

Handicap Index

What is a Handicap Index?

The Handicap Index is considered to be the most important element of the WHS.

The Handicap Index will:

- Measure the ability of a player
- Be portable from course to course
- Allow players to compete fairly and therefore promote inclusivity within the game

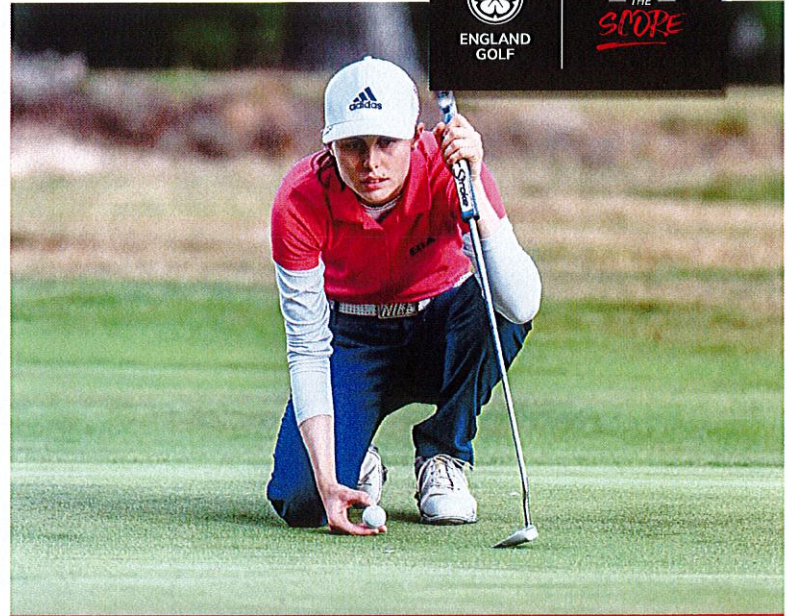
A Handicap Index is calculated from the best eight scores from the last 20 rounds.

As a new score is submitted, a player's Handicap Index will automatically update to the most recent 20 scores. A player's Handicap Index will update promptly overnight after the submission of an acceptable score and be ready before the next time they play.

How to obtain a Handicap Index?

When the new system comes into play most golfers can have a Handicap Index generated, based on their existing records.

For new golfers to gain their Handicap Index they will have to submit a minimum of 54 holes (using any combination of 9 and 18 holes). Their Handicap Index will be the lowest of their three rounds minus two strokes and continue to be built until the preferred 20 scores are achieved.



IMPORTANT

The maximum Handicap Index for any player is 54.

To obtain a recognised Handicap Index a player must be an affiliated member of a golf club.

Handicap Index

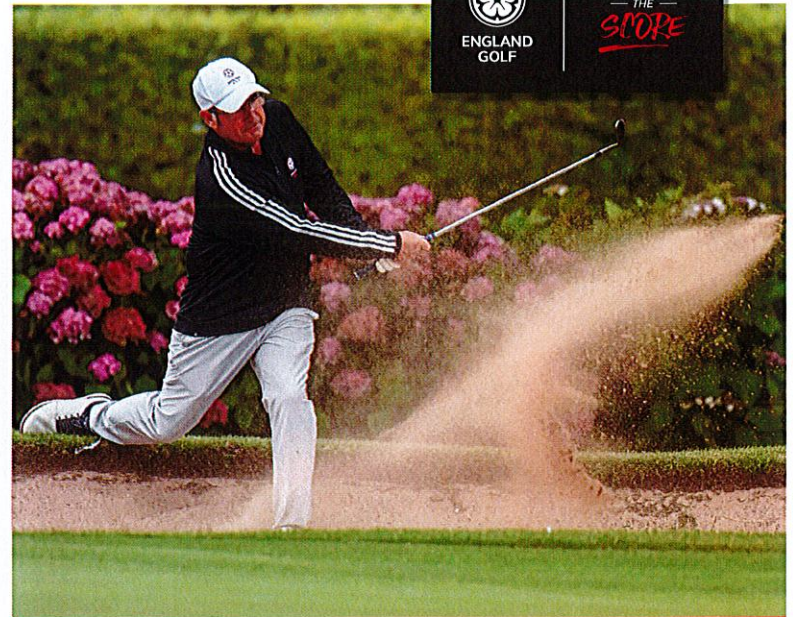
How to safeguard a Handicap Index?

