

The World Handicap System

Playing Handicap

What is it?

- A stroke allowance that a player will receive when playing in competition with or against other players

Why is it important?

- It allows for a level playing field that will promote both enjoyment and inclusivity

NEW RULE

Course
Handicap

X

Handicap
Allowance

=

Playing Handicap
(rounded)

This time we learn about **PLAYING HANDICAP**

A *Playing Handicap* is only used when you are playing in competition against other players in a match or in a competition. It is used, solely to determine the results of a competition and will not affect the recalculation of your Handicap Index following that score entry into your handicap record. Match play scores are not entered into your record.

What is it?

- A stroke allowance that a player will receive when playing in competition with or against other players

Below is a copy of part of the Stroke Allowance table for the WHS, giving the most popular forms of play.

| <u>Singles Formats</u> | <u>Handicap Allowance</u> | <u>Team Formats</u> | <u>Handicap Allowance</u> |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Individual match play | 100% | Four-ball match play | 90% |
| Individual stroke play | 95% | Four-ball stroke play / stableford | 85% |
| Individual stableford | 95% | Foursomes | 50% of combined team handicap |
| Individual par / bogey | 95% | <u>Greensomes</u> | 60% Low handicap + 40% high handicap |
| Individual Maximum Score | 95% | Scramble (4 players) | 25%/20%/15%/10% from lowest to highest handicap |

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In England, allowances for single and fourball formats are mandatory and clubs must use these allowances (or suffer the wrath of England Golf, which could mean eventually that all members handicaps are suspended.)

Why is it important?

- It allows for a level playing field that will promote both enjoyment and inclusivity

How does this work you may ask, The World Handicap System calculation using the best 8 out of 20 to give a handicap index provides equity for head to head matchplay scenarios, but in singles strokeplay (where mixed ability fields are taken into consideration for competition results) WHS favours the higher handicaps. For this reason there is a 95% stroke allowance applied to the Course Handicap to determine the Playing Handicap (Strokes Received) for the competition nett results.

The calculation? - if the computer doesn't tell you how many strokes you receive there should be a chart for you to look it up.

For those who like figures the calculation example is below:-

Playing Handicap Calculation

The calculation of a Playing Handicap is an adjustment to the Course Handicap by any handicap allowances in operation for the format of play:

$$\text{Course Handicap} \times \text{Handicap Allowance} = \text{Playing Handicap}$$

Example:

This event is a Singles Stroke Play Competition.

| | | | | |
|------------------------|----------|------------------|----------|-------------------------|
| Course Handicap | X | Allowance | = | Playing Handicap |
| 16.4 | | 95% | | 15.5 (16) |

Press Ctrl & Click on the link below to see Video on Playing Handicap.

<https://www.Englandgolf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/World-Handicap-System-Playing-Handicap.mp4>

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If you are a registered individual member of England Golf you will have received an email telling you about the transition process, how your first handicap index will be calculated, and that you will be able to view your predicted handicap index in late October. If not, why not? it's free, you can view your handicap at any time and take advantage of benefits offered. Print off your handicap card which gives your name and CDH number, as well as activating the personal liability insurance included with your affiliation. So easy to join, go to <https://www.EnglandGolf.org/my-account/>

Go to Activate and enter email address and follow instructions.

Gemma Hunter is head of handicapping at England Golf, On the link below, Gemma is doing a radio interview about WHS, watch it to get a clear picture of what will happen when your handicap is converted to a handicap index.

<https://twitter.com/i/status/1301125512211959809>

Next time I talk about General Play and Competition Rounds.
Only 49 days to go.

