

# WHS OVERVIEW

- The new **World Handicap System** will be rolled out in Great Britain & Ireland on 2nd November 2020. From that date your handicap will be based on the average of your **best 8 scores from the last 20 rounds** and will vary depending on the difficulty of the course being played. This is your **Handicap Index**.
- Before you play you will need to convert your handicap index into a **Course Handicap**. This can be done by looking at the charts in Reception or when we go live there will be a board located near the first tee.  
**Course Handicap = Handicap Index x (Slope Rating/113)**
- Depending on the format of play, a handicap allowance may need to be applied to your course handicap to give you a **Playing Handicap**. For example, the recommended handicap allowance for individual strokeplay competitions is 95%. We will tell you before you play in the weekly competitions what the handicap allowance is.  
**Playing Handicap = Course Handicap x Handicap Allowance**
- If you are playing a round for handicap purposes (supplementary card), you will need to **pre-register** before you play otherwise it will not be counted.
- There is a maximum hole score so if you are struggling in a stableford or bogey you may not need to finish it. For handicap purposes a net double bogey will be used.  
**Net Double Bogey = Par (for the hole) + 2 + Handicap Strokes Received**
- In the event of a hole not being played for a valid reason eg injury, bad light or the hole being out of play. A score of net par will be used:  
**Net Par = Par (for the hole) + Handicap Strokes Received**
- You will need to submit your score in the normal way. If it is a weekly competition we will be able to tell you the results of the competition as we do now but your handicap will not be updated until midnight. Your score will be included in the daily **Playing Conditions Calculation** and your Handicap Index will be updated overnight for your next round.
- The **Playing Conditions Calculation** takes place behind the scenes and determines whether scores on the day were higher or lower than expected. A PCC adjustment between -1 and +3 may be applied to your score differential calculation to reflect the conditions on the day.
- After any PCC adjustments, your score differential is calculated, this is the handicap you played to. It takes account of course rating, slope rating and playing conditions. This then forms one of your last 20 rounds from which the best 8 are taken for your Handicap Index.

- If you are having a bad period of form there are **soft** and **hard caps** which will prevent your handicap index increasing too quickly. If you have an exceptional round which is 7 or more strokes better than your handicap index an **exceptional score reduction** will be applied.

The following link gives you a 10 minute video on WHS, right click on below to open it:

[WHS Video](#)

## WHS DEFINITIONS

### **Acceptable Score**

A score from an authorised format of play which meets all the provisions set out within the Rules of Handicapping.

### **Adjusted Gross Score**

A player's gross score, including any penalty strokes, adjusted for when:

- The player exceeds their maximum hole score,
- A hole is not played, or
- A hole is started but the player does not hole out.

### **Authorised Format of Play**

A format of play eligible for handicap purposes, as determined by the Authorised Association where the round is played.

### **Bogey Player**

A player with a Handicap Index of approximately 20.0 for men and approximately 24.0 for women.

### **Cap**

The procedure that reduces or limits the amount by which a player's Handicap Index can increase when measured against the player's Low Handicap Index.

### **Course Handicap**

The number of handicap strokes a player receives, before handicap allowances, from a specific set of tees as determined by the Slope Rating.

### **Course Rating**

An indication of the difficulty of a golf course for the scratch player under normal course and weather conditions.

### **Exceptional Score**

A Score Differential which is at least 7.0 strokes better than the player's Handicap Index at the time the round was played.

## **General Play**

When an organised competition is not being contested and golfers are playing:

- A casual round; or
- Competitively, but not in an event organised by a Committee.

## **Handicap Allowance**

The percentage of a Course Handicap recommended to create equity for all players participating in a specific format of play.

## **Handicap Index**

The measure of a player's demonstrated ability calculated against the Slope Rating of a golf course of standard playing difficulty (Slope Rating 113)

## **Low Handicap Index**

The lowest Handicap Index achieved by a player during the 365 day period preceding the day on which the most recent score in their scoring record was played.

## **Net Double Bogey**

A score equal to the par of a hole plus two strokes and adjusted for any handicap strokes applied on that hole. A net double bogey is a player's maximum hole score for handicap purposes.

## **Net Par**

A score equal to the par of a hole adjusted for any handicap strokes applied on that hole.

## **Par**

The score that a scratch player would generally be expected to achieve on a hole under normal course and weather conditions, allowing for two strokes on the putting green.

## **Penalty Score**

A score posted at the discretion of the Handicap Committee for a player who does not submit an acceptable score when required.

## **Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC)**

The statistical calculation that determines if conditions on a day of play differed from normal playing conditions to the extent that they significantly impacted players' performance.

## **Playing Handicap**

The Course Handicap adjusted for any handicap allowances or Terms of the Competition. It represents the actual number of strokes the player gives or receives for the round being played.

## **Score Differential**

The difference between a player's Adjusted Gross Score and the Course Rating, reflecting the Slope Rating and the Playing Conditions Calculation. It is the numerical value attributed to a score achieved on a golf course on a specific day that is posted into the player's scoring record. A Score Differential must be an 18 hole value or its calculated equivalent.

## **Scoring Record**

A history of a player's acceptable scores along with:

- The player's current Handicap Index,
- The player's Low Handicap Index,
- Other details about each round (such as, the date the round was played), and
- Any applicable adjustments (for example, an exceptional score).

### **Scratch Player**

A player with a Handicap Index of 0.0.

### **Slope Rating**

An indication of the relative difficulty of a golf course for players who are not scratch players compared to players who are scratch players

### **Stroke Index**

The value assigned to each hole on a golf course to indicate where handicap strokes are given or received.