A Soft Cap and Hard Cap will be implemented to limit any extreme upward movement of a player's Handicap Index within a 365-day period. This has been introduced to act as a safeguard to prevent any handicap manipulation.

The Soft Cap will suppress movement by 50% after a 3.0 stroke increase over a player's Low Handicap Index (see glossary of terms later in this toolkit). For clarity in this instance, a Low Handicap Index is the lowest Handicap Index a player has had during the previous 12-month period.

The Hard Cap will restrict upward movement on 5.0 strokes over the Low Handicap Index.

Restricting the extreme upward movement of a Handicap Index will ensure that a player's temporary loss of form does not cause the Handicap Index to move too far away from their actual ability.



IMPORTANT

Caps only start to take effect once a player has at least 20 acceptable scores in their record.

Course Handicap

What is Course Handicap?

Before any player starts their round they must convert their Handicap Index into a Course Handicap.

The Course Handicap will determine the number of strokes a player will receive for any set of tees on a course.

An easy way for a player to remember the WHS, is to think HCP!

H - Handicap Index

C - Course Handicap

P - Play

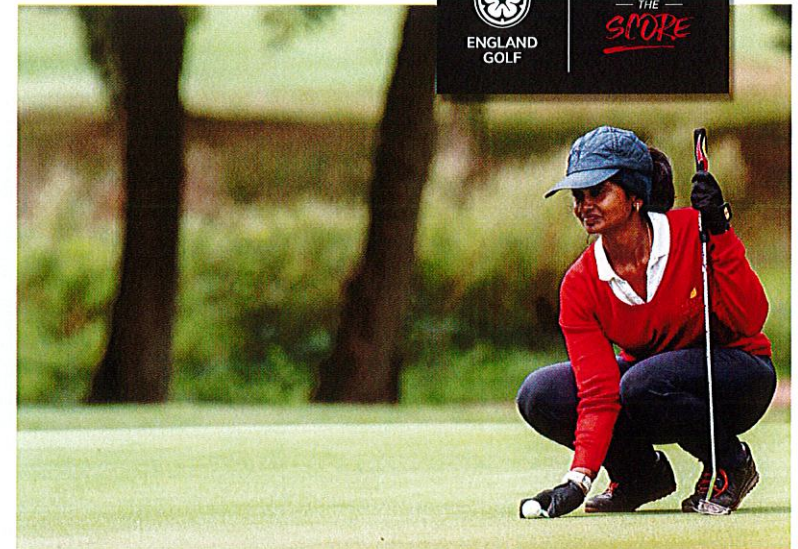
It's as easy as HCP!

- 1 Handicap Index
- 2 Course Handicap
- 3 Go out and Play

How to work out a Course Handicap?

England Golf has provide Course & Slope Rating tables to all golf clubs (as per the example provided on the next page). Tables should be positioned in conspicuous locations around the club to make it simple for all golfers to find prior to beginning their round.

Golfers simply have to choose the tees they are playing off that day and cross reference their Handicap Index on the Course & Slope Rating table to ascertain their Course Handicap. It really is as simple as that - they're then ready to get out on the course and play!



In time, Course Handicap Tables will be available via an App and club handicap software so golfers can view their Course Handicap remotely prior to a round. Should any golfer wish to calculate their Course Handicap manually the formula is as follows:

NEW RULE

Handicap Index


x

(Slope Rating / 113)

=

Course Handicap (rounded)

