



WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM

R&A USGA

Q & A Session

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Hosted by

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How does WHS work?

- The old CONGU HANDICAP SYSTEM has been replaced by the WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM and you have been allocated a HANDICAP INDEX in place of your old EXACT handicap.
- Golf courses around the world have been assessed and allocated a SLOPE RATING of between 55 and 155, the higher the SLOPE RATING the more difficult the course, and a COURSE RATING (the number of strokes a scratch golfer should take to play the course).
- Every golfer's HANDICAP INDEX is based on a SLOPE RATING of 113 and every time they play a golf course they need to calculate their COURSE HANDICAP to that particular course and set of tees.

How do I calculate my COURSE HANDICAP?

- An 18-hole COURSE HANDICAP is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Course Handicap} = \text{Handicap Index} \times (\text{Slope Rating} \div 113)$$

- There is an easier way of course – look it up on the relevant course SLOPE TABLE that you will generally find close to the 1st tee.

- 1) Select which set of tees you are playing from.
- 2) Look down the left column until you find your HANDICAP INDEX.
- 3) Look across to the right column where you will find your COURSE HANDICAP.



How do I calculate my COURSE HANDICAP?

In this example the golfer will play from the RED tees at St Austell GC.

- She has a Handicap Index of 12.4 which falls into the range of 12.3 to 13.1
- A quick check of the right column shows a Course Handicap of 14
- Remember to check the Slope Table for the correct set of tees, your Course Handicap may be different on each one.

Women's Red Tees Slope Rating - 125	
Range of Handicap Index	Course Handicap
8.6 to 9.4	10
9.5 to 10.3	11
10.4 to 11.2	12
11.3 to 12.2	13
12.3 to 13.1	14
13.2 to 14.0	15
14.1 to 14.9	16
15.0 to 15.8	17
15.9 to 16.7	18

PLAYING HANDICAP

The final stage is to establish your Playing Handicap – the number of strokes you will receive during this round of golf. The calculation is:

$$\text{Playing Handicap} = \text{Course Handicap} \times \text{Handicap Allowance}$$

The recommended Handicap Allowances are:

- Individual Strokeplay – 95% of your Course Handicap
- Betterball Strokeplay – 85% of your Course Handicap
- Individual Matchplay – 100% difference of Course Handicaps
- Betterball Matchplay – 90% of the difference between the Course Handicaps of the lowest player and the other players
- Foursomes – 50% of the team's combined Course Handicaps

How is my HANDICAP INDEX calculated?

From each card returned a Score Differential is calculated:

- The card is adjusted so no individual hole score is greater than a *nett double bogey* then the SCORE DIFFERENTIAL is calculated as:

$$\text{Score Differential} = (113 \div \text{Slope Rating}) \times (\text{Adjusted Gross Score} - \text{Course Rating} - \text{PCC Adjustment})$$

- The result is rounded to the nearest tenth (0.5 rounded up) and entered in your HANDICAP RECORD. The final figure represents the number of strokes over, or under, for that round and will be displayed thus: -2.5, 4.7, 13.2, 28.1, etc

How is my HANDICAP INDEX calculated?

Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC)

Course Ratings are based on normal playing conditions, but the difficulty of a golf course can vary substantially from day to day, due to:

- Course conditions
- Weather conditions
- Course set-up

The Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC) determines whether playing conditions on the day differed from normal conditions to the extent that an adjustment is needed to compensate. It is a daily statistical procedure that compares the scores submitted by players on the day against expected scoring patterns. The purpose of this feature within the handicap calculation is to recognise that an average score submitted in harder conditions may be better than a good score submitted in easier playing conditions. Unadjusted, such a score may be omitted from the Handicap Index Calculation. If the PCC determines that acceptable scores submitted are in line with expected scoring patterns no adjustment is made. The PCC ranges from -1.0 to +3.0 (similar to the old CSS calculation).

How is my HANDICAP INDEX calculated?

A HANDICAP INDEX is calculated from the lowest SCORE DIFFERENTIALS in the scoring record. If a scoring record contains fewer than 20 SCORE DIFFERENTIALS, this table is used to determine the number of SCORE DIFFERENTIALS to be included in the calculation and any adjustment that may apply. Round the result of the calculation to the nearest tenth.

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

Return of Scorecards

Return of Incomplete Scorecards

The World Handicap System only works for the individual golfer if every card taken out is returned as complete as possible. It is recognised that, particularly during medal play, a player may make the decision not to complete a hole and therefore hand in a No Return. This is allowed for under the rules and, for handicap purposes only, a score equal to a nett double bogey will be entered. However, to maintain the integrity of the remainder of the card, players are required to complete the round and record all subsequent scores in the usual way. The score will be recorded as a No Return for competition purposes. The Handicap Committee have a number of options available to deal with a breach of this condition, including the addition of a penalty score to the player's handicap record.