

World Handicap System (WHS) in summary

The Aim of moving to the WHS from Congu, is to fall into line with the rest of the world and allow handicap competition play anywhere to produce a more equal chance for all to win.

The Scottish Golf union are planning to implement the new WHS in 2020 as follows

1st of May the CDH database will generate your new Handicap index, based on the average of your best 8 results from the last 20 rounds, currently stored on CDH (central database of handicaps)

Your new Handicap index will be maintained alongside your current CONGU handicap.

The CONGU handicap will be used in all competition results until the WHS go live date of 1st November 2020. So the WHS handicap index is for interest only during that time.

On 1st November 2020 your CONGU **handicap** is replaced by a new **Handicap Index**. Your **Handicap Index** will then be combined with the Course **Slope rating** of the course / Tees you are due play to produce a **playing handicap**. (Courses will provide a conversion chart for reference)

Kingsknowe Golf Course Rating

	<i>Tees</i>	<i>USGA Course Rating</i>	<i>Slope Rating</i>
<i>Mens</i>	White	68.9	115
<i>Mens</i>	Yellow	68.0	113
<i>Womens</i>	Red	70.7	124

A golfer's playing handicap for a specific course is determined by multiplying the player's **Handicap Index** by the ratio of the course **Slope Rating** divided by the 'neutral' slope of 113.

Eg. **Course / Playing handicap** for Gent with 12.7 Handicap index

Handicap	Course	Playing
White tees	$12.4 \times (115/113) = 12.6$	13
Yellow tees	$12.4 \times (113/113) = 12.4$	12

Useful terms

Course Rating replaces Standard Scratch (SSS) and represents the score that a scratch golfer is expected to achieve on the course.

Slope Rating represents the relative difficulty of a course from a specific set of tees for a 'bogey golfer' compared to a scratch player (bogey golfer defined as 20Hcp for Men 24Hcp for Ladies)

The slope rating can be anywhere between **55**(easy) and **155**(difficult) rounded to the nearest whole number. **113** is 'neutral' ie bogey player expected to play 20 shots more than scratch player.

Handicap Index – replaces Handicap, calculated to the nearest 0.1.

Course Handicap - A player's handicap index adjusted to reflect the difficulty of a specific course. Calculated to the nearest 0.1

Playing Handicap - The handicap to be used in a specific competition on a specific course. Just Course Handicap and rounded to the *nearest whole number*.

Stableford Adjustment - For handicap purposes only, any big scores on a hole are rounded down to Net Double Bogey (as in the current system).

Additional Factors to consider

Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC) - Similar to the current CSS adjustment. Can be between -1 and 3. Calculated using all scores submitted on the course that day (even if in different competitions using different tees and number of holes) as long as 8 or more golfers with a handicap Index of less than 36 have played. Otherwise PCC = 0 assumed

To stop wild fluctuations in Handicap Index the following is introduced

- **Anchor Point** - A player's lowest Handicap Index during the last 12 months
- **CAP** - A suppression mechanism that limits increases in Handicap Index relative to the Anchor Point when a player is going through a spell of poor form.
- **Hard CAP** - the maximum a Handicap Index can increase to is Anchor Point + 5.
- **Soft CAP** - Potential Handicap Index increases to a figure greater than (Anchor Point + 3) are limited by half the amount over 3, e.g. 5 limited to 4, 7 limited to 5, etc.

SGL will use scores submitted when playing the following game formats

- Stroke Play
- Stableford
- Par / Bogey

As with the current Supplementary scores, players must declare their intention to submit a score prior to starting a round, as a PCC will be generated automatically by CDH database at midnight, the scores will be expected to be submitted on a self service basis at the Match PC.

The Handicap Committee will still be expected to check cards for signatures and potential process abuse.

Initial handicaps for new players will be calculated using a minimum of 54 holes recorded at any course, with net double bogey correction applied.