

World Handicap System

What is the World Handicap System (WHS) all about?

Golf already has a single set of playing Rules, a single set of equipment Rules and a single set of Rules of Amateur Status governed by the USGA and the R&A; yet, today there are six different handicap systems used around the world. Each is well developed and successfully provides equity for play locally, but each of the different systems produces slightly differing results when calculating players' handicaps. The WHS will unify these six existing systems into a single system that will:

- enable golfers of different abilities to play and compete on a fair and equal basis, in any format, on any course, anywhere around the world.
- be easy to understand and implement, without sacrificing accuracy.
- meet the varied needs and expectations of golfers, golf clubs and golf authorities all around the world and be adaptable to suit all golfing cultures.

You will notice a few differences such as:

Handicap Index Calculation – Your index will be based off your 8 best scores out of the last 20.

Slope and Course Ratings have been used in the past to determine index. The World Handicap system is now using Slope, Course Ratings and Par.

Pre-2020 the calculation to find the Course Handicap was: $\text{Handicap Index} \times \text{Slope Rating} / 113$. The new calculation for Course Handicap will be $\text{Handicap Index} \times (\text{Slope Rating} / 113) + (\text{Course Rating} - \text{Par})$.

What is my maximum hole score for handicap posting purposes?

If you have an established Handicap Index, the maximum score for each hole played is limited to a net double bogey, equal to double bogey plus any handicap strokes you are entitled to receive based on your Course Handicap.

For example: A player with a Course Handicap of 15 receives one handicap stroke on holes with a stroke index of 1 through 15 on the scorecard.

On a par 4 hole with a stroke index of 10, the player's maximum hole score is 7. Double bogey (6) + 1 handicap stroke = 7.

For players posting initial scores to establish a Handicap Index, the maximum hole score is limited to Par + 5. This method replaces equitable stroke control (ESC).

A World Handicap System version has been installed at Quail Creek.