



Scottish
Golf

Scottish Golf

WHS Zoom Panel Call

8th October 2020

FAQs

WHS Overall

Q: We seem to be moving from a very simple system in relation to handicaps to a system that appears to be very complex. What are the improvements expected with this change that do not confuse the average golfer?

- The new system is based on a player's demonstrated ability or current form and will change regularly to represent that. The new system will also provide portability in the course handicap with the inclusion of slope and equity in the playing allowance for different formats. While it may seem more complex than the current system, I think that once golfers get used to using the system and seeing how their handicap is calculated it will be quite simple to understand. There are a lot of intricate details in the current CONGU system that maybe golfers are not aware of. The important thing to remember under WHS is that the systems being provided by the National Associations and the golf clubs will do all the calculations so a golfer can still continue to enjoy their golf and submit scores and then check their record the next day to see and understand the change that has taken place. General play is also an improvement and massive benefit, the fact a golfer can, so long as they pre-register and play the game by the WHS requirements, submit any round of golf from any golf course on the globe is a massive opportunity for golfers who wish to consume their golf this way.

Q: What help is being provided for golfers?

- Club and golfer education have been a major focus for us as an organisation.
 - There is a lot of content and material that has been provided to clubs to help understand the change and share with their golfers.

- We have sent out a WHS pack that has included the rules of WHS and players guides.
- We have launched a new online learning platform for clubs with a focus on WHS. Course rating charts and course handicap charts as shown in the presentation have been sent out to all clubs.
- Our Scottish Golf App is available for download so all golfers with a handicap can submit their scores directly into the system.
- Live and recorded webinars to help clubs understand the changes.

Q: How do we get more copies of the new handicapping book?

- The rules of handicapping book can be downloaded from our website or a hard copy can be purchased for £5 by following the link [here](#).

Q: Is it correct that the Most Likely Score element of USGA handicapping will not be part of WHS?

- Most likely score will not be used in Scotland.

Handicap Index

Q: Will NRs and DQs be counted in the last 20 rounds when allocating handicaps?

- NR's and DQ scores can be used for the initial WHS calculation if the nett double bogey adjustment has been applied to produce an adjusted gross score. Provided that a score differential has been calculated, the software will then take an average of the best 8 from the last 20 score differentials on a player's record, (then slope adjust them as we showed in the presentation example) to produce your initial WHS Index.

Q: Will a player be required to complete a minimum (presently 3) rounds per year?

- There will no longer be a requirement to complete 3 rounds a year to retain a competition handicap. If a player is a member of a golf club, their Handicap Index won't lapse. However, the more scores that a player has on their record, the more accurate their Handicap Index will be of their demonstrated ability.

Q: Will there still be handicap categories?

- 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.

Q: How will members find out their new Handicap Index and be able to access the data it was based on?

- By registering for the Scottish Golf website or through the Scottish Golf App all golfers will be able to access their handicapping information, you will need your CDH number when you register so please ensure you have received this from you club.

Q: What happens for members who do not have 20 competitive rounds in last 3 years?

- A calculation is done based on how many scores a player has on their records.

Number of score differentials in scoring record	Score differential(s) to be used in calculation of Handicap Index	Adjustment
3	Lowest 1	-2.0
4	Lowest 1	-1.0
5	Lowest 1	0
6	Average of lowest 2	-1.0
7 or 8	Average of lowest 2	0
9 to 11	Average of lowest 3	0
12 to 14	Average of lowest 4	0
15 or 16	Average of lowest 5	0
17 or 18	Average of lowest 6	0
19	Average of lowest 7	0
20	Average of lowest 8	0

Q: How easy will it be to calculate my handicap at away courses?

- This will be very straightforward. Players will have their handicap index and can easily work out their course handicap by looking at the course handicap charts on display at the club they are visiting. Alternatively, you can look up the Scottish Golf App for the course and set of tees that you are playing, and this will tell you your course handicap for that day.

Q: Do you expect current handicaps to vary much?

- The amount your handicap will change when transitioning to a WHS Index depends on several factors such as frequency of play and how many scores you have on your record. During testing we have found that most players' new Handicap Index will be within 1-2 strokes of their current CONGU handicap. Generally speaking, low handicap players may expect to see their Handicap Index to be slightly lower, mid handicap players may expect to stay about the same, and higher handicap players will tend to see a slight increase.

Q: My home club is slow to issue medal results and handicap updates often midday the following day. How can I calculate any handicap adjustments when the World Handicap System is in place?

- The scores should be sent to the WHS platform on the day of play whether or not your golf club has closed the competition this will ensure handicap calculations are actioned daily and that the players handicap will be ready for the following day. A player will not be able to self-adjust under WHS as they currently can so by ensuring the calculation is done daily golfers handicaps will always be up to date.

Q: Some clubs operate a Winter Handicap system, which suspend the summer handicap to allow winter golf to be played. Would this be allowed under this system?

