

# THE WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM

Frequently Asked Questions

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R&A USGA



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How does the new System work?	The new World Handicap System will be averaged based using the best 8 of the last 20 scores on your record.
What will happen to my existing playing history when WHS comes into effect?	The scores you currently have in your record will be transferred to the WHS system and used to calculate your new WHS Handicap Index.
When will all this happen and will I see my Handicap Index before that?	November 2nd 2020 is the transition date for GB&I and it is hoped that you will have sight of your Handicap Index in advance.
Is my handicap going to change (significantly)?	Because of the many variables, such as the number of scores in your record and the slope of the course played, it is not possible to compare your current CONGU exact Handicap with a WHS Handicap Index.
How long do my 20 scores last on the new system?	The last 20 Scores will remain on your record until they are replaced, one by one, by later scores. To maintain an accurate handicap it is recommended that players should return at least 20 scores over a 2 year period.
Will I be given a new CDH number?	No. Your existing CDH / Card number will not change.

# HOW DO I GET A WORLD HANDICAP INDEX?



**What is a Handicap Index and how do I get one?**

Every club member with a CONGU handicap will be allotted a WHS Handicap Index automatically. If you are new to golf you must, as now, return the required 54-hole scores of either 18/9 holes or a combination of both. If you are a returning player it should be possible to calculate an initial Handicap Index from your previous CONGU record.

**To get a handicap can scores still be a mix of 9 and 18 holes and do they have to be at my Home Club?**

Any combination is acceptable over 9 or 18 holes. However, it will be up to your Home Club if they will accept scores from another venue for initial allocation.

**If I can enter one of my first cards for initial handicap allocation at another club, will it still need to be certified as having been done correctly by the other club?**

**Yes** - all cards need to be checked and signed by another member or person acceptable to the committee.

**Once I have been given a Handicap Index what happens, as I don't have 20 scores yet?**

After you have been given a Handicap Index, each time you add a new score it will be recalculated (using a formula) until you have returned 20 scores when you will have a Fully Developed Handicap Index.

**What is a fully developed Handicap Index?**

This is when a player has their Handicap Index calculated from 20 acceptable scores.

**What is a Course Handicap?**

A Course Handicap determines the number of strokes a player gives or receives on any golf course off any set of tees with a Course and Slope rating.

# SUBMITTING SCORES



Do I have to submit every score for every round I play?	<b>No</b> - you will have to submit all singles competition scores and will have the choice to submit social/recreational scores including those from society, association and alliances. All scores must be <b>pre-registered</b> .
What is an Acceptable Score?	This is the same as the current “Qualifying Score” under CONGU UHS. An Acceptable Score will be any singles competition score 9 or 18 holes and any pre-registered social score returned from any tee that has a course and Slope rating for your gender, played by the Rules of Golf, over a minimum number of holes with at least one other person (authorized marker)
What is the minimum number of holes?	For an 18-hole score to count a minimum of 10 holes must be played and for a 9-hole score to be accepted 9 holes must be played. A hole is considered to have been played if it has been started.
Can I just walk in after say 12 holes and my score will count?	<b>No</b> - you will need a valid reason to stop after 10 or more holes such as failing light, injury or illness or a hole being declared out of play for maintenance or because of damage.
Could 4 ball and match play count for handicap?	<b>Yes</b> - this is possible and may be introduced once the system has settled in.

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# SUBMITTING SCORES (CONTINUED)



**Will my handicap change every time I play?**

Not necessarily - it will depend on whether the score you returned replaces one of the best 8 in your last 20 scores.

**Where will I find my new Handicap Index?**

There will be a link on the new Golf Ireland website where you can find your latest calculated Index by entering your CDH number or by using the Golf Ireland App.

**How do I register and return away scores?**

Through the sign-in system at the club you are visiting, you will be able to register before play and submit your score on return to the clubhouse or by using the Golf Ireland App.

If you have registered your Intention to Play but not submitted your score you must return the properly completed scorecard to your Home Club for inclusion on your handicap record.

**What is Peer Review?**

This is the review and verification of fellow competitors scores as seen on a leader board, results sheet or record.

# HOW DO PLAYING CONDITIONS AFFECT THE SCORE?



How do the playing conditions affect the score?	The system includes a playing conditions adjustment, known as a Playing Conditions Calculation or “PCC”. This looks at how all players have performed compared to expected performances on that golf course for that day. The calculation takes place at the end of each day’s play.
Should scores should be entered as soon as possible?	Scores from a singles competition and/or pre-registered social/recreational scores should be entered as soon as possible after the conclusion of play on that day.
What would happen if a score is not returned ASAP - what time will be allowed?	Scores should be entered as soon as possible after completion of round and before the end of the day (before midnight local time). Any scores entered after that time will still be acceptable for handicap but will not be used as part of the PCC calculation. However, the PCC calculated for the day of play will be retrospectively applied when your score is posted.
How is the PCC calculated if only one player enters a competition or submits a social/recreational score that day?	A Playing Conditions Adjustment will only be calculated if at least 8 scores from players with fully developed Handicap Indexes of 36.0 or less have been returned on that day.
Will there be Reduction only Competitions?	No - the PCC may affect the scores by +1,+2, +3 or by - 1

