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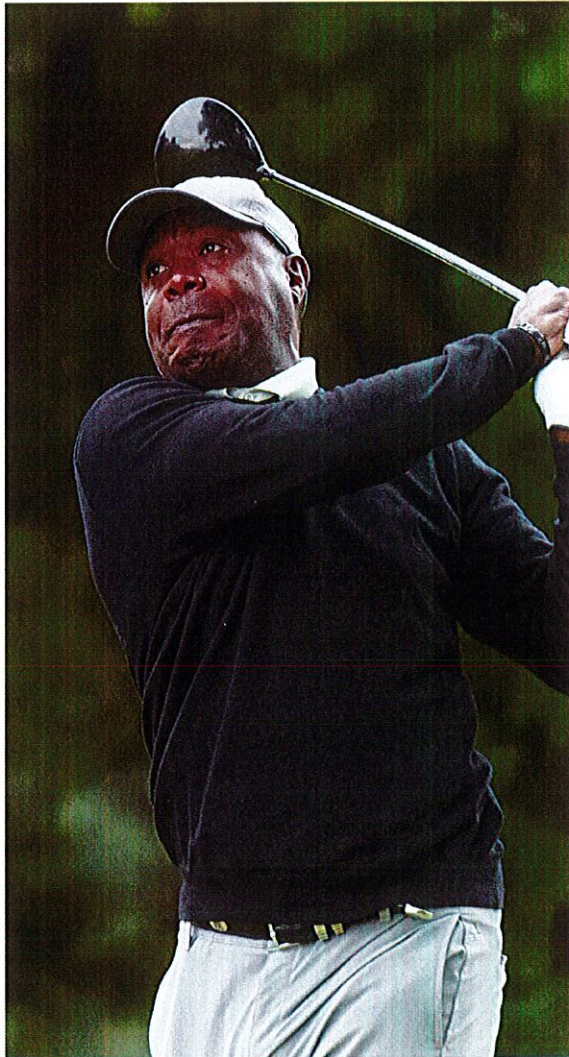
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WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM (WHS)

TOOLKIT - OCTOBER 2020

01 Golfer Toolkit

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OVERVIEW

What is the WHS?

What is the new World Handicap System?

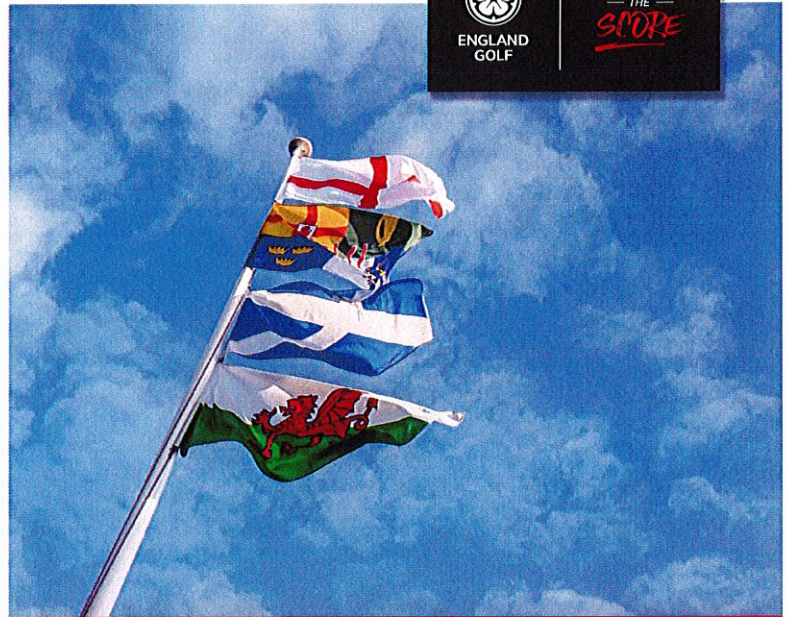
The new World Handicap System (WHS) is designed to:

- Attract more players to the game
- Make handicapping easier to understand
- Give all golfers a Handicap Index that can be transferable from club to club

Developed by The R&A and USGA in collaboration with existing handicap authorities, the benefit of the WHS over the current system is it combines the Rules of Handicapping and the Course Rating System.