- No, Under WHS there is no inactive period in GB&I so scores can be submitted all year round. If a competitive round of golf is played and it meets the requirements of WHS then it is to be submitted against a player's record regardless of the time of year. Non qualifying can only be set up if they do not meet the requirements outlined in the rules. Golf clubs can and should continue to offer their golfers competitive golf over the winter period but there will be no option for a winter handicap solution under WHS.

Q: Do any of the rounds have to be in a medal to obtain a Handicap Index?

- Rounds can be submitted from either general play or competition rounds. The minimum number of holes is 54 that can be made up of either 9 or holes 18 scores.

Q: Can you register to play one of your rounds at a different course to where you are a member?

- Yes, scores can be submitted from any course.

Q: Will the slope rating be counted in my 20 rounds used to set my initial Handicap Index?

- If the data on your record can be matched to a course in the database then yes it will be used, if not then we will use a default slope rating of 125.

Q: My home course has a different set of holes we use during the winter so how is that going to be integrated with WHS?

- Competitions can still be played over a winter course, however if it does not have a valid course or slope rating then scores played over this course can't count towards a player's handicap.

Playing Handicap

Q: Is the 95% of course handicap for playing handicap compulsory?

- Yes, the 95% allowance is mandatory, this is based on a lot of data that has been provided during the testing period. If 100% was used, then competitions would not be equitable and would be favourable to the higher handicap golfers. By making these mandatory in GB&I this ensures consistency across every jurisdiction.

Q: I play golf at 2 different courses. How will this affect how my handicap will be calculated moving forward?

- You will take your handicap index to each club and the calculation will take place before your round to award you a course handicap which may be different at each club depending on the slope rating, after your round has been submitted your adjusted gross differential will be calculated then converted into a score differential and applied to your scoring record.

Scoring

Q: Will golfers be required to post a score for every 18-hole round?

- No, only pre-registered general play rounds or qualifying competitions will count for handicap purposes. Social golf with friends can still be enjoyed without the requirement for players to submit a score.

Q: Can casual play qualify for handicap purposes and how is this certified?

- As with the previous question only pre-registered general play scores can count for handicap and these would need to be certified by a marker (deemed acceptable by the handicap committee) who keeps the player's score.

Q: Are there any buffer zones?

- There will be no buffer zones. Instead of the current 0.1 system, WHS will use a rolling average-based system of the best 8 of your last 20 scores which a new submitted score will be added to update your handicap index. Depending on what score drops off your record and what recent score comes on, players will see more noticeable changes to their handicap than currently with the 0.1 increases.

Q: How will we enter an extra day or supplementary score on the new system?

- General play scores will be able to be submitted directly by the golfer to the WHS platform through the Scottish Golf App or through a club by using the software being supplied at the club/course where the round is being played. Remember you must pre-register for a general play score to be valid.

Q: What happens to members who deliberately do not submit their score?

- A penalty score can be applied to a player record if they have not provided a valid reason for not submitting the score, this can be determined by the golf club or automatically in the system. This will be audited as all players need to pre-register their intent to submit a score before the round so we will be able to check that a score has been submitted.

Q: How does the playing condition calculation come into the handicap calculation?

- It is added to the calculation that works out the scoring differential.

Q: How do golfers pre-register their round?

- For competition purposes in the manner prescribed by the golf club usually through the competition software or in the Pro shop. For general play rounds ideally by registering for the Scottish Golf App and submitting your general play score through this or by pre-registering through the software on offer at the course where you are submitting your round. Manual pre-registration can be done but you would need to follow the prescribed method outlined by your home club.

Course Rating

Q: What if a club does not have a slope rating?

- All affiliated clubs in Scotland have been rated to enable scores to be returned. If a course does not have an official course & slope rating, then the score could not be accepted for handicap purposes.

Q: We have two courses with different slope ratings, how is this accommodated under the new system?

- Depending on which of the 2 courses you play, you will receive a different Course Handicap calculated from the Slope of the course you are playing. Scores from both courses will be returned to your handicap record to show score differentials.

Q: Is there a list of all course and their slope rating which can be accessed at any time?

- We have developed a course rating database that will be available on our website and through our App, this will allow every golfer in Scotland to access all the course ratings and it will also include a course handicap calculator so that golfers will be able to see what your course handicap will be on any specific tee. We will be releasing this over the next few weeks ahead of WHS.

Software/ISVs

Q: Will other 3rd party providers still operate as they do now once we have moved to the WHS?

- The main difference is that now the handicaps will be calculated centrally by the national associations instead locally by the club's software provider, for competitions and general play scores ISVs will be able to upload these scores for the handicap calculation to take place.

Q: What system will SG be using to deliver the WHS?

- The WHS system has been designed by The R&A and the USGA. The Scottish Golf WHS platform has been developed by OCS, we will continue to use our current CDH platform for keeping all handicap records up to date.

Q: Where will players be able to check their handicap changes and view their playing record?

- Players will be able to view their handicap information through the Scottish Golf App or through the Scottish Golf website. You can download and register for these now, you will need your CDH number to access your handicap information.