

WHS Update 1st April 2024

Changes to the WHS system take effect on 1st April 2024 – this note is to highlight some of the key points - **it is not all encompassing.**

If you wish to know more – and please do – follow the link below – scroll down and you will see lots of information – watch the videos first.

<https://www.EnglandGolf.org/2024-whs-update-resources>

If you have questions drop me a line – steve.passey35@gmail.com – I will try to answer and I will put all the questions and answers in a future note. The link will also be on our website.

All players should read and be aware of the Rules of Handicapping which are updated on the page link above.

Steve Passey

Golf Committee

Key changes :-

Course Rating minus Par (CR-PAR)

What it is?

It is an adjustment for the difference between the Course Rating (CR) and Par of the course being played. It will be implemented as part of the Course Handicap (CH) Calculation to give players the number of strokes required to play the course.

- Current Pre April C.H. calculation is **CH= H.I. x (SLOPE/113)**
- C.H. Calculation Post April with CR-PAR is **CH= H.I. x (SLOPE/113) + (C.R.- PAR)**

How it works?

Our Par (70) is higher than CR (68.3 men's yellow) , so players will lose strokes. This applies for all handicap indexes.

For example:

A male player pre April playing Yellow course (C.R. 68.3, SLOPE - 123, Par 70), with a handicap index of 10.0.

- $10.0 \times (123/113)$
- 10.0×10.8849558
- $10.8849558 = \text{Course Handicap } 11$

However, using CR-PAR post April, taking into consideration the difference in the course rating and the Par of the course.

- $(10.0 \times (123/113)) + (C.R. +70 -68.3)$
- $10.8849558 - 1.7$

- 9.1849558 = Course Handicap 9

Benefits

- ✓ Golfers are playing to PAR of the course for handicapping purposes.
- ✓ Golfers will receive shots based on the course difficulty.
- ✓ More suitable adjustment between tee sets
- ✓ Alignment with the majority of other jurisdictions
- ✓ Interoperability worldwide
- ✓ No confusion for golfers when playing overseas.
- ✓ Easier calculation required for Mixed Tee and Mixed Gender events – as the difference on Mixed Gender will be the Course Par.

So just to clarify this, the calculation of Course Handicap is 2 shots less in April – many people think this will result in higher Handicap Indices – It Wont

As you all know when you play golf your score is entered into the system and a Score Differential is calculated which goes into your handicap record and drives your HI – this will still happen and in the past included an adjustment for Course Rating – Par , so in reality in a Stableford to play to handicap last year you needed 38 points by doing this adjustment upfront going forward you will need just 36 points which is more intuitive and means wherever you go, you know 36 points “I’ve played to handicap”

Don’t worry in Individual Competitions all this will be done for you including the 95% Competition adjustment just as it is now.

Our boards outside will need to change and can/ will be used for social rounds , team events etc as now.

Acceptable Scoring for Four Ball formats

What it is?

Currently only scores from certain singles formats of play are returned to WHS for handicap index calculation within GB&I. As of 1 April 2024, scores from four ball (such as Strokeplay, Stableford and Par/Bogey) will be acceptable for handicap purposes in GB&I. These additional and popular formats of play will allow more scores to be returned for handicap purposes based on some specified criteria.

Note: this is for competition play only

How it works?

Once the acceptable pairs/team score is returned to WHS™, WHS will look for specific criteria, which is as followed:

- ✓ One player of the pair must have scored on a minimum of 9 holes.

- ✓ The total pair score must be at least 42 points or 6 under Par.

If these triggers are hit, then the golfer who has scored on the minimum 9 holes will have an upscaling value added for their un-played holes based upon their playing partners score and if the score equates to 36+ points/level par or better it will calculate a Score Differential™ and the score will be added to record for handicap purposes.

This score may or may not be one of their best 8 score differentials used to update/recalculate their handicap index. For scores not hitting the specified trigger points, the score will still be added to records but not used in calculations, as it will be indicated so in the records.