Course & Slope Rating Table Example


WOODHALL SPA - HOTCHKIN COURSE

WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM
R&A USGA

**COURSE RATING™ &
SLOPE RATING® TABLE**

ENGLAND GOLF

MEN

BLUE YARDS
Course Rating: **75.3**
Slope Rating: **152**

MEN

WHITE YARDS
Course Rating: **74.4**
Slope Rating: **151**

MEN

YELLOW YARDS
Course Rating: **72.5**
Slope Rating: **149**

LADIES

RED YARDS
Course Rating: **74.8**
Slope Rating: **149**

Handicap Index	Course Handicap
15.0 to 14.9	17
14.8 to 14.7	18
14.6 to 14.5	19
14.4 to 14.3	20
14.2 to 14.1	21
14.0 to 13.9	22
13.8 to 13.7	23
13.6 to 13.5	24
13.4 to 13.3	25
13.2 to 13.1	26
13.0 to 12.9	27
12.8 to 12.7	28
12.6 to 12.5	29
12.4 to 12.3	30
12.2 to 12.1	31
12.0 to 11.9	32
11.8 to 11.7	33
11.6 to 11.5	34
11.4 to 11.3	35
11.2 to 11.1	36
11.0 to 10.9	37
10.8 to 10.7	38
10.6 to 10.5	39
10.4 to 10.3	40
10.2 to 10.1	41
10.0 to 9.9	42
9.8 to 9.7	43
9.6 to 9.5	44
9.4 to 9.3	45
9.2 to 9.1	46
9.0 to 8.9	47
8.8 to 8.7	48
8.6 to 8.5	49
8.4 to 8.3	50
8.2 to 8.1	51
8.0 to 7.9	52
7.8 to 7.7	53
7.6 to 7.5	54
7.4 to 7.3	55
7.2 to 7.1	56
7.0 to 6.9	57
6.8 to 6.7	58
6.6 to 6.5	59
6.4 to 6.3	60
6.2 to 6.1	61
6.0 to 5.9	62
5.8 to 5.7	63
5.6 to 5.5	64
5.4 to 5.3	65
5.2 to 5.1	66
5.0 to 4.9	67
4.8 to 4.7	68
4.6 to 4.5	69
4.4 to 4.3	70
4.2 to 4.1	71
4.0 to 3.9	72
3.8 to 3.7	73
3.6 to 3.5	74
3.4 to 3.3	75
3.2 to 3.1	76
3.0 to 2.9	77
2.8 to 2.7	78
2.6 to 2.5	79
2.4 to 2.3	80
2.2 to 2.1	81
2.0 to 1.9	82
1.8 to 1.7	83
1.6 to 1.5	84
1.4 to 1.3	85
1.2 to 1.1	86
1.0 to 0.9	87
0.8 to 0.7	88
0.6 to 0.5	89
0.4 to 0.3	90
0.2 to 0.1	91
0.0 to 0.0	92

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10.4 to 10.3	40
10.2 to 10.1	41
10.0 to 9.9	42
9.8 to 9.7	43
9.6 to 9.5	44
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7.4 to 7.3	55
7.2 to 7.1	56
7.0 to 6.9	57
6.8 to 6.7	58
6.6 to 6.5	59
6.4 to 6.3	60
6.2 to 6.1	61
6.0 to 5.9	62
5.8 to 5.7	63
5.6 to 5.5	64
5.4 to 5.3	65
5.2 to 5.1	66
5.0 to 4.9	67
4.8 to 4.7	68
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4.2 to 4.1	71
4.0 to 3.9	72
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2.8 to 2.7	78
2.6 to 2.5	79
2.4 to 2.3	80
2.2 to 2.1	81
2.0 to 1.9	82
1.8 to 1.7	83
1.6 to 1.5	84
1.4 to 1.3	85
1.2 to 1.1	86
1.0 to 0.9	87
0.8 to 0.7	88
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Playing Handicap

What is Playing Handicap?

Playing Handicap is a mandatory stroke allowance that is implemented in order to maintain the integrity of the WHS when used in competition. It allows golfers to compete on a level playing field, regardless of their Handicap Index.

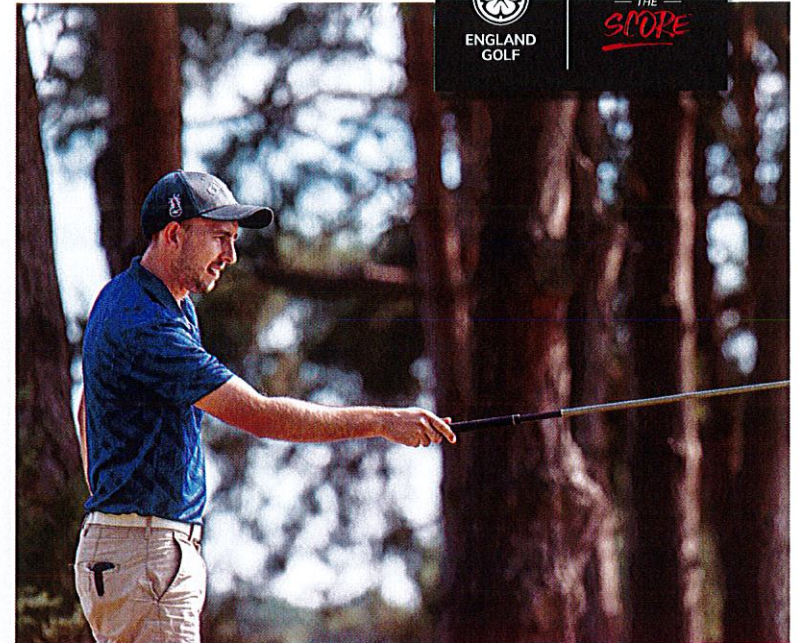
The Course Handicap converts to a Playing Handicap for competition purposes and changes depending on the format of play.

