

An Introduction to the World Handicap System

Key Points

- The World Handicap System launches on 2nd November 2020
- Your CONGU handicap will be replaced by a **Handicap Index**. This is the official measure of your golfing ability.
- Every golf course and each set of tees will have a Course and Slope rating depending on their difficulty.
- For Falkirk Tryst the values are as follows:
 - White tees** - Course Rating – 68.5/Slope Rating – 118
 - Yellow tees** - Course Rating – 66.5/Slope Rating – 113
 - Red tees** - Course Rating – 70.8/Slope Rating – 123
- Your Handicap Index is converted to a Course Handicap and a Playing Handicap depending on the difficulty of the course you are playing and the Handicap Allowance for the chosen format of play.
- **You should record your COURSE HANDICAP on your scorecard.**
- **It is really important that you enter your scores into the ClubV1 system directly after your round on the day of play.**
- **Remember HCP**
 - ❖ Know your **H**andicap Index
 - ❖ Find your **C**ourse Handicap via the Scottish Golf app or look-up charts in the clubhouse or close to the 1st tee.
 - ❖ **P**lay your golf & enjoy!

Below are links to the main features of WHS which you may wish to explore further.

1. Maximum Handicap Index – 54

https://www.whs.com/articles/2020/maximum_handicap.html

- Maximum handicap of 54 for both gents and ladies.
- To obtain an initial **Handicap Index** a player will need to play a total of 54 holes (any combination of 9 and 18 hole rounds).
- If you currently have a CONGU handicap, you will automatically be allocated a **Handicap Index**.
- The club committee can set limits to handicaps for certain competitions.

2. Handicap Formula and Calculation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sT6dMV0j4wU>

- **If you currently have a CONGU handicap, you will be awarded a Handicap Index based on the best 8 of your last 20 scores.** Your new handicap will be based on scores going back to the start of 2017. So don't worry if you haven't returned 20 scores this year.
- If you have recorded less than 20 scores since 2017, an adjusted relative average will be taken. For example if you have submitted 12 scores, the best 4 will be used for the calculation.
- Even if your handicap has lapsed, so long as you have returned 3 or more scores since 2017, you will receive a **Handicap Index**.
- Your new **Handicap Index** will not lapse. There will no longer be a requirement to submit 3 scores each year to maintain your handicap.
- Under WHS, there will be no buffer zones.
- Rather than the current handicap increases of + 0.1, your handicap will now change to more closely reflect your demonstrated ability.
- For a score to be acceptable for handicap purposes, you must play a minimum number of holes (10 holes for an 18 hole round and 9 holes for a 9 hole round)
- Players will be able to access their scoring record via the Scottish Golf app and website. You will be able to view your last 22 scores to see which scores will soon be dropping from your record. You will also be able to see your Lowest Handicap Index from the previous 365 days.

3. Acceptable Scores

https://www.whs.com/articles/2020/acceptable_scores.html

- As is the case just now, all medals and counting competitions (9 & 18 holes) will count for handicap purposes.
- Supplementary scores will be replaced with General Play scores.
- **Social golf will remain unchanged.** You do **not** have to submit a score for handicap every time you play.

4. Course rating & Slope rating

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8GvSQKmP6fl>

- You will find these ratings on the top right hand corner of your score card, alongside the Par and SSS number.
- The look up charts will be available in the club or near the 1st tee and can also be viewed via the Scottish Golf app.

5. Playing Handicap

https://www.whs.com/articles/2020/playing_handicap.html

- Your **Handicap Index** is converted to a **Playing Handicap** before you go out on the course.
- Firstly your **Handicap Index** is adjusted by the slope and course rating to give a **Course Handicap**. If you are playing in a competition, a Handicap Allowance will be applied for your chosen format of play.
- **PLAYING HANDICAP = COURSE HANDICAP X HANDICAP ALLOWANCE**
- For singles strokeplay/stableford competitions, this allowance will be 95%.
- The look up charts at the club or the app will provide you with your Course Handicap. **You should record your COURSE HANDICAP on your scorecard.**
- The Club V1 software will factor in the Handicap Allowance.

6. Net Double Bogey

https://www.whs.com/articles/2020/net_double_bogey.html

- The Net Double Bogey Adjustment sets a maximum score on any hole for handicap purposes.
- If the format of play allows, such as Stableford, you should pick up your ball when the maximum score is reached. This will help to speed up play.

7. Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC)

https://www.whs.com/articles/2020/playing_conditions_calculation.html

- Factors such as weather and course set up can change the way a course plays. These factors should not affect the integrity of your Handicap Index
- To ensure they don't, a **Playing Conditions Calculation** is carried out automatically for each course each day. This will replace the Competition Scratch Score (CSS).
- The PCC is run automatically overnight.
- It is really important that you enter your scores into the ClubV1 system as soon as possible on the day of play. This ensures all acceptable scores are included in the calculation.

8. Daily Revisions



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https://www.whs.com/articles/2020/daily_revisions.html

- You must sign in for the competition or medal to show your intention to play. After the round, update your score into the system as normal.
- If you want to record a General Play Score, please ensure you have signed in at the Professional shop and your score has been entered into the system at the end of the round. This can be done either by using the score entry terminal in the bar, asking the Professional shop to enter your score, or by using the ClubV1 app.
- Your updated Handicap Index will be available for you to view daily by logging into your Scottish Golf account or via the app.

9. Handicap decreases – Exceptional Score Reduction

https://www.whs.com/articles/2020/exceptional_scores.html

- If a player submits a score at least 7 strokes below their Handicap Index, this is classed as an Exceptional Score and merits an additional adjustment of -1 to the updated Handicap Index. An adjustment of -2 will be made if the score is -10 strokes or more below.
- If it is felt that the decrease is excessive, the Handicap Committee can review it and amend if deemed appropriate.

10. Handicap increases – Low Handicap Index and Cap

https://www.whs.com/articles/2020/soft_and_hard_cap.html

- There are automatic caps in the handicap formula to ensure your Handicap Index won't rise too quickly due to a short run of poor form.
- Your Lowest Handicap Index within the 12 months prior to your last score acts as a baseline.
- A Soft Cap will apply if your new Handicap Index calculates at more than 3 strokes above your Lowest Handicap Index.
- As a second safeguard a Hard Cap is applied. This limits any upward movement in your Handicap Index to a maximum of 5 strokes above your Lowest Handicap Index.

11. Handicap Review

https://www.whs.com/articles/2020/handicap_review.html



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- Handicap Committees will review the Handicap Index for all their home club members at least once a year.
- Please contact the Handicap Committees should you have any questions or concerns about your Handicap Index

12. No score submitted

https://www.whs.com/articles/2020/no_score_submitted.html

- Prompt submission of scores is required to ensure the integrity of your Handicap Index.
- The Handicap Committee have the option to apply a penalty should a player repeatedly fail to return their scores.

References

<https://www.whs.com/>

<https://scottishgolf.org/handicapping-homepage/world-handicap-system/>

<https://www.randa.org/en/worldhandicapsystem>