

CHANGES IN THE HANDICAPPING SYSTEM

On 2 November 2020 the governing bodies of amateur golf in Scotland, England, Ireland and Wales introduced the new World Handicap System (WHS).

The current golf handicapping system maintained by The Council of National Golf Unions (CONGU) was replaced by the 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, golfer will be able to obtain and maintain a handicap index and use this on any course around the world.

In addition, they 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, a player's handicap will be based on the average of eight best scores from their last 20 rounds.

The new system will also take into account factors currently not fully represented in the existing handicapping procedure through a course and slope rating system.

In practice this means that you should already have been issued with a new Handicap called a Handicap Index (HI) by Scottish Golf and you will be able to view this by downloading the Scottish Golf App on to your phone or tablet and then logging on using your CDH number. Once logged on you need to tap on the ... (More) button in the bottom right of the home screen and then tap on "My Handicap".

So, when you next tee it up, you will require to know your HI so that you can calculate your course playing handicap for that course on that day. To get to this you multiply your HI by the slope rating for the course you are playing and for the tees you are playing from and then divide it by 113. Most Clubs have a table for ease of reference on or about the first tee or clubhouse so you don't need a calculator in your bag.

Example 1

Player A has a handicap Index of 15.3 and is playing North Berwick from the medal tees.

Course handicap = HI X Course rating for North Berwick white tees divide by 113.

Therefore Player A's Course handicap for that day would be:

$$15.3 \times 127 / 113 = 17.196 \text{ rounded to } 17$$

For stroke play competitions this should be the handicap entered on your score card but you may have a further calculation made to take account of particular course conditions on the day, weather and overall scoring on the day

For our match play competitions the following rules will apply:

Foursomes: 50% of the difference between the combined course handicaps of each pair

Singles: 100% of the difference in the course handicaps

Greensomes: 50% of the difference between the aggregate of both handicaps

It will all sound a bit confusion at the moment but once we start handing some scores in everything will level out and it will all become second nature to us.