



# World Handicap System

## Foreword

The new World Handicap System (WHS) will come into operation on 2 November 2020 with all governing bodies of amateur golf in Scotland, England, Ireland and Wales making this transition.

As members of the Council of National Golf Unions (CONGU), Scottish Golf, England Golf, the Golfing Union of Ireland, the Irish Ladies Golfing Union and Wales Golf have been driving forces in planning for the new system in alliance with The R&A and USGA.

The current Golf Handicapping System maintained by CONGU will be replaced by WHS which will unify the six different structures currently in operation throughout the world of golf. With one single, global system in place for the first time, golfers will be able to obtain and maintain a handicap index and use this on any course around the world. The aligning of all six handicapping authorities behind the WHS is a hugely significant step in the modernisation of golf across the globe.

WHS has been introduced under the auspices of the USGA and The R&A with 3 key principles:

**Inclusive & Accessible** – *The World Handicap System welcomes everyone to compete or play socially with anyone on a fair and equal basis, helping to make golf a more enjoyable game.*

**Consistent & Portable** – *The World Handicap System provides a consistent method of measuring skill- level and produces handicaps that are portable from course to course, country to country.*

**Modern & Adaptable** – *The World Handicap System is modern, adaptable across golfing cultures and easy to use.*

## Method & Timeframe

The transition of a player's handicap will employ existing WHS Initial Handicap Index calculations upon their most recent three years of scores, back to the start of 2017. Handicap Information will be transferred to the new system from the existing CDH system. This will happen in September 2020 and from this date both CONGU and WHS will be dual run until 2 November 2020.

The new WHS will be average-based, using the best 8 of the last 20 scores in your record.

In order to complete the transition to WHS, for each available CONGU Gross Differential score a WHS Score Differential will be calculated according to the WHS Rules of Handicapping. If Slope information is not available for a specific score, then the average CONGU slope of 125 will be applied.

A score differential cannot be calculated from scores recorded as "No Return" or "Disqualified score not acceptable for handicapping".

All players with an existing CONGU Handicap will be awarded a WHS Handicap Index. Only scores from the previous 3 years will be input to the calculation as older scores will not reflect current playing ability.

For players with at least 20 score differentials available, the resulting WHS Handicap Index is most likely to follow predicted outcomes, because their current CONGU Handicap will be closely aligned to the most recent scores.

For players with at least 3 score differentials available, but fewer than 20, the Handicap Committee should consider all evidence they have available on a player's current ability and modify the players transition Handicap Index if appropriate.

A Handicap Index is calculated from the lowest Score Differentials in the scoring record. If a scoring record contains fewer than 20 Score Differentials, the table below is used to determine the number of Score Differentials to be included in the calculation and any adjustment that may apply. Round the result of the calculation to the nearest tenth.

Number of Score Differentials in scoring record	Score Differential(s) to be used in calculation of Handicap Index	Adjustment
3	Lowest 1	-2.0
4	Lowest 1	-1.0
5	Lowest 1	0
6	Average of lowest 2	-1.0
7 or 8	Average of lowest 2	0
9 to 11	Average of lowest 3	0
12 to 14	Average of lowest 4	0
15 or 16	Average of lowest 5	0
17 or 18	Average of lowest 6	0
19	Average of lowest 7	0
20	Average of lowest 8	0

Therefore it is the players' responsibility to submit as many scorecards as possible to ensure that their transition handicap index reflects their playing ability. This can be either Competitions or Supplementary Scores.

## Courses

As part of the CONGU directive, the club has to ensure that all Course and Tee information is correct, and that all hole yardages /Par and Stroke indexes are correct, as this information will be used by the new Handicap System.

This process will ensure that the club's course data has been validated by ourselves. Therefore, the onus is on Airdrie GC to ensure that our course data is accurate before upload to the CDH.

The Club will need to set up our Course Details into the system for all the sets of tees that we wish to use for WHS.

In accordance with the USGA Course Rating System, it has been confirmed by Scottish Golf that our Standard Scratch Score rating, Course and Slope rating values are as below:

	Tees	Gents			Ladies		
		USPGA Course Rating	Slope Index	SSS	USPGA Course Rating	Slope Index	SSS
<b>18 hole</b>	White	69.1	121	69	73.9	127	74
	Yellow	67.5	118	68			
	Red	63.6	109	64	68.5	115	68
<b>12 Hole</b>	Academy	58.8	95	58	59	97	61

Further details of course ratings is due to be issued by Scottish Golf in the coming weeks to complete the table above.

## Further Information

See link below:

[Scottish Golf](#) - This contains information on the WHS together with a number of information videos that explain different elements of the World Handicap System put together by the R&A and USGA.

Questions & Answers will be sent out separately.