

World Handicap System (WHS)

The idea for a new, unified system was conceived by the USGA and The R&A and developed following an extensive review of systems administered by six existing handicapping authorities – Golf Australia, the Council of National Golf Unions (CONGU) in Great Britain and Ireland, the European Golf Association (EGA), the South African Golf Association (SAGA), the Argentine Golf Association (AAG) and the United States Golf Association (USGA).

- The World Handicap System launched in Canada January 8th, 2020 and Features the following:
 - Flexibility in formats of play, allowing both competitive and recreational rounds to count for handicap purposes and ensuring a golfer's handicap is more reflective of potential ability.
 - A minimal number of scores needed to obtain a new handicap. The number of scores needed to establish a Handicap Index is 54 holes from any combination of 18-hole and 9-hole rounds.
 - A consistent handicap that is portable from tee to tee, course to course and country to country through worldwide use of the World Handicap System.
 - An average-based calculation of a handicap, taken from the best eight out of the last 20 Score Differentials and factoring in memory of previous demonstrated ability for better responsiveness and control.
 - A Low Handicap Index that represents the demonstrated ability of a player over the past 365 days and is re-evaluated every time a new score is submitted
 - Limits on upward movement of a handicap index. Every time your handicap index is updated, the new value is compared to your Low Handicap Index from the past year and: If a **3.0 stroke** increase takes place, a **soft cap** will slow additional upward movement by **50%**. If a **5.0 stroke** increase takes place, a **hard cap** will prevent any additional upward movement. The Handicap committee can override the cap for circumstances such as injury.
 - A PCC (Playing Conditions Calculation) that considers the impact that playing conditions (including course set up and weather conditions) might have on a player's performance each day.
 - Daily handicap revisions, taking account of the course and weather conditions calculation.
 - A limit of Net Double Bogey on the maximum hole score (for handicapping purposes only). Net Double Bogey will replace the existing Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) procedure for determining the maximum hole score.

- If a score produces a differential that is 7.0 strokes better than your handicap index at the time the round is played, it is subject to an exceptional score reduction. If the score differential is between 7.0 and 9.9 better, your handicap index will be reduced by **1.0 stroke**, If the score differential is 10.0 or more strokes better, your handicap will be reduced by **2.0 strokes**
- A maximum Handicap Index of 54.0, regardless of gender, to encourage more golfers to measure and track their performance to increase their enjoyment of the game.

This feedback has helped shape the WHS, which has been developed by the USGA and The R&A with support from each handicapping authority as well as the Japan Golf Association and Golf Canada.

Highlights of the World Handicap System

These are some of the key features of the new system, supporting enjoyment of the game for golfers everywhere.

