

Know the Score is a campaign by **England Golf** to bring all the different elements of the WHS together to provide a consistent message that golfers will begin to recognise and associate with the WHS.

The short articles below take you through the system step by step. And click on the pictures for more information:

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Know the Score

It is less than 3 months to the introduction of the World Handicap System in Great Britain & Ireland on 2nd November 2020. You may have already seen the Know the Score posters around the clubhouse. Know the Score is a new campaign by England Golf to bring all the different elements of the WHS together to provide a consistent message that golfers will begin to recognise and associate with the WHS. You will receive regular messages about the WHS over the next few months to help you understand the new system.

How will handicaps be calculated under the WHS?

Handicaps will be based on the average of the best 8 scores from the last 20 Qualifying Rounds, but with a safeguard in place to ensure that a temporary loss of form does not cause a player's handicap to rise too quickly.

Coming Next – Transition Handicaps

Transition Handicaps

In the process of moving from CONGU to WHS handicaps, all current Handicap Records will be reprocessed using the WHS principles. The calculation will identify the best 8 of the last 20 scores posted in Qualifying Competitions or submitted as Supplementary Scores. The average of these 8 scores will form the basis for the new Handicap. Only scores since January 2018 will count.

If a player has submitted less than 20 scores since January 2018, the calculation will be done in a similar manner to the method of allocating new handicaps, as shown below.

3 scores: lowest score -2

4 scores: lowest score -1

5 scores: lowest score

6 scores: average of lowest 2 scores -1

7 to 8 scores: average of lowest 2 scores

9 to 11 scores: average of lowest 3 scores

12 to 14 scores: average of lowest 4 scores

15 to 16 scores: average of lowest 5 scores

17 to 18 scores: average of lowest 6 scores

19 scores: average of lowest 7 scores

20 scores: average of lowest 8 scores

If a player has less than 3 Qualifying Scores posted, the Transition Handicap will be calculated based on the 3 lowest scores being equal to their current playing handicap. So, a player with a 20 handicap will have scores of 20, 20 and 20 on their Scoring Record and their handicap at Transition will be $(20 - 2) = 18$. For this reason, there is an incentive to get at least 3, and preferably more, Qualifying Scores in this year.

Players are encouraged to submit as many scores as possible between now and November 2020 so that their Transition Handicap Index is a good reflection of current ability. If you are unsure as to how many Qualifying Scores you have, please ring the Pro Shop or email pro@wollatonparkgolfclub.com to ask us to check.

Players will be able to see their expected Transition Handicap and their Low Handicap Index (Anchor Point) on the ClubV1 app when the handicapping software is updated prior to implementation.

Coming Next – Course Rating, Bogey Rating and Slope Rating

Course Rating, Bogey Rating and Slope Rating

Course Rating represents the difficulty of a golf course for a Scratch golfer with a handicap of 0. Course Rating is equivalent to the Standard Scratch Score (SSS) under the current system, except that it is determined to the nearest 0.1.

Bogey Rating represents the difficulty of a course for a Bogey player. A Bogey player is defined as typical 20 handicap male or a 24-handicap female.

Slope Rating represents the relative difficulty of a course for a Bogey golfer compared to a Scratch golfer. The difference between the Course Rating and the Bogey Rating is used in the determination of the Slope Rating of the course. A course with long carries, narrow fairways, lots of hazards and thick rough will have a high slope rating because these features are more of a challenge to bogey golfers. Slope Rating can be anywhere between 55 and 155. The neutral value that is used in handicap calculations is fixed at 113. The GB&I average Slope Rating is around 125.

The Course Ratings and Slope Ratings for Wollaton Park are

Tee	Par	Course Rating		Slope
		Scratch	Bogey	
White Men	71	72.0	96.7	133
Yellow Men	71	69.3	92.7	126
Red Men	71	68.3	90.1	118
Red Ladies	73	73.3	104.3	132

Coming Next – Handicap Index

Handicap Index

Handicap Index is the equivalent of Exact Handicap under the current system. It represents what your handicap would be when playing on a course of 'standard' relative difficulty with a Slope Rating of 113.