The most important aspects of Playing Handicap to remember are:

- It is only used for competition purposes
- It ensures equity to calculate competition results (via Handicap Allowances)
- Golfers do not need to calculate it (it is generated before their round)
- Golfers should continue to play in the mindset of their Course Handicap in competition rounds
- It is a mandatory stroke allowance that must be implemented in competition play

On the following page a table example is available which shows mandatory handicap allowances for all competition formats.

The WHS has been designed with the enjoyment of recreational golf at the forefront. The WHS will allow golfers to play with freedom, therefore changing the nature in which they play the game. The focus for golfers should not be on their Playing Handicap.



The Playing Handicap is calculated as follows:

NEW RULE

Course Handicap

_____ **x** _____

Handicap Allowance

_____ **=** _____

Playing Handicap

Mandatory Allowances Table Example



ENGLAND GOLF

**PLAYING HANDICAP:
MANDATORY ALLOWANCES TABLE**

FORMAT OF PLAY	TYPE OF ROUND	MANDATORY HANDICAP ALLOWANCE
STROKEPLAY	Individual	95%
	Individual Stableford	95%
	Individual Par/Bogey	95%
	Individual Maximum Score	95%
	Fourball	85%
	Fourball Stableford	85%
MATCHPLAY	Individual	100%
	Fourball	90%
STROKEPLAY	Foursomes	50% of combined team handicap
	Greensomes	60% low handicap + 40% high handicap
	Pinehurst/Chapman	60% low handicap + 40% high handicap
	Best 1 of 4 Stroke Play	75%
	Best 2 of 4 Stroke Play	85%
	Best 3 of 4 Stroke Play	100%
	All 4 of 4 Stroke Play	100%
	Scramble (4 players)	*25%/20%/15%/10% from lowest to highest handicap*
	Scramble (2 players)	35% low/15% high
	Total score of 2 match play	100%
	Best 1 of 4 Par/Bogey	75%
	Best 2 of 4 Par/Bogey	80%
	Best 3 of 4 Par/Bogey	90%
4 of 4 Par/Bogey	100%	

WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM
R&A USGA
www.Englandgolf.org

General Play & Competition Rounds

How to submit a score?

After the completion of a competition round, a player has to submit their scorecard as soon as possible in order for their Handicap Index to be updated. Preferably, scores should be posted at the venue being played and on the same day, as this will be when a player's Handicap Index will be updated.

Posting of scores is possible by players utilising the technology available at their golf club.

How to verify a score?

In order to verify a score and for it to count towards a player's WHS, it must be played:

- In accordance with The Rules of Golf
- In an authorised format of play
- Over a minimum number of 10 holes for an 18 hole round
- With at least one other person
- On a course with a current Course Rating and Slope Rating



General Play & Competition Rounds

How your score counts towards the WHS?

Acceptable formats of play for submitting a score towards a player's Handicap Index include:

