



Scottish
Golf

Scottish Golf

WHS Zoom Panel Call

20th August 2020

FAQs

Converting to a WHS Handicap Index

- What will happen if a golfer does not manage to submit three scores in 2020? Will their handicap lapse once WHS kicks in?
Clubs should be re-assured that any members who do not manage to submit 3 cards or more in 2020, will **not** lose their competition handicap. However, players are encouraged to return as many scores as possible this year to ensure their WHS Index is more reflective of recent demonstrated ability.
- How far back will Scottish Golf go in order to obtain counting competitions for the Handicap Index calculation?
The system will look back as far as the start of 2017 on a player's current handicap record to calculate their initial WHS index.
- For players with between three and less than 20 scores, how are clubs to modify their scores?
If a scoring record has less than 20 scores, an adjusted relative average will be taken depending on the number of scores on the record. For example, for 12 scores, an average of the lowest 4 would be used.
- What will happen if a person's handicap has lapsed or they have very few scores?
If a player's handicap has lapsed, as long as they have 3 or more scores on their record going back to the start of 2017, they will receive a WHS Index.
- If calculating the initial WHS index is done on the average of eight from latest 20, are the reductions/increases awarded at the latest annual review taken into consideration?

Yes, any adjustments from general play or the last annual review will be included in the calculation. Based on any additional evidence of a player's demonstrated ability, a Handicap Committee may modify a player's initial WHS index up or down.

- How many cards needed to establish/maintain a handicap?

A player will need a total of 54 holes (made up of 9 or 18-hole scores) to be allocated an initial Handicap Index. Under WHS, handicaps will not lapse and so there is no minimum requirement each year after that to maintain a handicap.

- Assume golfer is no longer responsible for adjusting his own hcaph?

No, it will not be possible under the new system for a golfer to self adjust.

Transition to WHS

- What documents pertaining to WHS are Scottish Golf making available to club handicap convenors, to enable us to adequately explain the changes to our members?

Clubs will have access to the following:

- WHS Readiness Document
 - The WHS Readiness Document outlines the process for all affiliated Scottish Golf Clubs to make the transition to the new system. This includes ensuring accuracy of the required club and member data that must be collected to complete handicap computations on WHS and the process in which to collect, validate and return to Scottish Golf. Our WHS Readiness Document can be found [here](#).
- Access to the New Hive Learning Platform
 - This will allow you to access a breadth of information on WHS such as an overview, key features, rules and club resources. This area will also enable you to connect with fellow clubs to exchange best practice, tips, insights and ideas. Members of the Scottish Golf team will also be on hand to answer any queries you may have regarding WHS on Hive. In order to access this new platform, we will require the relevant individual from each club to be registered. To register, please follow the link [here](#) and fill out the necessary details.
- WHS Rule Books and Materials
 - All affiliated clubs will be provided with a variety of materials to support the transition to WHS. These will include:

- i. A full copy of the Rules of Handicapping.
 - ii. Two copies of a “What’s Changed” poster.
 - iii. 25 copies of our new “Players’ Guide”.
 - iv. A display stand for these guides.
 - These resources will arrive directly to your club, and should support you in educating your committee and members.
 - Access to Zoom Panel Calls Focussing on WHS
- What is the best summarised advice to issue to club golfers?
Familiarise yourselves with the key aspects of WHS from the Players’ Guide and return as many scores as possible to ensure your WHS Index provides an accurate reflection of demonstrated ability. Go out and play and enjoy your golf – there will no longer be pressure of the 0.1!
- Will COVID-19 delay the introduction of the WHS in Scotland
No, WHS is on track to be introduced in Scotland on November 2nd as planned.
- Is there any value in appointing a dedicated club member to handle the first year of changeover?
Yes, it is recommended to establish a Handicap Committee, ideally of at least 3 members to assist with education and communication to members.
- Will each player be able to see how their handicap index is being calculated and which rounds are included/excluded?
Yes. Each player will be able to access their scoring record via the Scottish Golf App and website. Players will be able to view their last 22 scores to see which scores will soon be dropping from their record. Players will also be able to see their Low Handicap Index from the previous 365 days.
- Does every member need a CDH number, or just those who have a handicap? If yes, how do we get a number for them?
Under WHS only playing members who return competition or general play scores will require a CDH number which is generated directly from within the club software.
- How do we get more copies of the players handicap guide?