# WHAT PARTS OF THE CONGU SYSTEM ARE IN THE WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM?



Will there still be an Annual Review?	Yes - the Annual Review will continue to be an important part of the system.
Will Buffer Zones still exist?	Buffer Zones are not part of the World Handicap System.
Will there be 0.1 increases and a 1 shot limit on handicap increases?	The 0.1 and 1.0 shot annual limit on increases no longer apply as an averaging system is used. Safeguards are in place to ensure that your handicap does not stray too far from your demonstrated ability.
Will there be an Exceptional Score Reduction?	Yes - if a score is returned between 7 and 9.9 strokes lower than the players Handicap Index an additional reduction of -1 is added. If the score is 10 or more lower there will be a reduction of -2
Can my handicap lapse?	No - as long as you retain membership of an affiliated golf club, designated to manage and maintain your handicap, your handicap will remain active.
Where will I find my Course Handicap?	Each tee will have a different "Handicap Calculation Conversion Table" that is used by players to look up their Course Handicap on the day

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# WHAT PARTS OF THE CONGU SYSTEM ARE IN THE WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM? (CONTINUED)



What handicap will I use in match play?	Your Course Handicap is the one you will use to give or receive strokes.
Why is there a Playing Handicap of 95%?	<p>For competition purposes the 95% is required to balance out the increase in Course Handicaps of higher handicap players against that of lower handicap players.</p> <p>By applying the 95% adjustment on a course with a Slope rating of 130, a 36.0 Handicap Index player will have a Course Handicap of 41.4 (41) converted to a playing Handicap of 38.95 (39) but a 5.0 Handicap Index player will have a Course Handicap of 5.75 (6) converted to a Playing Handicap of 5.7 (6), therefore an adjustment is required for competition purposes.</p>
Where do I find the Slope Rating for a course?	The Course and Slope Ratings for all tee sets on their course(s) will be displayed at the club. It will also be available when registering on the computer to return a score.
Does a higher Slope Rating indicate a difficult course?	<b>No</b> - It is the Course Rating which indicates course difficulty. The Slope rating indicates the relative difficulty of the course between the scratch player and the bogey player.
Will we have a different Slope Rating for each tee at our club?	<b>Yes</b> - each tee has a separate Course Rating and Slope Rating.
Will the Slope Rating be reflected in the Handicap Calculation?	Slope Rating is part of the World Handicapping System and will be used as part of the Course Handicap and Score Differential calculations.
What about Preferred Lies, Temporary Greens etc., will they still be in use and will you still be able to run competitions whilst they are in force?	There will still be a preferred lies period and rules for the use of temporary greens and tees all similar to CONGU.



# QUESTIONS ASKED BY CLUB HANDICAP COMMITTEES



**Will we still need a Handicap Committee and Handicap Secretary?**

**Yes** - the club will still need to appoint a Handicap Committee to manage and maintain members handicaps e.g. carry out handicap reviews, adjust Handicap Indexes where necessary, and ensure that scores are being submitted.

Where possible, we would encourage clubs to try and maintain the same committee for the next two years. This will provide continuity for education and transitional purposes.

**What information will clubs be required to display?**

Clubs will need to display the club World Handicapping Course and Slope Ratings for all tees as well as the Course Handicap and Playing Handicap Conversion Tables.

**Will the club have to advertise their Slope Rating and Course Rating on their website?**

Ideally this information should be available on the club's website but it is not a requirement.

**Will we need to buy new software?**

Not if you are using a licensed software provider.

**We need to get more scorecards printed?**

There is no requirement to have new scorecards printed for the launch. When you get them printed in future you may wish to include some additional information such as the World Handicapping Course Rating to a decimal point (replacement for SSS) and the Slope Rating for each set of tees, but this is not recommended.

# QUESTIONS ASKED BY CLUB HANDICAP COMMITTEES (CONTINUED)



Can we display players' handicaps on a notice board?	<b>No</b> - this will not be feasible as players handicaps are recalculated on a daily basis.
Updating/amending player's records?	<b>This must now be done through the Golf Ireland portal as the Software Vendors no longer calculate or process handicaps in any way.</b>
Is closing the competition required for upload to Golf Ireland for handicap purposes?	<b>No</b> - all acceptable scores returned before midnight on the day of play will be uploaded automatically and the PCC for the day calculated.  Scores should not be uploaded when competitions are closed on the day of the competition.
What restrictions can you place on handicaps for club competitions?	As with any competition, the committee can have Terms of Competition which may include a handicap limit. However, all players must have a reasonable opportunity to play competition golf.
Should players use the same Handicap Index for both rounds of a 36-hole competition?	If both rounds are on the same or consecutive days WHS recommends the Handicap Index at the start of a competition should be used for each round. However, the final decision rests with the committee.
Can Apps still be used when we go into World Handicapping?	<b>Yes</b> - but they must comply with the rules of handicapping and with the requirements of rule 3.3b of the Rules of Golf.