Benefits

- ✓ A vast majority of Clubs and Counties have indicated their desire for 4BBB scoring to be acceptable for handicapping purposes. (Based upon opinions from Club/county handicap committees within 2022/23 WHS™ winter workshops)
- ✓ Make the game more inclusive as more scores are available for handicapping purposes from various formats of play.
- ✓ Handicaps will be more reflective of a player's demonstrated ability.
- ✓ Deter potential manipulation as more scores will be acceptable for handicap calculations
- ✓ Has been used successfully in other countries

Remember this only affects the player scoring on 9 holes or more if both score on 9 holes both will get an adjustment – but remember only if the team has scored 42 points or more and the individual adjusted score is 36 points or more. In addition remember from above players on our yellow course will in effect be 2 shots down due to CR-Par so this years 42 points would have been 44 last year. We have all seen the increase in scores since WHS, especially 4BBB, Cr -Par will see them drop a little.

Going forward in 4BBB's players should just record the scoring player (lowest score or first in the hole) and NOT both – this is an issue where we have a 2's club so if you both get a 2 record the best score in the system i.e. 2 for 3 as opposed to 2 for 2 (or first in the hole if they are the same) and record the other 2 on the card which we will have to pick up manually. Makes ringing 2's on the card very important.

Look at the info graphic on GE link above – (or below) the bottom score is the adjustment for Player B who scored on 9 holes Player A only scored on 8 and neither scored on hole 14.

Practical issues will be seen in terms of St Georges Cup/Chanter Bowl / Inv day / Open days etc all players (including visitors) will have to be in the system – this will mean open days / Invitation days we will need players club and CDH upfront. For Club 4BBB' s people will have to play in the order they are booked – so no throwing balls etc on the day to determine pairs – **you will need to book in the order you want to play.**

We will be testing the system in March, so for the 4BBB on 23rd March you will need, when booking on the 14th at 7.10, to think about who you want to play with and book in that order.

Four-Ball Scores

Four-Ball formats are not an 'authorized format of play' in this country, which means these scores do not normally count towards your Handicap Index. HOWEVER, in certain circumstances a player's individual score will be used.

For a score to count the following 3 conditions must be met:

- The player's individual score must count towards the team's score on at least 9 holes
- The team's net score must be at least 6 strokes better than par (or at least 42 points in Stableford)

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Out	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	In	Total	
Par	4	4	4	5	3	5	3	4	4	36	4	3	4	4	5	4	3	5	4	36	72	
Player A (7)				3		2	3	3				3	3	2			3					
Player B (14)	1	3	3		2				4		3					3		3	3			
Team Score	1	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	4	21	3	3	3	2	0	3	3	3	3	26	47	

The player's individual score must be equal to or better than 36 Stableford points as calculated below:

Calculation of Player's Individual Stableford Score

For the holes where the player's score counted towards the team score, they receive those points

Where their score did not count and their partner scored 2 or more points, they receive 1.5 points

If their partner scored only 1 point, they receive only 1 point. If their partner scored 0 points, they receive 0 points

Player A (7)				3		2	3	3				3	3	2	0		3					
Player B (14)	1	3	3		2			X	4		3				X	3		3	3			
Individual Score	1	3	3	1.5	2	1.5	1.5	1.5	4		3	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	3	1.5	3	3		37	
Team Score	1	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	4	21	3	3	3	2	0	3	3	3	3	26	47	

This will produce an individual 18-hole Stableford score, which is rounded down to the nearest whole number. The score is then adjusted for any difference in the Course Handicap and the Playing Handicap for the event:

CH Course Handicap: 17 PH Playing Handicap: 14 CH - PH = 3

Player's Individual score for handicap purposes: 37 + 3 = 40 Points

WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM R&A USGA ROLEX TRADING PARTNER OF THE GAME OF GOLF

Expected Scoring

What it is?

A change in the method used to up-scale 9-hole scores and any holes not played during a round. The new method provides a more accurate reflection of what the player would have scored on those holes (using player equations rather than net par) and should, therefore, result in a more accurate Handicap Index®.

If the hole is not played for a valid reason (due to course maintenance, extreme weather, injury etc) or other invalid reasoning (player walks off), WHS still requires values to calculate a score differential for these holes not played and will use expected scoring method.

How it works?

The calculation of an expected score is automated and is used to attribute a statistical value against any hole or holes not played within an acceptable 9-hole or 18-hole round so that a 9-hole or 18-hole Score Differential can be calculated, subject to other provisions set out within the Rules of Handicapping.