These can be easily downloaded from our Hive learning platform and can be printed or emailed around your membership.

- Can I get more of my committee on Hive and how do I do this?
Access was initially set to one log-in per club although we will be reviewing this in the coming weeks and may be able to issue more depending on numbers.
- How will a player register before playing, currently Club Systems doesn't allow for this currently for non-comp playing?
Each club will need to have a process to allow home or away players to pre-register for general play scores either via a PSI terminal or App within the ISV software.
- Where does County Golf fit in - need course rating and slope ratings for all courses?
Areas and counties will have access to all the course and slope ratings.
- If we are not using the VMS, do we still need to enter the Course info on WHS system?
Yes, all clubs will require to upload their player and course information to the CDH to allow players' handicaps to be correctly updated.
- How do you remove members who have passed away or non-playing members from CDH ID database?
These members should have been resigned from the database and their CDH numbers removed from their members profiles on your club software. You may need to reinstate the player and then resign correctly to see if that removed the player from the CDH database or you can send a list of these golfers through to cdh@scottishgolf.org and we can archive the CDH.

Course & Slope Rating

- When will my course be rated?
Although the 2020 course rating season has been cancelled due to the pandemic, it is hoped that rating schedules will return to normal next year where courses will continue to be rated under the 10-year cycle. However, we can assure all clubs that every course in Scotland has been rated and details of this will be provided shortly.

- Under WHS, will all rated tees be available for play by any age, gender of member, or will separate tees i.e. yellow for gents and red for Ladies still be the same? If so, would there be any corrections that would have to be made for handicapping purposes, or would the course and slope rating already account for that?

Depending on what suits their membership, if clubs have requested ratings for different tees for both genders, then the different Slope Rating values will provide the appropriate adjustments for handicap purposes. However, for competition purposes, an additional allowance would be applied to the Playing Handicap to account for the difference in Course Rating.

- What happens for courses that have not been rated before WHS comes into play?
All affiliated clubs in Scotland have been rated under the 10-year cycle and hold a valid Course & Slope Rating.

- When will clubs receive the course rating information for all, their certificated courses/tees?

In the coming weeks, clubs will receive certificates of their Course & Slope Rating information as well as look up charts showing Course Handicap values.

- For clubs with a 9-Hole Course, would we also need to have in place an 18-hole card of the course set up as well as the 9-hole set-ups already in place?

Yes, to allow 18-hole scores to be returned for handicap, 9 hole clubs would also need to set up an 18 hole course card on the CDH.

- Where do we find the slope rating of our golf course and other golf courses?

As well as issuing all clubs with their own Slope Rating values, all Slope Rating information will also be available on a lookup portal on our Scottish Golf website.

When you visit an away course under WHS, the Scottish Golf App will have all Slope Ratings built in to allow you to easily access what your Course Handicap will be that day.

- Will all golf courses be re-rated under the new system?

Yes, all affiliated clubs will continue to be re-rated under the new system on the 10-year cycle.

- Are the course and slope ratings the same for 9 holes as they are for 18 holes?

No each 18-hole course will have a different 9-hole Course and Slope Rating value. These will be printed on the Slope Certificates issued to clubs soon.

- If we only hold 9-hole medals over one of our courses, do we need to provide 9-hole data for the course which is NOT used for these medals
If those 9 holes are not being used for submitting scores prior to WHS, you can leave that 9-hole data blank for now. And then populate it in the coming weeks when we will be issuing Slope Certificates which will include 9-hole ratings to allow front and back 9 scores to be submitted under WHS.
- How will a club get a winter course rated for play?
Provided the shorter course has a measured yardage certificate from the distance points, a rating can be provided by emailing courserating@scottishgolf.org
- I was under the impression that the various tees were no longer gender specific. Is this so?
That's correct, provided clubs have requested a rating for a specific set of tees for both genders.
- We have a 9-hole course and play stableford and strokeplay. Currently stroke play competitions do not count. Will they count towards handicap when WHS starts?
Yes, courses will have both 9 and 18-hole ratings provided.
- Our current 9-hole course is 1-5 the 13-16 - not front or back nine. Will our designated 9-hole SSS be updated.
Yes, you can upload this specific 9 holes into the platform as a composite course and it will receive a course and slope rating as it has previously been rated.
- We are changing our stroke indexes soon. Does that prove a problem if the original SI's have been entered?
No, you can change your stroke indices at any stage on the system.

