

WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM – **GUIDANCE FOR MEMBERS 2021**



The new World Handicap System (WHS) is now live and this note provides you as a member with how it will affect you going forward into the 2021 playing season.

A key summary of the WHS terminology together with the Slope and Course Rating for our Club as well as some explanatory calculations of how this affects your handicap is provided for you later on in this document.

Members are reminded that the new system is based on your best **8** qualifying scores from your last **20**. Although there is provision to determine your Handicap Index from as few as 3 scores, it would be in your interest to try to build a playing history over the Summer so your Index is as true a representation of your golf as possible. This is particularly true for new members with newly assigned handicaps.

KEY TERMINOLOGY

COURSE RATING: This replaces Standard Scratch Score (SSS) in the new system and represents the score that a 'scratch' golfer is expected to achieve on a course. Course Ratings will be to the nearest 0.1

SLOPE RATING: This represents the relative difficulty of a course (as defined by a specific set of tees) for a 'bogey golfer' (Handicap of 20 for Men, 24 for Women) compared to a 'scratch' golfer. A course with many hazards, long carries and thick rough will have a higher slope rating because these features are more of a challenge to 'bogey' golfers. The course is rated by Scottish Golf (North) every ten years so they are the representatives who rate the different tees we play off on the courses.

HANDICAP INDEX: The measure of your ability to play a golf course of standard playing difficulty (Slope Rating 113). Our slope rating is higher so it is more difficult.

COURSE HANDICAP: The number of shots you receive for handicap purposes when playing from a specific set of tees. This is arrived at by "converting" your Handicap Index to the specific Slope Rating of the tees you are playing from. It is expressed as a whole number as shown on the course handicap charts outside the Clubhouse.

PLAYING HANDICAP: Your Course Handicap adjusted for any handicap allowances or Terms of the Competition being played. It represents the actual number of shots you receive for the round being played in an event and is expressed as a whole number. For individual stroke play or stableford events this is **95%**.

Why is it 95%? - In singles stroke play or stableford the WHS slightly favours the higher **handicaps**, hence the **95% handicap** allowance to provide equity. **Just put your score in after your round on your scorecard and the system will work it out accordingly!**

TEES	COURSE RATING	SLOPE RATING	PAR
WHITE	67.5	119	68
YELLOW	66.2	115	67
RED	70.5	119	70

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The Handicap Allowances for the most common forms of play are shown here:

FORMATS OF PLAY	HANDICAP ALLOWANCE
INDIVIDUAL STROKE PLAY	95%
INDIVIDUAL STABLEFORD	95%
PAIRS BETTER BALL (STROKE PLAY & STABLEFORD)	85%
INDIVIDUAL MATCH PLAY	100%
PAIRS MATCH PLAY	90%
FOURSOMES	50% OF THE COMBINED
GREENSOMES	60% LOW HANDICAP + 40% HIGH HANDICAP

AN EXAMPLE IS BELOW FOR THE MEMBERS OF MUIR OF ORD GOLF CLUB

You have a handicap Index of **15.1** and play in an individual Stroke Play or Stableford competition from the Men's White Tees which has a slope rating of **119**.

STEP 1: Convert your Handicap Index (you MUST know this prior to play. Members handicap index will be shown on the noticeboards in the Clubhouse or can be found on the Scottish Golf app) to the appropriate Course Handicap for the White Tees on the charts currently on display outside the Clubhouse.

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

$$\text{CALCULATION EXAMPLE} - 15.1 \times (119/113) = 15.90$$

COURSE HANDICAP WILL BE 16

STEP 2: You will then need to calculate your Playing Handicap based on the format of play:
Handicap allowance for Individual Stroke Play or Stableford Competitions = 95%

$$\text{Playing Handicap} = 15.90 \times 0.95 = 15.11 \text{ or } 15 \text{ rounded to the nearest whole figure.}$$

The number of strokes you will receive is therefore **15** but this will be shown on the Handicap system regardless whenever you play in competitions throughout the season.

The good news is that we have a Course Rating Table to look up the result of Step 1 so you will not need to do this calculation yourself. Additionally, for competitions, the computer will calculate and determine the number of strokes you receive.

NOTE: You will see that the Course Rating itself is not needed for the above calculation. It is however used in determining your Handicap Index at any point in the season.

If a player playing in a competition fails to score on any hole/s then they will enter a 0 (zero) when submitting their scores. Where a hole or a number of holes are not completed when adding a 0, they will receive a nett double bogey. We are encouraging players to finish out on each hole if possible, however, even if you do NR, carrying on may mean you might be able to play to or even beat your handicap.

THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT IS FOR OUR MEMBERS TO GO OUT THERE TO ENJOY THEIR GOLF AND TO NOT NECESSARILY WORRY ABOUT THE CALCULATIONS AS THE COMPUTER SYSTEM WILL DO THIS FOR YOU.