



Section 2

Your Handicap Index

Q: I'm new to golf: How do I obtain a Handicap Index?

A: Score cards totalling 54 holes need to be returned to the Handicap Committee (3x18 holes, 6x9 holes or a combination of both) before an initial Handicap Index can be awarded.

Q: How do I calculate my Course Handicap?

A: Golf Clubs will either provide a relevant calculation table, or golfers can use a free online calculator or app. Alternatively, golfers can calculate this manually using the equation formula below:

Handicap Index X (slope rating ÷ 113) = Course Handicap

Q: Can I use my Handicap Index abroad?

A: Yes – you will be able to convert your handicap index to a course handicap for the tees you play from overseas. If pre-registered, these scores can be returned to your home club for handicap purposes

Q: If my Handicap Index is calculated to one decimal point, what will be my exact Handicap?

A: A player's Handicap Index is calculated to one decimal place. When the Course Handicap is calculated it will be rounded to the nearest integer.

Q: My current handicap is 11.6. What will be my new Handicap Index?

A: Your transition Handicap will be dependent on your 'best eight from last 20' scores returned from the previous two years. During the late summer of 2020, golfers will be able to see their Handicap Index displayed alongside their current handicap and see how it varies with each score entry. A transition calculation is available for those with less than 20 scores in their handicap record.

Q: What is the maximum Course Handicap if the maximum Handicap Index is 54?

A: The Course Handicap will likely exceed 54.0 if playing a course with a slope rating of 114 or higher. There is no maximum Course Handicap.

Q: If I think my Handicap Index is wrong what should I do?

A: First of all, speak with your club as they have the option to complete a handicap review if an index is not representative of playing ability.

Q: Do I enter competitions using my Handicap Index or my Course Handicap?

A: Competition entry should be based on your handicap index. This will be clarified in the terms of competition.



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Q: As a golfer who plays a very small number of competitions, I suspect I will not have 20 scores recorded over the last two years. Can I still have a Handicap Index?

A: Those players who do not have the full 20 scores at transition will have a Handicap Index allocated by the same process as an initial Handicap Index would be allocated and developed. Moving forward you will be able to submit both social and competitive scores to build up a fully developed handicap record.

Players are encouraged to return sufficient scores during 2020, either in competitions or by supplementary scores, to reach the magic 20 scores. This will create a Handicap Index indicative of current playing ability.

Q: I'm a member of an overseas club – where will my Handicap Index be based/managed?

A: You will nominate a home club to administrate your Handicap Index as you do now. We recommend this is in the country of your main residence and where you play most golf.

Q: For how long are my last 20 scores valid? And what happens if I have a break in membership?

A: Scores will not expire. Your Handicap Index will only be valid if you are a member of an affiliated golf club.

Q: Do I have to be a member of a golf club to have WHS handicap?

A: Yes – a recognised Handicap Index is a benefit of being an affiliated member.

Q: What will happen to my Handicap Index if I have a good round?

A: The score will very probably become part of the 'best eight calculation and you will likely see a reduction in your Handicap Index.

An additional 'exceptional score' reduction maybe applied depending on how good your score was compared to your current Handicap Index.

Q: As a plus handicap golfer, how do I calculate my Course Handicap?

A: Your Handicap Index will have a minus value and the same calculations will be applied using the tables or other resources to find your Course Handicap.

Q: Who is my best contact if I have a WHS or Handicap Index query?

A: The first point of contact will be your home club. They should be able to assist as they have been educated and provided with various WHS resources. They will have access to the county handicap adviser for further advice if needed.



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Q: How do I find out who sits on my club's Handicap Committee and what role they fulfil?

A: A Handicap Committee must consist of at least three people, and the majority of the committee must be club members. It is their job to ensure WHS rules are followed and accurate Handicap Indexes are issued. A club secretary/manager can advise on names.

Q: Will I use my full Course Handicap or are there allowances for different formats of play?

A: There will still be allowances for events which have been revised and are based on historical playing data. These revised allowances will provide for equity across all formats of play giving all participants the opportunity of success and are, within GB&I, mandatory for event organisers to follow.

Q: I'm struggling to play to my current handicap from white tees. Will the new system make things even more difficult for me?

A: Not at all. With an averaging system, your Handicap Index will be responsive to your current ability. You should also be encouraged to play from a shorter tee set (providing it has a rating value), as the system will calculate a Course Handicap from your Handicap Index for that set of tees.