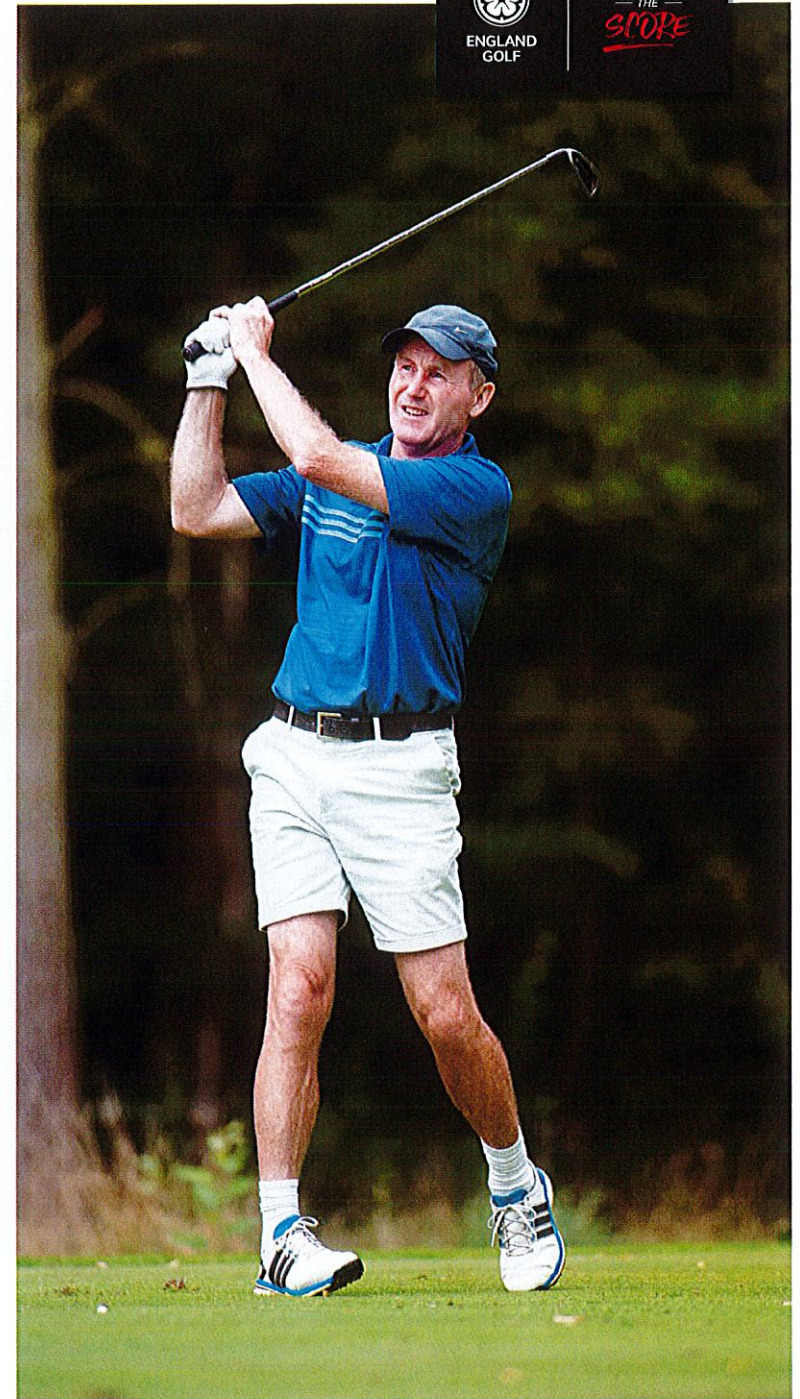
- Pre-registered general play 'social' scores
- All individual competition rounds, both 9 and 18 holes, whether played at home or away

Non-Acceptable formats of play for submitting a score towards a player's Handicap Index include:


- Scores from fourball better ball
- Other matchplay events

For golfers playing in recreational rounds with friends, either in teams or pairs, even when there is no intention of submitting a score for handicap purposes, they will need to calculate their Course Handicap prior to their round.

The following page in this toolkit includes a table of authorised formats of play.



Authorised Formats of Play Table Example

 **ENGLAND GOLF**

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY


AUTHORISED FORMATS OF PLAY TABLE

ACCEPTABLE FORMATS OF PLAY

FORMAT OF PLAY	TYPE OF ROUND	NUMBER OF HOLES			
INDIVIDUAL STROKEPLAY	Strokeplay - Organised Competition	9	✓	18	✓
	Strokeplay - General Play	9	✓	18	✓
	Stableford - Organised Competition	9	✓	18	✓
	Stableford - General Play	9	✓	18	✓
	Par / Bogey - Organised Competition	9	✓	18	✓
	Par / Bogey - General Play	9	✓	18	✓
	Maximum Score - Organised Competition	9	✓	18	✓
	Maximum Score - General Play	9	✓	18	✓

NON-ACCEPTABLE FORMATS OF PLAY

FORMAT OF PLAY	TYPE OF ROUND	NUMBER OF HOLES			
FOURBALL STROKEPLAY	Strokeplay - Organised Competition	9	✗	18	✗
	Strokeplay - General Play	9	✗	18	✗
	Stableford - Organised Competition	9	✗	18	✗
	Stableford - General Play	9	✗	18	✗
	Par / Bogey - Organised Competition	9	✗	18	✗
	Par / Bogey - General Play	9	✗	18	✗
INDIVIDUAL MATCHPLAY	Organised Competition	9	✗	18	✗
	General Play	9	✗	18	✗
FOURBALL MATCHPLAY	Organised Competition	9	✗	18	✗
	General Play	9	✗	18	✗

WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM


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