A player's Handicap Index is calculated as a rolling average of the lowest 8 from the last 20 Score Differentials (highlighted yellow in the picture)

Example of 8 of 20 Calculation

Score No.	Date Played	Course	Course Rating	Slope Rating	Adjusted Gross Score	Score Differential
1	22/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	91	18.5
2	5/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	92	19.4
3	1/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	99	25.8
4	28/8/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	89	16.7
5	23/8/20	River GC	71.3	127	92	18.4
6	26/7/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	87	12.8
7	14/7/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	97	24.0
8	4/7/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	88	15.8
9	19/6/20	River GC	71.3	127	87	13.5
10	16/6/20	Valley GC	69.9	118	95	24.0
11	12/6/20	Forest GC	70.1	115	86	15.6
12	5/6/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	85	11.0
13	2/6/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	82	10.4
14	30/5/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	94	21.2
15	25/5/20	Valley GC	69.9	118	89	18.3
16	22/5/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	97	24.0
17	29/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	85	13.1
18	14/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	93	20.3
19	10/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	94	21.2
20	3/4/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	86	12.1

• Adding together the best 8 differentials out of the last 20:
 + 12.8
 + 15.8
 + 13.5
 + 15.6
 + 11.0
 + 10.4
 + 13.1
 + 12.1
 = 104.3 / 8

Handicap Index of 13.0

Each time a new score is submitted the average of the lowest 8 from the last 20 is re-calculated overnight, which may or may not lead to a change of Handicap Index.

A new score is submitted at the top of the list and the oldest score drops off the bottom. Each time a new score is added the Handicap Index is re-calculated, but the index will only be revised if there is a change to the best 8 scores. For example, if the player above returns a new Differential of 14.5, that replaces the 12.1 that has dropped out of the last 20. The effect of this is to increase the Handicap Index from 13.0 to 13.3

Example of 8 of 20 Calculation

	14.5
• Adding together the best 8 differentials out of the last 20:	+ 12.8
	+ 15.8
	+ 13.5
	+ 15.6
	+ 11.0
	+ 10.4
	+ 13.1
And averaging the total:	= 106.7 ÷ 8

Handicap Index of **13.3**

Score No.	Date Played	Course	Course Rating	Slope Rating	Adjusted Gross Score	Score Differential
1	25/9/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	89	14.5
2	22/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	91	18.5
3	5/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	92	19.4
4	1/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	99	25.8
5	28/8/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	89	16.7
6	23/8/20	River GC	71.3	127	92	18.4
7	26/7/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	87	12.8
8	14/7/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	97	24.0
9	4/7/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	88	15.8
10	19/6/20	River GC	71.3	127	87	13.5
11	16/6/20	Valley GC	69.9	118	95	24.0
12	12/6/20	Forest GC	70.1	115	86	15.6
13	5/6/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	85	11.0
14	2/6/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	82	10.4
15	30/5/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	94	21.2
16	25/5/20	Valley GC	69.9	118	89	18.3
17	22/5/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	97	24.0
18	29/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	85	13.1
19	14/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	93	20.3
20	10/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	94	21.2
21	3/4/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	86	12.1

You can get an indication of any potential Handicap Index change by subtracting a displaced best 8 Differential from the new Differential and dividing by 8. In the case above $14.5 - 12.1 = 2.4$. $2.4 / 8 = 0.3$

There are additional safeguards to ensure that a player's handicap does not rise too quickly when a player is going through a spell of poor form

Coming Next – Handicap Index Caps

Handicap Index Caps

Low Handicap Index

Because the Handicap Index is completely refreshed every 20 scores, the system is very responsive to changes in form. A golfer submitting scores 3 times a week will completely refresh their scoring record in 2 months. Because of this the system needs a memory of previous ability over a reasonable time frame that can be used to anchor any large increases.

This anchor is called the Low Handicap Index and is the lowest Handicap Index held by the player over the previous 12 months. It is established once a player has at least 20 scores in their scoring record.

Soft and Hard Caps

A Soft Cap is triggered when the difference between a player's newly calculated Handicap Index and their Low Handicap Index is greater than 3 strokes.

When a calculated Handicap Index increase is greater than 3 strokes, the value above 3 strokes is restricted to 50% of the increase, e.g.

