

WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM

10 Things to Know about the WHS

1. Handicap Factor will now be known as Handicap Index
Since our current Canadian system updates with each score that is entered, we have used the term “Handicap Factor”. Under the WHS, updates will be daily in all countries, so the term “Handicap Index” will be used universally for everyone.
2. Number of Scores Required for Initial Handicap Index
Currently, a minimum of five 18-hole scores (or equivalent combination of 9-hole scores) is needed to establish a Handicap Index. With the WHS, only a minimum of three 18-hole scores (or equivalent combination of 9-hole scores) is needed to establish a Handicap Index. A player will need to return 54 holes worth of scores to be issued an initial Handicap Index.
3. Par
Par will be considered more prominently in the WHS, factoring into Course Handicap calculation and adjustments of hole scores. Updates to the guidelines for par will be available to ensure accurate par values as established.
4. Adjusting Hole Scores
There are circumstances where a player’s hole score needs to be adjusted for handicap purposes. The new processes for adjusting these scores is outlined below: Net Double Bogey as our new ESC (adjusting of hole scores) - Under the WHS, equitable stroke control (ESC) will allow a player to make a maximum net double bogey on a hole.
 - *Maximum Score (formerly ESC)* – will be recorded as Net Double Bogey (par for the hole + 2 + any strokes entitled to)
 - *When a Hole is not Played* – Net Par (par for the hole + any strokes entitled to)
 - *Most Likely Score* – Additional guidelines will be available to help golfers determine their Most Likely Score
5. Handicap Index Calculation
The WHS will use the average of the 8 lowest differentials from your most recent 20 scores in the calculation of a Handicap Index, as opposed to the current system which uses the 10 lowest differentials of your last 20 scores.
6. Maximum Handicap Index
The Maximum Handicap Index that a golfer can hold is moving to 54.0 (for both men and women), making the WHS more accessible and inclusive, meeting the needs of golfers who are new to the game or those that have played for a long time.
7. Course Handicap and Playing Handicap
Course Handicap will be calculated slightly differently with the WHS, with an adjustment to include par of the course.
The addition of Playing Handicap has also been made, where Playing Handicap will include adjustments for any handicap allowances or terms of the competition.
8. Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC)
The WHS includes a Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC), which will analyze how players have performed on a given day compared to their expected performance on that golf course. It will naturally include weather and course setup (reflected in the scores), and if expected results fall outside a tolerance level, an adjustment will apply to all differentials for acceptable rounds played on that course for that day.
9. Exceptional Scores
An exceptional score is any score where the differential is 7.0 strokes (or more) lower than the Handicap Index in effect when the round was played. If an exceptional score is posted, a reduction is automatically applied, making the Handicap Index a more accurate measure of a player’s demonstrated ability. An exceptional score can be any acceptable score, and potential reductions are no longer applied only to tournament scores.
10. Stroke Index Allocation
Determining Stroke Index Allocation (the order of holes at which handicap strokes are to be given or received), will now be determined objectively using data provided from the Course Rating procedure.

