

Important: The new World Handicap System is coming!

This is the first of several communications which we will issue to you before November to communicate the changes being made to the handicap system.

What is happening?

On 2 November 2020, the new World Handicap System (WHS) will be introduced in Great Britain & Ireland. The current golf handicapping system 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, you will be able to obtain and maintain a handicap index and use this on any course around the world. In addition, you will be able to compete or simply play a casual round with fellow golfers anywhere on a fair and equal basis.

As well as encouraging players new to the sport to obtain a handicap with ease, the WHS will also modernise the game for those who have been playing for longer.

Under the new system, your handicap will be based on the average of eight best scores from your last 20 rounds. WHS will also take into account factors currently not fully represented in the existing handicapping procedure through a course and slope rating system.

Course Rating replaces Standard Scratch (SSS) and represents the score that a scratch golfer is expected to achieve on the course.

Slope Rating is the relative difficulty of a course from a specific set of tees for a bogey golfer compared to a scratch golfer.

Our Course and Slope Ratings are shown below, although we should highlight that that the ladies' tees on both courses are due for re-rating this year so the ratings below may change before November.

Hilton	Tees	Course Rating	Slope Rating
	Men White	71.0	131
	Men Yellow	70.0	129
	Ladies Red	73.3	128

Allander	Tees	Course Rating	Slope Rating
	Men White	67.1	128
	Men Yellow	66.9	127
	Ladies Red	69.2	117

What are the features of WHS?

- **Flexibility in formats of play**, allowing both competitive and recreational (supplementary) rounds to count for handicap purposes and ensuring that your handicap is more reflective of potential ability.
- A **minimal number of scores needed to obtain a new handicap**; the number of scores needed to obtain a new handicap will be 54 holes from any combination of 18-hole and 9-hole rounds.
- A **consistent handicap that is portable from course to course and country to country** through worldwide use of the USGA Course and Slope Rating System, already successfully used in more than 80 countries.
- An **average-based calculation of a handicap**, taken from the best eight out of your last 20 scores, dating back to 2017, and factoring in memory of demonstrated ability for better responsiveness and control.
- A calculation that **considers the impact that abnormal course and weather conditions** might have on your performance each day.
- **Daily handicap revisions**, taking account of the course and weather conditions calculation.
- A **limit of Net Double Bogey** on the maximum hole score (for handicapping purposes only).
- A **maximum handicap limit of 54.0**, regardless of gender, to encourage more golfers to measure and track their performance to increase their enjoyment of the game.

Transition handicaps

In order to move from the current CONGU to WHS handicaps, all players' current handicap records will be reprocessed using the WHS principles. The calculation will identify the best 8 of the last 20 Qualifying Scores since 2017 and factor in:

- The adjusted Gross Score (Score Differential)
- The Course Rating (or SSS)
- Any CSS adjustments
- The Slope Rating of the tees played

If you have submitted **less than 20 scores over that period**, the calculation will be done in a similar manner to the method of allocating new handicaps, as shown below.

*Players will be able to see their expected **Transition Handicap** and their **Low Handicap Index (Anchor Point)** when the handicapping software is updated around September.*

We would encourage you to submit plenty of scores (competition and supplementary) between now and November so that your Transition Handicap Index is a good reflection of current playing ability. 9-hole scores are acceptable and therefore you could play the remaining 9-hole medals this season to help with this.

If you have less than 20 Qualifying Scores posted since 2017:

- 3 scores: lowest score -2
- 4 scores: lowest score -1
- 5 scores: lowest score
- 6 scores: average of lowest 2 scores -1
- 7 to 8 scores: average of lowest 2 scores
- 9 to 11 scores: average of lowest 3 scores
- 12 to 14 scores: average of lowest 4 scores
- 15 to 16 scores: average of lowest 5 scores
- 17 to 18 scores: average of lowest 6 scores
- 19 scores: average of lowest 7 scores
- 20 scores: average of lowest 8 scores

If you have **no Qualifying Scores posted since 2017**, your Transition Handicap will be calculated on the basis of the 3 lowest scores being equal to your current playing handicap. For example, a player with a 20 handicap will have scores of 20, 20 and 20 on their Scoring Record and their handicap at Transition will be $(20 - 2) = 18$. **There's an incentive to get 3 Qualifying Scores in this year!**

Competition handicaps

The new system means that there will be no loss of competition handicap for those who do not complete 54 qualifying holes this year and indeed no loss of handicap in the future. However, as mentioned above, you should still aim to submit cards for as many qualifying rounds as possible to ensure your handicap under WHS is a true reflection of your current playing ability.

Further information

We will continue to provide more detail over the next couple of months which may include seminars within the Club to enable your questions to be answered.

In the meantime, we have attached a link to the relevant section of the Scottish Golf website where you can learn more about the changes.

<https://scottishgolf.org/handicapping-homepage/world-handicap-system/>

Karen McIlvaney
Ladies' Handicap Secretary
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Graham Hanna
Men's Handicap Secretary