

## The New World Handicap System in simple terms

Gents,

After playing a round of golf last week, I noticed there are still a lot of people struggling to understand the new WHS. I thought I would try and explain in simple terms of how it works. I know that many of you have already embraced the new system and are quite “Au Fait” with it. So I apologise in advance to those people.

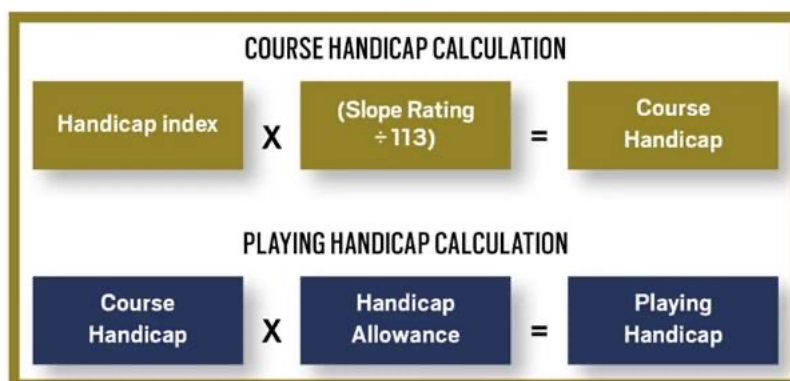
Firstly, try to forget the old system. Things like; “I should get 0.1 back on my handicap” doesn’t exist anymore. Buffer Zone has gone as well. Most things from the old system no longer apply.

The main things that you need to do are, get yourself (if you already haven’t) on the England Golf website or App. Register yourself on there (you will need your CDH, ID number, this can be found on your Handicap Certificate) and you will be given a Handicap index number. This number will form the basis of your playing handicap.

Your playing handicap will/may change, depending on which golf course you play and which colour tee’s you’re playing off. Every golf course should have a look-up table (similar to the one displayed at our course outside the clubhouse on the brick pillar.)

So, every time you play a qualifying round of golf, your score is entered onto your England golf fact sheet. All scores are entered as if you were playing a Medal round. If you are playing a stableford round, that score will be calculated and configured into a Medal score and applied to your last/latest 20 scores. It is very easy to see this on your display graph.

There are lots of things that get considered when configuring the final score entry, such as: Playing conditions calculator. Slope rating etc. etc. This is all done automatically and most of us shouldn’t even worry about it.



## **What do you say to people who think the WHS is too complicated to understand?**

90% of golfers don't need to know what all the calculations are. What **you do need to know** is what your handicap index is and you can find that out via your club's handicap software or on the England Golf website or app, Once you've got that, you need to convert that number, using a look-up chart or app, into a course handicap for the course and tees you are playing. That's all you need to worry about because the technology will do everything else for you.

**The key thing to remember is H.C.P, so Handicap index, Course handicap, Play golf.**

## **Do I have to submit my score from every round of golf I play?**

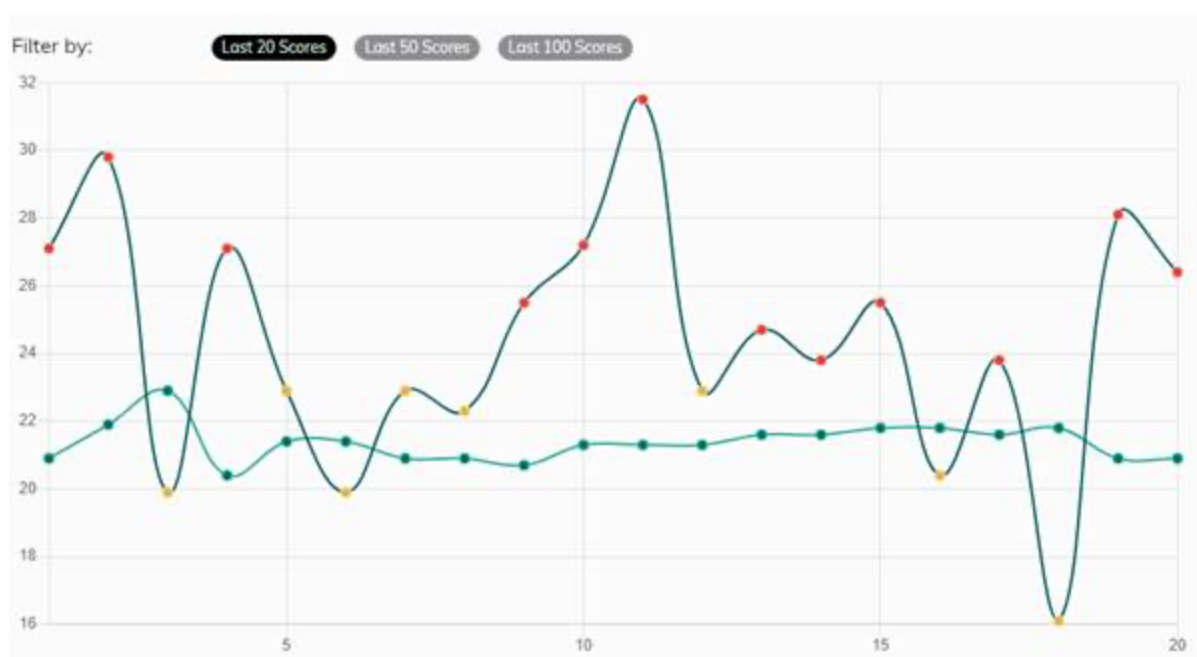
It will be mandatory to submit all singles competition scores, but you will have the option to submit social/recreational scores, as long as they are pre-registered and conform to the Rules of Handicapping and Rules of Golf. Each time a score is submitted, your handicap index will be recalculated and updated for the next day of play, or soon after.

Note: I have been told that you can put in a card for Handicap purposes at anytime as long as you inform the pro prior to playing.

## **Is your playing handicap the same as your course handicap under the WHS?**

No. When you are playing in a competition, you will receive an allowance which needs to be applied to your course handicap to give you a playing handicap. For singles and strokeplay competitions, **this is 95 per cent of your course handicap** and that will tell you the number of strokes you will receive.

Below is a copy of my England Golf playing graph. Note that the last/latest 20 qualifying rounds are entered into the graph as Medal rounds.



As you can see the graph shows the latest 20 Qualifying rounds. The best 8 scores are indicated by the yellow dots. Please note, **these eight scores are the ones used to calculate your Handicap Index**. The higher scores (red dots) are not used.

So this is how it works, the next Qualifying score gets added on the right hand side of the graph, the score on the left hand side will drop out of the graph. Your handicap will then be calculated on that. (latest 20 scores)

Hope this helps

Pete Grimes