



## Section 1: The World Handicap System (WHS)

<b>How does the new Handicap System work?</b>	The new World Handicap System is an averaged based system using the best 8 score differentials out of the last 20 scores on your record.
<b>What is a score differential?</b>	A score differential is the difference between a player's adjusted gross score (gross score including any adjustments/penalties) and the Course Rating, taking account of Slope Rating. It is the value 'played to' on a specific course on a specific day.
<b>What is a course rating?</b>	The Course rating indicates the difficulty of the golf course.
<b>What is a slope rating?</b>	The Slope rating indicates the difficulty of the golf course for the 'Bogey golfer' relative to the 'Scratch golfer'.
<b>Where can I find the latest handicapping rules?</b>	Through a link on the Golf Ireland website or at <a href="https://www.randa.org/en/rules-of-handicapping/2019/pages/hcap-rules">https://www.randa.org/en/rules-of-handicapping/2019/pages/hcap-rules</a> )
<b>Where can I find out more about WHS?</b>	On the Golf Ireland website <a href="http://www.golfireland.ie/handicap-system">www.golfireland.ie/handicap-system</a>

## Section 2: Your WHS Handicap Index

<p><b>What is a Handicap Index and how do I get one?</b></p>	<p>Every club member with a CONGU handicap was allocated a WHS Handicap Index. The scores you had on your Golfnet record since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 were transferred to the WHS system and used to calculate your new WHS Handicap Index.</p> <p>If you are new to golf, you must, as previously, return the required 54-hole scores of either 18/9 holes or a combination of both.</p> <p>Until further notice, physical scorecards must be returned for initial handicap allocation.</p> <p>If you are a returning player your existing or previous handicap will be used.</p>
<p><b>To get a Handicap Index, can scores still be a mix of 9 and 18 holes and do they have to be at my Home Club?</b></p>	<p>Any combination is acceptable over 9 or 18 holes. However, it will be up to your Home Club if they will accept scores from another venue for initial allocation as long as the marker is acceptable to the Handicap Committee.</p> <p>It is recommended that the marker should have or have held a handicap and their CDH number recorded, if not a Home Club member.</p>
<p><b>If I can enter one of my first cards for initial handicap allocation at another club, will it still need to be certified as having been done correctly by the other club?</b></p>	<p>Yes, but all cards need to be checked and signed by another member or person acceptable to the Handicap Committee.</p>
<p><b>Where will I find my new Handicap Index?</b></p>	<p>There is a link on the Golf Ireland website to access MY GOLF account, where you can find your latest calculated Index by entering your CDH number.</p> <p>Alternatively, you can use the Golf Ireland App.</p>
<p><b>Once I have been given a Handicap Index what happens, as I do not have 20 scores yet?</b></p>	<p>After you have been given a Handicap Index, each time you add a new score it will be recalculated (using a formula) until you have returned 20 scores when you will have a Fully Developed Handicap Index. (See Table</p>

	5.2a of the Rules of Handicapping or the player presentation on the Golf Ireland website).
<b>What is a Fully Developed Handicap Index?</b>	This is when a player has their Handicap Index calculated from 20 Acceptable Scores returned from Competition and General Play scores.
<b>How long do my 20 scores last on the new system?</b>	<p>The most recent 20 scores on your record are used in the calculation of your Handicap Index on a rolling basis. When a new score is added, this replaces the previous 20<sup>th</sup> score.</p> <p>To maintain an accurate handicap, it is recommended that players should have at least 20 recent scores on their record.</p>
<b>Who should I contact in case I have a query on my Handicap Index?</b>	First of all, speak to your Club Handicap Secretary. Your club knows you and your playing ability. The club also has a dedicated handicap adviser.

### Section 3: Submitting Scores

<p><b>Do I have to submit every score for every round I play?</b></p>	<p>Scores recorded in organized competitions should be returned for handicap purposes. This includes competitions organised by affiliated clubs and unaffiliated bodies such as Alliances, Societies, internal club groups, etc.</p> <p>If playing a casual round not in an event organised by a committee you have the discretion to decide whether or not to pre-register and return a score for handicap purposes.</p> <p>All scores for handicap purposes (including General Play) must be <b>pre-registered</b>.</p>
<p><b>What is an Acceptable Score?</b></p>	<p>This is the same as the current “Qualifying Score” under CONGU UHS.</p> <p>An Acceptable Score is any singles competition score, 9 or 18 holes, and any pre-registered General Play score returned from any tee that has a course and slope rating for your gender, played by the Rules of Golf, over a minimum number of holes with at least one other person (authorized marker).</p>
<p><b>What is the minimum number of holes?</b></p>	<p>For an 18-hole score to count for handicap purposes, a minimum of 10 holes must be played and for a 9-hole score to be accepted, all 9 holes must be played.</p> <p>A hole is considered to have been played if it has been started.</p>
<p><b>Can I just walk in after say 12 holes and my score will count?</b></p>	<p>No, as you will need a valid reason to stop after 10 or more holes, in some formats of play, such as failing light, injury or illness or a hole being declared out of play for maintenance or because of damage.</p>
<p><b>Could 4 ball and match play count for handicap?</b></p>	<p>Yes, this may be introduced once the system has settled in.</p>
<p><b>Will my handicap change every time I play?</b></p>	<p>Not necessarily - it will depend on whether the score you returned replaces one of the best 8 in your last 20</p>

