



World Handicap System (WHS)

1. WORK ALREADY COMPLETED

Hopefully you have seen the various 'Know the Score' posters around the club and been reading up on the WHS via the members section of the West Berks website or on www.Englandgolf.org/whs for self-learning.

To prepare for its introduction some work has already been completed in relation to our course:

COURSE RATING - in July 2020 the course was assessed and given a Course Rating which represents the difficulty of a course for a scratch golfer from each different tee (a bit like the old Standard Scratch rating)

* WBGC Course Ratings are Blues 74.7, Whites 73.1, Yellows 70.5, and Reds 73.7.

SLOPE RATING - this rating represents the relative difficulty of a course for a bogey golfer as compared with a scratch golfer. In this context bogey means a 20 handicap for men and 24 for women. Slope ratings have been done for each tee

- Slope Ratings will be higher on a course with long carries, narrow fairways, thick rough and positioning of hazards
- Slope Rating fall within a range of 55 and 155
- In GB & Ireland the average Slope Rating is 125
- For Handicap purposes a Neutral Slope Rating of 113 is used

WBGC Provisional* Slope Ratings are: (*subject to change)

- Blue tees - 130
- White - 128
- Yellow - 129
- Red -132

Tees	Yardage	Par	Course Rating	Slope Rating
Blue	7008	73	74.7	130
White	6738	73	73.1	128
Yellow	6275	73	70.5	129

Red	5784	74	73.7	132
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2. WORK IN PROGRESS - HANDICAP INDEX

You currently have a playing handicap. Under the WHS you will have a **Handicap Index**.

This will be computed as the average of the best 8 of your last 20 qualifying scores posted since 1st January 2018. If you have not posted 20 qualifying scores since then a method similar to allocating a new handicap will be used.

Between the date that the course becomes qualifying and the 2nd November 2020 you have been encouraged to play in as many individual strokeplay competitions as possible and to submit as many supplementary scores as possible, over either 9 or 18 holes.

Supplementary Scores

N.B. You need to pre-register your intention to submit a Supplementary score.

Preferably this should be done using the HowDidIDo (HDID) App but if this is not possible you must inform the Pro Shop of your intention to submit a Supplementary Score **BEFORE** starting your round.

To register your intention via the HDID App, go to “Today’s Golf”, click on “Sign In” and click on “Supplementary Score”. You will then be able to choose the course tees you intend to use and specify whether 9 or 18 holes. This **MUST** be done **BEFORE** starting your round.

On completion of your round, please post your signed scorecard (showing named marker) in the ‘Supplementary’ box in the foyer. Ensure that the scorecard is noted “Supplementary Score” showing the date, tee time, playing tee and the name of the marker and signed by the player.

N.B. The terminology ‘Supplementary Card’ may well be replaced in the coming months

The more cards submitted until 2nd November the more likely that, on transition to the WHS, your new **Handicap Index** will reflect your actual playing ability.

Your ‘Transition Handicap’ should be visible on PSI screens and the HDID app from mid-October. Some test runs have indicated that in transition to the WHS your new **Handicap Index** is likely to be different from your current Handicap

(If ability has been declining then your **Handicap Index** will go up more than for steady players because currently handicaps have only increased by 0.1 each time).

3. COURSE HANDICAP

Your handicap on a specific day is calculated by reference to the particular course and tee that you are playing from.

Your **Handicap Index** is multiplied by the Slope Rating for the course tee being played and then divided by the Neutral Slope Rating of 113.

For example, if the Slope Rating of the White tees on a course was say 128, then if your **Handicap Index** is:

10.0 then $10 \times 128 \div 113 = 11.3$ (11)

20.0 then $20 \times 128 \div 113 = 22.7$ (23)

30.0 then $30 \times 128 \div 113 = 34.0$ (34)

Good News! - Charts will be available by the PSI machine and outside the pro-shop. **So you will not need to do the calculation yourself.**

*N.B. It is your **Handicap Index** that must be recorded on your scorecard.*

4. SUBMITTING SCORES

On completion of the round, as soon as possible on that day, you must post your scores electronically on the PSI of the club you played. If using phone Apps, scores must be posted before midnight. Your **Handicap Index** will be updated in the "Cloud" at 5 minutes past midnight. There will be sanctions for non-submission of scores.

Please also register for your England Golf account on the link below. By signing up you can receive the England Golf WHS newsletters directly to your inbox. From the 2nd November you can also track your **Handicap Index** through the England Golf WHS Platform.

<https://www.Englandgolf.org/my-account/>

5. ADJUSTMENTS TO HANDICAP INDEX

Currently a good score results in a much bigger handicap adjustment than having a poor score. Also, a spell of poor form is rewarded by 0.1 increases in handicap. Under the WHS it will be very different up & down.

Your **Handicap Index** will be the average of your best 8 out of the last 20 Acceptable Scores (see 6. below). It is recalculated when new scores are returned. There could be quite a swing.

Upward movement of **Handicap Index** within a defined period of time is CAPPED to limit the rate of increase during a period of poor form. (Soft and Hard cap).

For Handicap purposes, a big score at a hole is reduced to a net double bogey. There can also be exceptional score adjustments after a very low score is returned.

6. ACCEPTABLE SCORES FOR HANDICAP PURPOSES

There are two categories:

1. Competition Scores - scores in all singles competition rounds of Individual Strokeplay (Medal & Stableford) played over a qualifying measured course from a particular tee
2. General Play Scores - scores in non-competition and social golf can be used but pre-registration is required. Like Supplementary Scores currently, you register your intention to submit a score for handicap purposes prior to commencement of the round. These can be played over 9 or 18 holes and must be played under the General Rules of Golf.

Team and Matchplay scores are currently excluded in England.

7. PLAYING HANDICAP

We have covered Course Handicaps and that calculation is done first by multiplying your **Handicap Index** by Slope rating and then dividing by 113.

Your Playing Handicap **may** be restricted dependent on the format of the competition to be played (this will be determined by the Competitions committee who will specify the handicap allowance within the terms of each competition)

For example, England Golf/CONGU recommend:

- 4 ball Matchplay the restriction is 90%
- Individual Strokeplay (Medal and Stableford) the restriction is 95%.

However, when 'signing in' to a specific competition, either by the PSI screen or App, the ClubV1 system (How-Did-I-Do) will show a WHS **handicap index**, a course handicap, and the playing handicap (strokes allowed) for that relevant competition or for a casual round. The system will also automatically calculate Stableford points, maximum score at hole and missed hole scores.

As per now, golfers will only be required to enter the gross shots taken at every hole. One difference is that holes can now be skipped. So a score not returned at a hole, the system will ask if it was played and not finished, or not attempted at all.

N.B. your Playing Handicap may be different dependent on the tee you play from, so please check your Handicap Index against the relevant Tee Table to determine your Playing Handicap. This is particularly important after being notified of a Handicap Index change.

8. PLAYING CONDITIONS CALCULATION

This adjustment is made automatically by the software to take account of abnormal course or weather conditions. It looks at all the scores submitted on the course for that day and determines if the course or weather conditions on the day differed from "Normal" expected scores. This is a bit like the current CSS adjustment.

The adjustment will however be conservative in nature. In easy conditions it may adjust the gross score for the round by 1 or increase the gross by up to 3 in difficult conditions.

9. CHANGES THAT YOU WILL NOTICE

- No "Competition" handicap status, "C" status
- No handicap categories, currently Categories 1 - 6
- No Standard Scratch
- No automatic 0.1 handicap increases
- No Buffer Zones in determining handicap adjustments