Scoring/Handicap Adjustments

- Will all rounds including all social rounds need to be entered and count towards your Handicap Index like they do in the USA?

No, only pre-registered rounds will count for handicap purposes. Social golf can still be enjoyed without the requirement for players to submit a score.

- Do Scottish golf send the revised handicaps to each club?

At the end of each day all scores that have been submitted will be posted and all players' handicaps are updated centrally on the CDH, they will be uploaded and ready for the following day. Clubs will be able to request a push notification of all updated members' handicaps.

- Can competitions still have a handicap limit and how many handicap categories will there be?

Under WHS, there will be no handicap categories or buffer zones. It will be up to clubs to decide on handicap limits for competitions and handicap categories to provide an opportunity for all handicap levels to play competitively.

- Could you provide some practical examples of how the WHS system impacts on a golfer who visits an away course for a competition or as a member's guest

This is one of the key advantages of WHS; to provide portability of handicaps depending on the course/tees you are playing. When you arrive, you will have access to the Course Handicap look up charts on display or via the Scottish Golf App. Under WHS, it is the Course Handicap that players need to put on their scorecard (not Playing Handicap).

For an 18-hole Round

	Handicap Index	x	(Slope Rating ÷ 113)	=	Course Handicap
Olympic Golf Course (Black)	15.0	x	(144 ÷ 113)	=	19
Olympic Golf Course (White)	15.0	x	(128 ÷ 113)	=	17

For a 9-hole Round

Front Nines:	Handicap Index ÷ 2	x	(9-Hole Slope Rating ÷ 113)	=	Course Handicap
Olympic Golf Course (Black)	7.5	x	(144 ÷ 113)	=	10
Olympic Golf Course (White)	7.5	x	(125 ÷ 113)	=	8

- How and when does a player find out any handicap changes after entering a score?

Players will easily be able to check their updated Handicap Index the day after a score has been submitted by logging on to the Scottish Golf website or App.

- Are there a minimum number of scores required for the PCC to kick in?
Yes, the PCC requires a minimum of eight acceptable scores submitted on that course on a specific day to determine if an adjustment is required.
- If someone is playing two competitions at separate courses on the same day, would their Handicap Index change before the second round?
It is recommended that a player's Handicap Index would remain unchanged between rounds played on the same day as handicap updates are applied centrally on the CDH overnight.

The Committee in charge of a competition may reserve the right to Adjust the Playing Handicap of an entrant within the Terms of the Competition where there is evidence that the player's Handicap Index does not reflect their demonstrated ability.

- Does this mean the yearly review will now be redundant?
The Annual Review is still a key part of Handicap administration under WHS.
- Why do we have a playing handicap adjustment?
This is to provide equity for competitions to give an equal chance for all handicap levels to have a chance of winning.
- Do casual golfers, i.e. non-handicappers, need to enter scores?
No, not at all, social golf can be enjoyed without submitting a score.
- Will 9-hole competitions continue to be stableford only under WHS?
No under WHS handicapping and competitions are separate, under WHS all player will be required to enter their gross scores, A 9-hole score is scaled up to an equivalent 18-hole Score Differential for immediate use in the scoring record.(see rule 5.1b)

Soft/Hard Cap

- Is there a limit on rise of handicap index and therefore handicap which will be assigned in November?

For allocating initial Handicap Indexes in November, the Soft & Hard Cap will kick in to limit the upward movement of a player's current handicap.

- Please could you explain the specifics of the soft/hard caps work regarding the handicap index capacity for remembering and accounting for previous good scores. To prevent your Handicap Index from increasing too quickly, every time it is updated, the 8 of 20 calculation is compared to the lowest Handicap Index that you have achieved during the last 365 days.
 - If the difference is >3 strokes, a Soft Cap is applied to slow down the increase (the value above 3 strokes is restricted to 50%)
 - After the Soft Cap, a Hard Cap triggers to restrict a player's handicap increase to no more than 5 strokes above the low index.