	<p>scores.</p>
<p><b>How do I register and return away scores?</b></p>	<p>You will be able to register before play and submit your score on return to the clubhouse through the sign-in system at the club you are visiting, or you can use the Golf Ireland App.</p> <p>If you have registered your intention to play but have not submitted your score, you must return the properly completed scorecard to your Home Club for inclusion on your handicap record.</p>
<p><b>Can I submit an individual General Play score while playing in a Fourball Better-Ball (4BBB) Competition?</b></p>	<p>Where an individual competition score is returned concurrently with a 4BBB competition, the individual competition cannot be a counting score for handicapping purposes. Some rules for 4BBB are applied differently to an individual round and under the Rules of Golf takes precedence over the individual round. It is for this reason that it cannot be an acceptable score.</p>

## Section 4: Before Play

<p><b>What handicap must I put on my card?</b></p>	<p>The Course Handicap <b>must</b> be recorded, and Golf Ireland policy recommends that the Handicap Index and Playing handicap should also be recorded.</p>
<p><b>What is a Course Handicap?</b></p>	<p>A Course Handicap is used to determine the number of strokes a player gives in Matchplay or receives for General Play returns on any golf course from any set of tees with a Course Rating and Slope Rating.</p>
<p><b>Where do I find my Course Handicap?</b></p>	<p>Each tee has a different “Handicap Calculation Conversion Table” that is used by players to look up their Course Handicap on the day.</p>
<p><b>When I am playing a stableford competition, I first calculate my course handicap using my HI and the slope. Is the CH then rounded first before the 95% is calculated and then rounded again after?</b></p>	<p>Your Course Handicap is a rounded number, and your Playing Handicap is a rounded number. Any calculations for Playing Handicap are applied to the Course Handicap. The system calculates this all for you.</p> <p>e.g. Mary has a Handicap Index of 21.4 and her Course Handicap is calculated as 22. She is playing a singles competition, so her Playing Handicap is <math>22 \times 0.95 = (20.9) = 21</math>.</p>
<p><b>Why is there a Playing Handicap of 95%?</b></p>	<p>For competition purposes the 95% allowance is required to balance out the increase in Course Handicaps of higher handicap players against that of lower handicap players.</p> <p>By applying the 95% adjustment on a course with a Slope rating of 130, a 36.0 Handicap Index player will have a Course Handicap of 41.4 (41) converted to a Playing Handicap of 38.95 (39). A 5.0 Handicap Index player will have a Course Handicap of 5.75 (6) converted to a Playing Handicap of 5.7 (6).</p>

<p><b>What handicap do I use in matchplay?</b></p>	<p>Depending on the format you are playing (Singles, Foursomes, Fourball, etc.) a calculation is applied to your Course Handicap.</p> <p>e.g. For Singles Matchplay it is calculated as 100% of your Course Handicap, but for Fourball it is calculated as 90% of your Course Handicap.</p>
<p><b>Where do I find the Slope Rating for a course?</b></p>	<p>The Course and Slope Ratings for all tee sets on their course(s) will be displayed at the club. It will also be available when registering on the computer to return a score.</p>
<p><b>Does a higher Slope Rating indicate a difficult course?</b></p>	<p>The Course Rating indicates the difficulty of a golf course. The Slope Rating is the relative difficulty of the course between the scratch and bogey player.</p>
<p><b>Is there a different Slope Rating for each tee at our club?</b></p>	<p>Yes, each tee has a separate Course Rating and Slope Rating.</p> <p>In the future, we hope to have all tees rated for men and women.</p>
<p><b>Is the Slope Rating reflected in the Handicap Calculation?</b></p>	<p>Yes, Slope Rating is part of the World Handicapping System and is used as part of the Course Handicap and Score Differential calculations.</p>

## Section 5: During Play

<b>How do I know when to pick up in Stableford competitions?</b>	<p>With a 95% stroke allowance there may be players who receive fewer strokes for competition purposes (PH) than they do for handicap purposes (CH). This could range from a single stroke (integer Course Handicap of 11) to 3 or even 4 strokes fewer.</p> <p>As with Maximum Score, players should not pick up too soon in Stableford or Par/Bogey formats - they should play with reference to their Course Handicaps in such events and let the software deal with the competition outcome.</p>
<b>What about “v-par” or bogey competitions?</b>	<p>Gross scores for each hole must be recorded to a minimum of Net Double Bogey.</p>
<b>What do I record if I don’t score at a hole?</b>	<p>If you are picking up in a stableford competition, record a “zero” and the system will allocate a Net Double Bogey for handicap purposes.</p>

