

Club Members Quick Reference Guide to the World Handicap System

1. A score differential is calculated each time a score is recorded. A Handicap Index (HI) is the average of the 8 best score differentials from the most recent 20 scores recorded. If 20 scores have not been recorded, a table is used to determine the number of score differentials to be included in the calculation and any adjustments that may apply.
2. Your Handicap Index may change each time a score is recorded. This score will replace the 20th score on your record but may not always replace a counting score. It will be added to your record if you have less than 20 scores recorded.
3. The Course Handicap is dependent on the slope rating of the course/tees being played. It is available on charts posted in the clubhouse and on the Golf Ireland App or the manual calculation for an 18hole round is to multiply your HI x (slope rating divided by 113) which is then rounded to a whole number.
4. The Course Handicap is used in singles match play and for all scores returned for handicap adjustments. An adjustment of 95% for singles competitions will be automatically applied for competition results only. You are responsible for knowing your own correct Handicap Index and Course handicap and for recording both on the scorecard.
5. Adjustments to your Handicap Index can be viewed on the "My Golf Login" section of the Golf Ireland website or Golf Ireland App the morning after you have returned a score.
6. If a hole is not completed in a stroke play competition you will be disqualified from the competition, but your score may still be acceptable for handicap adjustments. The Handicap committee should be informed.
7. If you do not start or finish a hole when returning a general play score or a score in a stableford or maximum score competition a 'zero' should be recorded. However if you walk in from the course after 10 or more holes have been played you must inform the Handicap committee. The card may still count for handicap purposes depending on the reason for discontinuing play.
8. When playing away from home in a competition you must know your Handicap Index as this will then be converted to a Course Handicap using the slope rating of the course being played. You can find your Course Handicap easily on the Golf Ireland App by searching for the course you are playing.
9. When playing in a Society or Alliance competition, you are expected to return your score using an App or the General Play procedure at that club after first checking that the tees being used have been allocated a slope and course rating.
10. You must always register your intent to return a score before playing in any competition or General Play round.