

WHS Handicap Index

Under the World Handicap System (the WHS) players may be allocated a “handicap index” (HI); this is the same wherever you play and is based on scores submitted to England Golf directly or through a golf club.

The HI is used to work out your **course handicap** when you play a round of golf. **Your course handicap will depend on which course you are playing and which tees you play from.**

You should use the chart outside the proshop and your HI to work out your **course handicap (CH)**. For example, for a HI of 20.3 the CH will be 23 off the white tees and 22 off the yellows on the Griffin but only 19 for a full round of 18 holes on the Phoenix. Each course and tee set has a slope index and the formula to calculate the course handicap is to multiply your HI by the slope and divide by 113.

If you sign in for a General Play round on the PSI touchscreen in the proshop or on the EG App, it will tell you your course handicap.

Calculating your Handicap Index

Your handicap index is based on an average of your best 8 “score differentials” from your 20 most recent scores recorded. A score differential is calculated from your actual score by adjusting for the slope and course rating (i.e. how hard the course is to play for a player with your handicap).

Calculation of score differentials:

1. Find the stableford equivalent score (max score for a hole is nett double bogey)
2. Subtract the course rating (not the par)
3. Multiply by 113
4. Divide by the slope rating

Example: A man playing Cottesmore, Griffin course, white tees which has a course rating of 72.0 and slope of 129. For stableford equivalent round of 91 shots:

$$\text{score differential} = (91-72) \times 113/129 = 16.6$$

A man shooting the same score using the yellow tees with a CR of 70.2 and slope of 121:

$$\text{Score differential} = (91-70.2) \times 113/121 = 19.4$$

Sometimes there is an additional adjustment for the playing conditions on the day.

What happens if you have less than 20 scores in your record?

If a player has posted less than 20 Qualifying Scores posted in the last 2 years or for new handicaps the following will be used as the number of scores increases:

- 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

For example, if you currently have 10 scores, your HI is based on the average of your lowest 3 score differentials.

You can check your record on the members website under “my golf” or on the England Golf (EG) App – you will need your EG ID to register. This is also on your profile on the members section and on your handicap certificate.

General Play Cards

EG are encouraging golfers to submit cards each time they play.

To do this:

1. Sign in on the PSI (or online) before play, selecting course, number of holes and tees.
2. Play with a member who can verify the score by writing the scores on their own card.
3. Players should keep their own card, scores in column A, General Play and other details filled in including who checked their score (marker)
4. Play stableford or medal.
5. Enter scores on PSI (or online) after checking them with the member you played with.
6. Sign the card and put it in the box outside the proshop.
7. If the proshop has closed and online entry not possible, they can just submit the signed card and I will enter the score.

Your handicap will then be updated at midnight that day automatically.

Playing Handicap (PH) for Competitions

In competitions the course handicap (CH) is adjusted to a playing handicap which is 95% of the CH in medals and stableford. This makes no difference for a CH up to 10 and is a reduction of one shot for a CH of between 11 and 30 and two thereafter up to a CH of 50.