## Section 6: After Play

<b>How do the playing conditions affect the score?</b>	The system includes a playing conditions adjustment, known as a Playing Conditions Calculation or “PCC”. This looks at how all players have performed compared to expected performances on that golf course for that day. The calculation takes place at the end of each day’s play.
<b>Should scores be entered as soon as possible?</b>	Scores from a singles competition and/or pre-registered General Play scores should be entered as soon as possible after the round and before the end of the day (before midnight local time).
<b>What happens if a score is not returned ASAP - what time will be allowed?</b>	Any scores entered after midnight will still be acceptable for handicap but will not be used as part of the PCC calculation. However, the PCC calculated for the day of play will be retrospectively applied when your score is posted.
<b>How is the PCC calculated if only one player enters a competition or submits a social/recreational score that day?</b>	A Playing Conditions Adjustment will only be calculated if at least 8 scores from players with fully developed Handicap Indices of 36.0 or less have been returned on that day.
<b>Will there be Reduction only Competitions?</b>	No, but the PCC may affect the scores by +1, +2, +3 or by -1.

## Section 7: Comparing the CONGU System with the World Handicap System

<b>Is there still an Annual Review?</b>	The Annual Review will continue to be an important part of the system.
<b>Do Buffer Zones still exist?</b>	Buffer Zones are not part of the World Handicap System.
<b>Are there 0.1 increases and a 1 shot limit on handicap increases?</b>	<p>The 0.1 and 1.0 shot annual limit on increases no longer applies as an averaging system is used.</p> <p>Safeguards are in place to ensure that your handicap does not stray too far from your demonstrated ability.</p>
<b>Are there Exceptional Score Reductions?</b>	<p>If a score is returned between 7 and 9.9 strokes lower than the players Handicap Index an additional reduction of -1 is added.</p> <p>If the score is 10 or more lower there will be a reduction of -2.</p>
<b>Can my handicap lapse?</b>	As long as you retain membership of an affiliated golf club, designated to manage and maintain your handicap, your handicap will remain active.

## Section 8: Questions asked by Club Handicap Committees

<p><b>Do we still need a Handicap Committee and Handicap Secretary?</b></p>	<p>The club still need to appoint a Handicap Committee to manage and maintain members handicaps e.g. carry out handicap reviews, adjust Handicap Indexes where necessary, and ensure that scores are being submitted.</p>
<p><b>What information are clubs required to display?</b></p>	<p>Clubs need to display the Course Rating and Slope Ratings for all tees as well as the Course Handicap and Playing Handicap Conversion Tables.</p>
<p><b>Does the club have to advertise their Slope Rating and Course Rating on their website?</b></p>	<p>Ideally this information should be available on the club's website, but it is not a requirement.</p>
<p><b>Scorecards</b></p>	<p>Scorecards must include space for the Course Handicap. Space for the player's Handicap Index and Playing Handicap is also recommended. New scorecards may include some additional information such as the World Handicapping Course Rating to a decimal point (replacement for SSS) and the Slope Rating for each set of tees, but this is not recommended.</p>
<p><b>Can we display players' handicaps on a notice board?</b></p>	<p>This is not feasible as players' handicaps are recalculated daily.</p> <p>The Golf Ireland App and the Link to the MY GOLF Login on the Golf Ireland website will accurately provide this for players.</p>
<p><b>Updating/amending player's records?</b></p>	<p>This must now be done through the WHS Clubhouse, as the Club Competition Software no longer calculates or processes handicaps in any way.</p>
<p><b>Is closing the competition required for upload to Golf Ireland for handicap purposes?</b></p>	<p>All acceptable scores returned before midnight on the day of play will be uploaded automatically and the PCC for the day calculated.</p> <p>Scores should not be uploaded when competitions are closed on the day of the competition.</p>
<p><b>What restrictions can you place on handicaps for club</b></p>	<p>As with any competition, the committee can have Terms of Competition which may include a Playing handicap</p>

<b>competitions?</b>	limit. However, all players must have a reasonable opportunity to play competitive golf.
<b>Should players use the same Handicap Index for both rounds of a 36-hole competition?</b>	If both rounds are on the same or consecutive days WHS recommends the Handicap Index at the start of a competition should be used for each round. However, the final decision rests with the committee.
<b>Can Apps still be used for competition?</b>	Yes, but they must comply with the Rules of Handicapping and with the requirements of Rule 3.3b of the Rules of Golf.
<b>What about preferred lies and temporary greens?</b>	<p>There is no inactive season within the GB&amp;I WHS jurisdiction. However, preferred lies are still permitted between 1<sup>st</sup> November and 31<sup>st</sup> March.</p> <p>Rules governing course conditions are available in Appendix H of the CONGU WHS Advice document (link on Golf Ireland website).</p>
<b>Do some disqualified scores still count for handicap adjustments?</b>	Yes, these may be found in Appendix J of the CONGU WHS Advice document (link on the Golf Ireland website <a href="http://www.golfireland.ie/handicap-system">www.golfireland.ie/handicap-system</a> ).