- an increase of 4 is limited to 3.5
- an increase of 5 is limited to 4
- an increase of 6 is limited to 4.5
- an increase of 7 is limited to 5

A Hard Cap triggers to restrict the amount by which a player's Handicap Index can increase, after application of the soft cap, to no more than 5 strokes above their Low Handicap Index.

Coming Next – Exceptional Scores and Playing Conditions Calculation

Exceptional Scores and Playing Conditions Adjustments

Exceptional Scores

If a player returns a Score Differential of more than 7 below their Handicap Index, an adjustment of -1 is made to last 20 Score Differentials, which reduces the Handicap Index by 1 stroke.

As more scores are posted the -1 adjustments drop out of the last 20 scores and their influence washes out over the next 20 scores.

If a player returns a Score Differential of more than 10 below their Handicap Index, an Exceptional Scoring adjustment of -2 is made to last 20 Score Differentials. This reduces the Handicap Index by 2 strokes.

Exceptional Scores

A score differential which is at least 7.0 strokes or more better than the player's Handicap Index at the time the round was played.

Score can be from any format of play, competitive or general play. Not restricted to Tournament scores.

When a player submits an exceptional score, the handicap formula applies an additional adjustment to the player's updated Handicap Index – according to the table.

This adjustment is in addition to any reduction caused within the 8/20 calculation.

The Handicap Committee can override the adjustment

Score Relative to Index	-7.0	-10.0
Extra adjustment	-1.0	-2.0

Playing Conditions Calculation

The Playing Conditions Calculation factors in how course and weather conditions can affect the difficulty of the course on the day and is similar to the CSS calculation in the current system:

- It includes all 9 hole and 18 holes scores from the course that have been submitted on the day.
- It requires at least 8 scores from players with a fully developed Scoring Record (20 scores) and a Handicap Index of 36 or below.
- It is applied conservatively and won't result in changes as often as the current CSS calculation.
- It can result in all Score Differentials on the day being increased by 1 stroke in easy conditions, or reduced by 1, 2 or 3 strokes in difficult conditions.

Coming Next – Course Handicap, Handicap Allowance and Playing Handicap

Course Handicap, Handicap Allowance and Playing Handicap

Course Handicap

Course Handicap is the number of strokes a player you will receive on the golf course, depending on the tees being played. There will be look up charts available at the golf club, or alternatively players can find out their Course Handicap by using an App which will be made available by England Golf.

Some players may wish to calculate their Course Handicap manually. This can be done by multiplying Handicap Index by the Slope Rating of the course being played and dividing by the 'standard' Slope Rating of 113.

Handicap Allowance

Handicap Allowance is the percentage of Course Handicap specified for a specific format of play or specified in the Terms of the Competition.

Playing Handicap

Playing Handicap is the Course Handicap adjusted for any Handicap Allowance. It represents the actual number of strokes the player gives or receives for the round being played. The calculation shown in [4] uses the exact Course Handicap (nearest 0.1). It is anticipated that this will change to use the rounded Course Handicap (nearest 1).

It is Playing Handicap that is used to determine Competition Results.

Coming Next – Acceptable Scores

Acceptable Scores

The current term Qualifying Score is replaced in the WHS by a new term; Acceptable Score.

9-hole and 18-hole Singles Competition Rounds in Authorised Formats must be submitted for handicap purposes, subject to the round being played to the Rules of Golf and over a measured course with a current Course Rating and Slope Rating. The only exception to this is in the winter months when the Competitions Committee may declare that the course conditions are unsuitable for submitting Acceptable Scores.

Scores from team comps and match play will not be acceptable in England initially, but this may change based on feedback from other countries that currently include those formats.

Scores from General Play, called Social Scores, may be submitted, subject to preregistration, in much the same way as you currently do with Supplementary Scores.

The recommendation from England Golf is that scores from regular organised informal competitions amongst members (Swindles and roll-ups) are considered preregistered and are submitted for handicap purposes.

Authorised Formats of Play

The authorised formats of play for Acceptable Scores are 9-hole or 18-hole singles rounds in the following formats:

- Stroke play (Medal)
- Stableford
- Par/Bogey
- Maximum Score