The key timings to be aware of in the build up to the new system going live are as follows:

- **14th July 2020:** WHS Toolkit 1.0 from England Golf is made available to all golf clubs in England ✓
- **15th July 2020:** England Golf launches 'Know the Score' WHS campaign ✓
- **W/C 19th October 2020:** England Golf WHS Platform launched ✓
- **2nd November 2020:** WHS adopted at all golf clubs across England



IMPORTANT

WHS comes into play on 2nd November 2020 in Great Britain and Ireland and will replace the current CONGU handicapping system. It will be part of a system used by over 15 million golfers in 80 countries worldwide.

Why has the WHS been created?

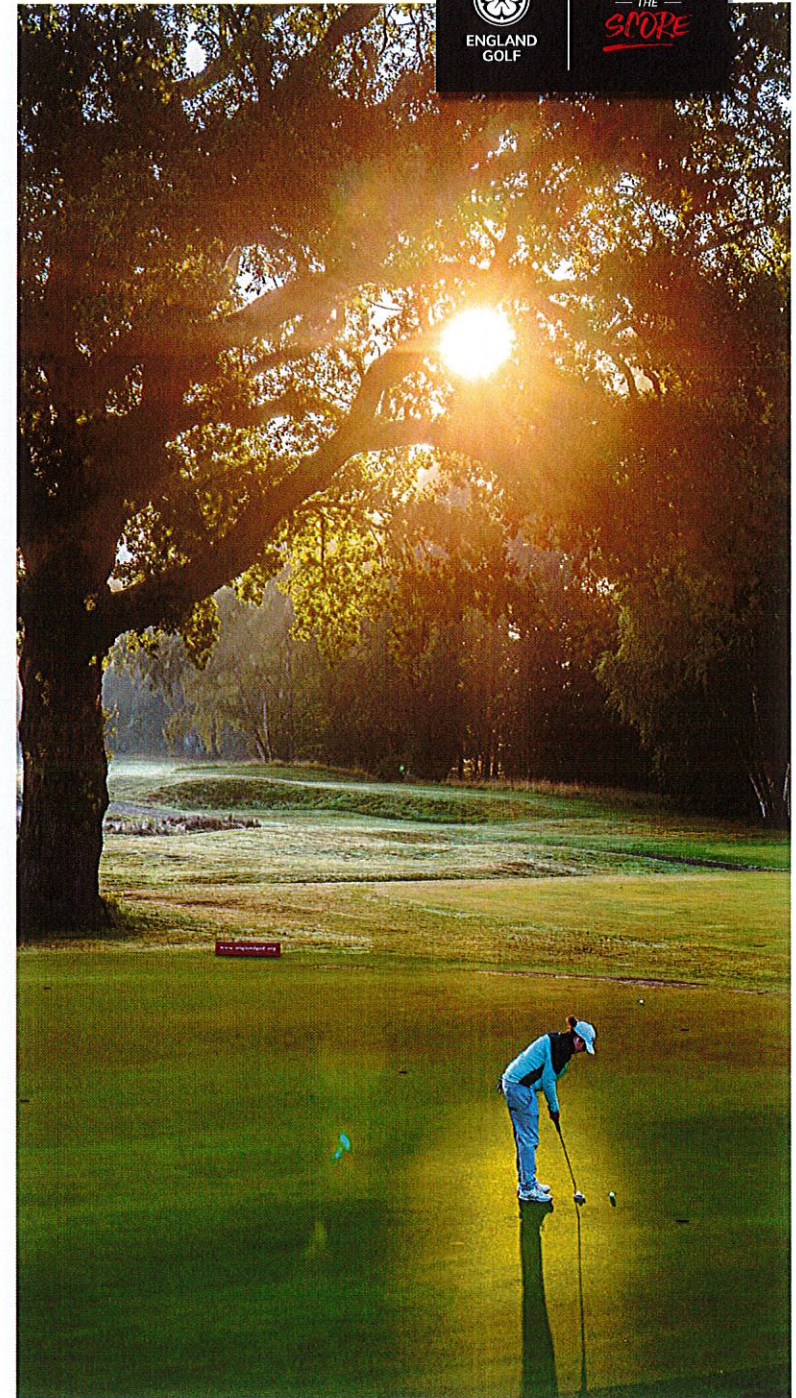
To allow as many golfers as possible the opportunity to:

