



WHS - St Helens Bay Golf Club

What are the key changes?

- You will have a “Handicap Index” (HI) instead of an exact handicap
- Your Handicap Index will be an average of the best 8 of your last 20 rounds. The system will go back to 1st Jan 2018. (if you don't have 20 rounds don't worry the computer will adjust for this).
- 0.1 increases, CSS, “reduction only”, handicap categories, and buffer zones no longer exist
- Handicap Index is valid worldwide
- General play scores may be designated to count towards Handicap index calculation

What is staying the same?

- Playing by the rules of golf
- Pre-registration of intent to return a score
- Recording of score following round
- Designation of home club to maintain handicap
- 54 holes to get initial handicap
- Max handicap 54 (both genders)
- Max hole score net double bogey for handicap purposes
- Exceptional scores
- Safeguards to prevent handicap rising too quickly
- Annual review
- Qualifying rounds for handicap purposes can not take place when dropping or placing in the rough (winter rules) are not permitted.
- 9 or 18 hole rounds can qualify for handicap purposes

Key Terminology

1. Handicap Index
2. Course Handicap
3. Playing Handicap

1. Handicap Index

“The measure of a player’s demonstrated ability calculated against the Slope Rating of a golf course of standard playing difficulty”

What this means is that your handicap index is now your base handicap. Your playing handicap on any given course off any given set of tees will be different depending on the difficulty of that course but your handicap index is your base handicap from which your playing handicap will be calculated.

The calculation of a handicap index takes into account the difficulty of the course you play so that handicap indices are **directly comparable across clubs**. A player with an 18.0 handicap in St Helen’s is the exact same standard of player as a 18.0 in Bunclody or in Mt Juliet or on the hardest courses in the world... like Bethpage Black!

Handicaps for teams, championships etc will be based on your handicap index.

2./3. Course & Playing Handicap

Your **Course Handicap** will be different from your Handicap index and the extent of that difference will be determined by the golf course you are playing and the set of tees you choose to play from.

The conversion of handicap index to course handicap is **easy** and can be done by using a lookup-table located near the first tee, our club software or a mobile app.

You will not need to do any math or calculations yourself!

Lastly, your **Playing Handicap** is dependent on the format of play. For example, when playing a fourball betterball, you will be allowed 90% of your course handicap, when playing foursomes you will be allowed 50% of the combined course handicaps and when playing singles you will be allowed 95% of your course handicap.

What will happen to my existing playing history when WHS comes into effect?	The scores you currently have in your record will be transferred to the WHS system and used to calculate your new WHS Handicap Index.
How long do my 20 scores last on the new system?	The last 20 Scores will remain on your record until they are replaced, one by one, by later scores. To maintain an accurate handicap it is recommended that players should return at least 20 scores over a 2 year period.
I have just been given a handicap, I don't have 20 scores yet. What happens?	After you have been given a Handicap Index, each time you add a new score it will be recalculated (using a formula) until you have returned 20 scores when you will have a Fully Developed Handicap Index.
Do I have to submit every score for every round I play?	No - you will have to submit all singles competition scores and will have the choice to submit social/recreational scores including those from society, association and alliances. All scores must be pre-registered.
Where will I find my new Handicap Index?	There will be a link on the new Golf Ireland website where you can find your latest calculated Index by entering your CDH number or by using the Golf Ireland App
Should scores should be entered as soon as possible?	Scores from a singles competition and/or pre-registered social/recreational scores should be entered as soon as possible after the conclusion of play on that day.

Key FAQ's (Part 1)

<p>How do I register and return away scores?</p>	<p>Through the sign-in system at the club you are visiting, you will be able to register before play and submit your score on return to the clubhouse or by using the Golf Ireland App. If you have registered your Intention to Play but not submitted your score you must return the properly completed scorecard to your Home Club for inclusion on your handicap record.</p>
<p>How do the playing conditions affect the score?</p>	<p>The system includes a playing conditions adjustment, known as a Playing Conditions Calculation or “PCC”. This looks at how all players have performed compared to expected performances on that golf course for that day. The calculation takes place at the end of each day’s play.</p>
<p>Will there be an Exceptional Score Reduction?</p>	<p>Yes - if a score is returned between 7 and 9.9 strokes lower than the players Handicap Index an additional reduction of -1 is added. If the score is 10 or more lower there will be a reduction of -2</p>
<p>Can my handicap lapse?</p>	<p>No - as long as you retain membership of an affiliated golf club, designated to manage and maintain your handicap, your handicap will remain active.</p>

Key FAQ’s (Part 2)

2. Slope Rating

Slope Rating: “The relative difficulty of a course for bogey players compared to scratch players”

A high course rating does **not** indicate a difficult course. The **course rating** indicates course difficulty

The Higher the slope rating the greater the difference expected between the scores of scratch and bogey golfers

Some holes and courses are relatively harder for a bogey player than a scratch player. The best way to understand the Slope rating is to think of a few examples.

Take the 15th hole

Where will I find my Course Handicap?

Located near the first tee will be a "Handicap Calculation Conversion Table" that is used by players to look up their Course Handicap on the day

Where do I find the Slope Rating for a course?

The Course and Slope Ratings for all tee sets on their course(s) will be displayed at the club. It will also be available when registering on the computer to return a score.

Key FAQ's (Part 3)

Get out and
play!!

That is pretty much all you need to know to go out and enjoy your golf.

The new system is a change but it is **easy** and after a short period we will all be used to it

The committee believe that the system will be an improvement on the current system in that it will be more inclusive, more transparent and provided a fairer reflection of a players current playing ability,

The most important thing to do is to record as many scores as possible. That way your handicap index will be more reflective of your current playing ability.

You don't need to know or understand how handicaps are calculated under the new system. The computer will do all that for you. If you are interested however, keep reading. If not just go out, play as much as possible, and be assured that all the relevant calculations are taking place behind the scenes

Just remember to play lots and record your scores **as soon as possible after your round.**