

DG WHS 2020 Update 1

Your New Handicap

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This is the first of a series of short notes about the new handicap system - the WHS 2020.

It is important you read them so that you have an understanding of the new system. This is particularly important as fake news is already circulating such as the need to submit cards after every round. In fact, this is one aspect that will remain exactly as now - so, to be clear, there will be no need to submit a card following every round.

What Happens on 2 November?

This is information you need to know but there nothing you need to do - it will all be done by the handicap system for you.

At one minute past midnight in the morning of 2 November 2020, every handicap system at every golf club across the UK and Ireland will recalculate the handicap for every single member. The new handicap basis is totally different from what we have now so it's important to take the time to get some understanding of what to expect.

Central to the new handicap system is the handicap index which replaces our current handicap. They may both include the word 'handicap' but that's where the similarity ends!

A handicap index is the average of the best eight scores from the last twenty rounds and, unlike our current handicap, which is an accumulation of every previous score logged, it better reflects current standard of play.

When the new system comes into play, golfers will have their handicap index calculated based on their existing records. Whilst best 8 in the last 20 is the standard calculation, CONGU (the UK and Ireland handicapping authority) have decided not to look back through records further than January 2018. This means that many golfers won't have the 20 qualifying scores but, fear not, a sliding scale will be applied to those with an existing handicap and between 1 and 19 qualifying scores. For example, for someone with just 12 qualifying scores, their handicap index will be the average of their best 4 scores.

It is vitally important to remember that, as of the morning of 2 November, the handicaps we have today will have gone forever and been replaced with the handicap index. You will be able to find your new handicap index on 'Howdidido' just as you do now. And, of course, there will be handicap lists in the clubhouse and on the website. Please do not inundate the ProShop with calls to find out what yours is.

You will need to know your handicap index before playing on Monday morning or whenever you next play. But, a handicap index isn't a playing handicap. To find out how to convert your handicap index into a playing handicap, read the next issue of WHS 2020 Update.