- Obtain and maintain a Handicap Index and reduce barriers of entry
- Use their Handicap Index on any golf course around the world
- Compete, or play recreationally, fairly regardless of where they play

With golf being centred around one standard set of rules governed by The R&A and USGA, it makes sense to unify the previous six different Handicapping systems, making for a more inclusive and equitable sport.

The WHS was therefore developed with consideration given to club golfers who play both sporadically and more regularly.

With all golfers only initially required to submit scorecards for 54 holes to acquire a Handicap Index, the new WHS is less formidable for new players.



How does the WHS work?

For golfers in England, calculating a new Handicap Index will be front of mind when adopting the WHS. The process will begin in the same way throughout the world – by accurately measuring a player's golfing ability.

For regular golfers, this will be done by:

- The WHS Software calculating the average of the eight best scores from the previous 20 rounds

For new golfers, they will have to:

- Submit scorecards of 54 holes (3x 18 holes, 6x 9 holes or any combination of 9 and 18 holes) to their golf club's Handicap Committee

From this they will be provided an initial Handicap Index. After a player has achieved 20 scores, a 'fully developed' Handicap Index can be calculated to provide the most accurate representation of a player's ability.

To ensure a player has only one Handicap Index, the golfer will nominate a home club. The home club is determined by the player, but for practicality it is recommended this is where the player typically submits the most of their scores.



IMPORTANT

Golf club's will manage the WHS through a Handicap Committee. The main roles and responsibilities of each club are to conduct and manage handicap reviews and communicate to the club's members.



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WHS KEY FEATURES

Course Rating & Bogey Rating

What is Course Rating?

Golf Course Rating will be used to measure the playing difficulty of a golf course. It measures how many strokes a Scratch Golfer (a player who can play to a Course Handicap of zero on all rated golf courses) should take on any given course.

The rating does this by assessing two main types of challenges which, when combined, result in a common base from which to compare players' abilities:

- The playing length of the course
- The obstacles that a player will encounter (e.g. size of green and hazards)

A Bogey Rating is the measure of playing difficulty from a set of tees when played by a Bogey Golfer (a player who has a Course Handicap of approximately 20 for a male and 24 for a female).

Knowing the Course Rating and Bogey Rating allows the WHS to assess and rationalise the relationship between the two. From this, the difficulty of the course for all other levels of ability can be deduced.



IMPORTANT

All Course Ratings have been determined by highly trained teams, with all findings checked and verified prior to being published to ensure consistency and equity across England.

Slope Rating

What is Slope Rating?

Slope Rating is the number which indicates the relative playing difficulty of a course for Bogey Golfers, compared to Scratch Golfers. It is the difficulty comparison between a Bogey Golfer and a Scratch Golfer from the same set of tees.

$$\text{Bogey Rating} - \text{Course Rating} \times \text{Factor} = \text{Slope Rating}$$

(In simple terms it is the combination of the Course Rating and the Bogey Rating, which allows us to calculate the Slope Rating of a set of tees)

The use of Slope allows a player's Handicap Index to be portable from course to course and country to country. It also enables acceptable scores from any rated golf course in the world to be submitted for a player's handicap purposes.

The Slope Rating is a key component in calculating the number of strokes each player receives to play a particular golf course. Each set of tees will have a Slope Rating value between 55 and 155.

The higher the Slope Rating, the more additional strokes a Bogey Golfer will need to be able to play it. The lower the Slope Rating, the less strokes a Bogey Golfer will require.

NOTE

The Slope Ratings are gender specific and the tee which a golfer plays from must have a Slope Rating for each gender.

IMPORTANT

113 is the Slope Rating value where all players play from their Handicap Index (i.e. the course is as equally hard for both Scratch and Bogey players).