Exceptional Score Reduction

- Will handicaps still be subject to exceptional score reduction?

If a score produces a score differential that is 7.0 strokes or better than your Handicap Index at the time the round is played, it is subject to an exceptional score reduction.

 - If the score differential is 7-9.9 strokes better the Handicap Index is reduced by 1
 - If the score differential is >10 strokes better the Handicap Index is reduced by 2

Minimum Number of Holes

- Will players still be able to NR cards?

If a player has not completed the minimum number of holes for it to be an acceptable score (10 holes), the score must not be posted for handicap purposes. The Handicap Committee has the authority to decide if there is a valid reason, for example, injury or dangerous weather. For players trying to manipulate their Handicap Index, the Committee could consider an appropriate penalty score.
- Please explain how an 11-hole qualifying competition could be run in relation to handicaps

Unless played as a 9-hole competition, an 11-hole competition would be acceptable for handicap purposes as it has met the minimum number of holes required for an 18-hole differential to be calculated (at least 10 holes). So nett par plus 1 would be

added to the first hole not played and then nett par for the remainder in order to make up an 18-hole score differential.

Hole not Started v Hole Started but Player does not Hole Out

- If a player only plays 10 holes of an 18-hole competition, at present for handicap purposes, scores on holes 11 (nett par plus 1) 12 to 18 will count as nett par. Is that correct. If it is correct, should holes 11 to 18 not score as nett double bogey? Whilst that player would be disqualified from the competition itself, provided that they have played the minimum of 10 holes, their score could count for handicap purposes. In this case, the score for the remaining holes not played would be scaled up to an 18-hole score using nett par +1 for the first hole, then nett par for the remainder.

This is distinct from when a hole is started but a player does not hole out. Whilst the player will be disqualified from the competition, the score will be counted as a nett double bogey for handicap purposes.

ISVs

- How will supplementary scores be handled if not using Scottish golfs Venue Management System.
Players will be able to register a General Play score on the Scottish Golf App at the venue they are playing or by registering on the software at that club.
- Have Scottish Golf addressed the issue faced by a lot of clubs who do not close their competitions on the same day that the competition is played? Scores will be in the system, but not confirmed or finalised until the competition is closed. WHS updates every night (at midnight), what happens to scores which are entered but not yet verified?
Under WHS competitions and handicaps are two separate components, ISVs will need to post scores daily to the WHS platform whether a competition has been closed or not. If scores are not posted on the day, they will not be included in the PCC calculation.
- Will there be an option to continue to use third-party Independent Software Vendors?

Clubs will continue to be able to use their current software vendor for both competitions and general play scores. Under WHS the difference is that competitions and handicap calculations will be separate. Members' handicaps will be calculated and updated centrally on the CDH instead of locally within each ISV. The CDH will now become the source of truth for handicaps.

- What software does my club need for the new handicapping system?
All clubs will have access to the Scottish Golf CDH where all handicaps will be updated centrally. Clubs can continue to use any ISV provided they have signed up to the WHS licence agreement.
- Does that mean Club Systems have not signed up?
All Current ISVs in Scotland and new ISVS who have expressed an interest have been provided with the WHS licence agreement for their consideration, we want to work with all ISVs to ensure a smooth transition into WHS. So far, the ISVs who have signed up to WHS are Golf Genius, Nexxchange and Handicap Master.
- What happened to the stance that Scottish golf had that no ISV would be given a licence?
Under WHS ISVs will no longer be licenced to perform the handicap calculation, they will be able to be licenced to upload both competition and general play scores to the platform for the calculation to take place. The original direction not to issue any licence was changed after consultation with clubs who wished to continue to use ISVs to upload those scores. We communicated this change to all clubs in December last year.

Winter Handicaps

- Are Winter Handicaps allowed under WHS?
As now under CONGU, it is not a requirement under WHS to offer winter handicaps. It is up to clubs how they run their winter leagues (as it always has been). Under WHS the calculation of WHS handicaps will be done centrally in the CDH and not within individual software suppliers.