. The CONGU Guidance notes on the Rules of Handicapping (CONGU website, but sent out to all handicap secretaries) give full details. No more than 2 temp greens (although you could have 3, and take the 3rd hole with one out of play, holding a 17 hole competition); placing on closely mown areas within 6"; lift, clean and replace in the general area; use of fairway mats (on fairways); artificially surfaced tees; course not altered by more/less than 100 yds in total, or 10 yards per hole.

A slight alteration would be that under the modified Covid Rules of Golf, a club may make all their bunkers GUR, or make all their bunkers preferred lies with 6" (either/or, not a choice of either by the player). So currently you can have all bunkers out of play, and still hold acceptable scores. CONGU might consider that this is equitable in the long term normal, as it could have only a minimal effect on handicapping: but who knows when that might be?

WHS requires that scores should be used for handicapping whenever possible. There is no 'Inactive Season' within GB&I, and the Rules of Handicapping fall over themselves to allow scores to be returned, even when course conditions are not ideal.

Which brings me on to:

Q. Is it Ok to hold 'non-qualifiers' for a couple for a couple of months whilst we a) get used to playing golf, and b) get used to the World Handicapping system?

A. No. If the course is fulfilling the requirements to hold acceptable score format of scores, the Committee must do so. It is against the spirit of the WHS to not allow scores for handicap, and it deprives players of the opportunity to fulfil their obligations under the Rules. If you have holes out of play, then you can hold a competition which qualifies for handicap over that fewer number of holes. For scores which are more than 10 holes, an 18 hole score is calculated using 'scaling-up'. This gives net par +1 for the first of holes not played between 10 and 14, and net par for all others. Once 14 are completed, net par applies for any unplayed holes. As you can see, this will have no detrimental effect on a player handicap index. Even if the score turns out to be a dreadful score, it will likely not be one of the best 8/20. If it does come into the calculation, only 1/8 of the score will be used. This system benefits the player who returns more scores: there is little point trying to 'protect' a handicap index.

As for part b) of the question: how can you get used to WHS if you are not using it?

Q. I have just listened to the "Retention webinar" and social/recreational golf was mentioned a lot. This was as a means of keeping/attracting members in clubs. Please can I ask how do we play social/recreational golf with the new WHS? Do we have to ask "Roll-up" social golfers to submit every card?

A. Recreational golf (or General Play scores) forms a large part of the WHS. Not every golfer is wanting to enter competitions; and why should they? Any score is valuable as an indication of ability, and scores from social rounds are as 'current' as any other. All scores must be 'pre-registered' before play. Using an App (the new EG App will be available for GP scores before 29/3) is quite acceptable, and a good way of reducing administration. With the new app, all scores must be 'signed for' (scribble on the screen) and attested by a player with a CDH number. Scores go straight into the player record for handicapping changes at midnight.

There is no requirement for a player to register for a 'recreational' score to be used for handicap if they do not wish; but the club should encourage players to do so. If there is a group of players (say seniors/a ladies roll up) who play every week in a roll up, put money in for a 'sweep, and play by the rules of Golf for a prize, those scores should be considered to pre-registered: and obtained by the Committee for handicapping. They are competition scores.

Q. When 'Casual Scores' are submitted within ClubV1 they still come to us to approve I believe? Does this mean the EG App submitting general play scores will only get approved by the Marker and not for the club handicap secretary as well?

A. There will not be the opportunity to approve (or not) a general play score. There is a report available for scores returned on a given day: and one for scores signed in but not returned. But you can't refuse a score unless you have a good reason. If there was a good reason, you might need to delete the score (tees not set up correctly?); add a penalty score (handicap manipulation?), or suspend a player handicap (serious misconduct - say cheating?). You could also add a note to the player record to say what had happened; and what you did about it. That remains on the record, so if the player leaves another club will be aware.

Q. I know our chair of handicaps is working very hard for us to have clarity on a lot of queries. Again, in Winter a lot of lady members choose to play 13 holes only and we actually have a competition over 13 holes where best 3 of 5 rounds count. Is this possible with WHS?

A. This is fine, and encouraged. Competitions held at any time over a reduced number of holes should always be included in a handicap record, provided the course fulfils all other criteria for acceptable scores. For the 13 holes, a net par+1 will be allocated for hole 14, with net par for all other holes. Probably better than the score if the holes were actually played!!

Q. You keep mentioning 'ISVs'. What are these?

A. Big apology: an ISV is an Independent Software Vendor, such as Club Systems, IG, Handicap Master, etc. I used to wonder about that, but ISV saves a lot of writing!!

Information on all the questions answered above have already been sent to your ladies handicap secretaries (who might be a gent), with instruction to share with anyone and everyone involved with comps and handicaps; as everyone needs to know things. If this information is not being received, please let me know, so I can check the contact address used. Sometimes people change e mail address and forget to tell me: or they leave the club and just like to carry on receiving the club info, not thinking the cub might be missing out! So any changes, please let me know directly to my e mail address.