The procedure for calculating a Score Differential using an expected score can be summarised as follows:

1. An expected Score Differential for the hole or holes not played is calculated, based on a given Handicap Index and a course of standard difficulty.
2. A Score Differential for the holes played is calculated using the player's actual scores and the rating value of the holes played.
3. The Score Differential from the holes played is combined with the expected Score Differential to produce either a 9-hole or 18-hole Score Differential.
4. For 9-hole rounds - An 18-hole Score Differential is created by combining the 9-hole Score Differential for the 9 holes played with the player's expected score over 9 holes.

Note – expected scoring is a closed calculation which is generated by computer precision software. So we have no idea how it is calculated practically.

If a player, starts a hole and does not finish, the normal procedure of Nett Double Bogey being applied to the adjusted gross score.

Benefits

- ✓ A more precise calculation for 9-hole up-scaling to an 18-hole score differential ensuring a more reflective and accurate Handicap Index® compared to a player's demonstrated ability.
- ✓ Competitions over a non-standard number of holes can be used for handicap purposes. Any competitions played over 9 or any number of holes over 9 (such as 12 or 14) can be used for handicapping.
- ✓ More scores can be submitted due to the allowance competitions over a non-standard number of holes.

NOTE you still have to have a valid reason to walk off otherwise a penalty score may be applied.

Unrounded Course Handicap

What it is?

A course handicap is the number of shots the golfer receives for the tee set they are going to play. Currently in England, Wales and Ireland this value is calculated to a decimal and then **rounded** for the golfer, which is the value they use when playing golf (both general play and competition golf).

Under the 2024 WHS rules of handicapping update this will remain unchanged, **only** if there is a lack of "machine precision" for calculation purposes.

Where there is an ability to use “machine precision” calculation by using ISV software or My EG app etc. the Course Handicap™ calculation will change to “**unrounded**”. The unrounded value is carried forward to then calculate the Playing Handicap™, the Playing Handicap™ would then be rounded to a whole number.

**Machine Precision – utilising the computer software to ensure the accuracy of the calculations.*

How it works?

Course Handicap™ calculation using unrounded calculation. A male player playing the Yellow Course course from the White tees (C.R. 68.3, SLOPE - 123, Par 70), with a handicap index of 30.0.

Previously would have looked at the chart CH 33 Playing handicap x 95% = 31.35 = 31

New system :-

- ✓ $CH = (H.I. \times (SLOPE/113)) + (C.R.-PAR)$
- ✓ $CH^{TM} = (30.0 \times (123/113)) + (68.3 - 70)$
- ✓ $CH^{TM} = (30.0 \times 1.08849558) + (-1.7)$
- ✓ $CH^{TM} = 32.6548674 - 1.7$
- ✓ $CH^{TM} = 30.9548674$

With a Playing Handicap™ allowance of 95%

- ✓ $Playing\ Handicap^{TM} = 30.9548674 * 0.95$
- ✓ $29.407124 = 29$

The Playing Handicap™ would be 29 (previously 31)

Golf Clubs should be utilising the following:

- ✓ Use of the ISV software for Competition and General play rounds
- ✓ Signpost the golfer to the My EG app for General Play rounds & Course Handicap™ Calculator.

Benefits

- ✓ Exact Playing Handicap™ values are used to calculate a Playing Handicap™ for competitions by the ISV software.
- ✓ Ensures everybody is playing off the most appropriate handicap.
- ✓ As digital enhancements are available there is no mandatory requirement for Course Handicap™ Boards – clubs may choose what is best for them.

Other Points

Some changes have been made to how percentage calculations are made so for example in 4BBB Ko it's still 90%, But in the past we calculated Course Handicap x 90% and then took the difference to low player – Now we calculate CH take the difference to low player and then take 90%

So lets look at a 4BBB KO 4 players with CH of 5/10/15/ and 20

Under current system Player A $5 \times 90\% = 4.5$ PH 5 / Player B $10 \times 90\% = 9$ / Player C $15 \times 90\% = 13.5$
PH 14 / Player D $20 \times 90\% = 18$ Shots A Zero low player/ **B 4/ C 9 and D 13**

So under new rules – same group A CH5 = 0 shots low player/ **B CH 10 gets $5 \times 90\% = 4.5 = 5$ shots/ C**
CH15 gets $10 \times 90\% = 9$ shots/ **D CH20 gets $15 \times 90\% = 13.5 = 14$ shots**