

World Handicap System



EPIC Golfing Society
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What is the World Handicap System?

The new World Handicap System (WHS) is designed to be more inclusive, accessible and to make golf easier to understand for all. (Although whether it does is debatable!!!!)

The WHS incorporates the Rules of Handicapping and the Course Rating System, (a consistent method to calculate a golf courses difficulty), to successfully determine a golfer's Handicap Index.

The system, which came into effect on 2 November 2020 has replaced six different systems previously used by over 15 million golfers, in more than 80 countries, to unify all golfers across the world. (or confuse all 15 million of us!!!)



Handicap Index

The process begins in the same way throughout the world – by accurately measuring a player’s golfing ability.

From previous handicap records existing golf club members will be provided with an initial Handicap Index. If a player has achieved 20 scores, a ‘fully developed’ Handicap Index is calculated using the top 8 scores to provide the most accurate representation of a player’s ability.

To ensure a player has only one Handicap Index, golfers will nominate a home club. The home club is determined by the player, but for practicality it is recommended this is where the player typically submits the most of their scores.

Course Handicap

Before any player starts a round, they must convert their Handicap Index into a Course Handicap. Clubs now do display a chart for this adjustment. The Course Handicap will determine the number of strokes a player will receive for any set of tees on any course. For the geeks, this is $\text{Handicap Index} \times \text{Slope Index of the course and tee to be played} / 113$. Don’t ask why 113, it just is!!!

Playing Handicap

Playing Handicap is a stroke allowance that is implemented to maintain the integrity of the WHS when used in competition. The Course Handicap converts to a Playing Handicap for competition purposes and changes depending on the format of play. Again, for the geeks, for EPIC, as we play Stableford rather than medal, its 95%

What does this mean for EPIC?

We have 2 distinct types of members and guests.

1. Those who are regular players, are members of a golf club and will therefore have a recognized Handicap Index and
2. Those who are casual/non-affiliated golfers who have a self-confessed “Society Handicap”.

The proposal is that members and guests from Category 1 above will declare their Handicap Index and Category 2 their “Society Handicap” on the attendance form for an event.

So, what's the Plan?

The Event organizer (usually the secretary) will prepare **for Category 1 – "Handicap Index" players** the "Start Sheet" and Score Cards in advance and to include adjustments made for Course and Playing Handicaps but leave **Category 2 - "Society Handicap"** players unadjusted.

What does it mean in practice?

As an example, for Category 1 players as above, let us take the first venue Moor Park - High Course playing off the yellow tees (Slope Index 138) then here is a selection of the adjustments.

Handicap Index	Course Slope	Course Handicap	Stableford Adjustment	Playing Handicap
5.1	138	6	95%	6
10.2	138	12	95%	11
15.3	138	19	95%	18
20.4	138	25	95%	24
25.5	138	31	95%	29
30.6	138	37	95%	35

Finally, it will mean that all EPIC Members will have to keep the Organiser/Secretary updated on Handicap Index changes (to 1 decimal point) as they happen or at least as they confirm attendance on the form for each event!

This proposal is that this will not affect any penalties applied to current holders of trophies. Their penalty will be deducted from the Handicap Index or "Society Handicap" before any adjustments are undertaken as detailed herein.

CLEAR AS MUD????!!!!

