



WHS reactivation queries from your members

Information on the
handicap calculations in
the new WHS platform

We are aware that now the website is live, some players may find discrepancies in their handicap index between the two platforms. Players may get in contact with their club to understand why. So that you have all the information you need to help your members understand, the reasons are outlined below:

Some scores from pre 2020 (launch of WHS) may not have been included. The reason is that these scores are from before the launch of WHS and we do not have the course information from these rounds. You will see on a player's record, these scores are displayed with the *competition name* instead of the *course name*. This is because we used a special transition calculator to transition from CONGU UHS to WHS in 2020. As these scores are extremely old scores, a player's freshly-calculated handicap index is now a truer reflection of their

demonstrated ability, which is how WHS has been designed.

Changes to a club's course/slope ratings over the last 2 years: if your club's ratings have changed, all scores will have been calculated using the most recent ratings. This will ensure that a player's handicap index is reflective of the current course and will take into account the recent changes to the WHS course rating calculations which now include lateral/crossing obstacle values.

Our new provider has not included any manual handicap adjustments applied by a golf club. This is currently being reviewed.

A change in the low handicap index calculation: our previous provider was not adjusting the LHI based on rolling 12-month period as per the rules of WHS. Now that this is happening a player's low cap/hard cap will have adjusted correctly and any changes to the handicap index because of this will have resulted in a more accurate handicap index.

A change to rounding principles: our previous provider used machine precision for all rounding which resulted in the score differentials being stored to up to 13 decimal places to calculate the WHS index. Our new provider uses score differentials rounded to one decimal place.

The testing we have done shows that even with the above considerations, the handicap index changes are mostly within a discrepancy limit of 0.5. However, some may be larger, and the club can decide to make an adjustment on these.

NB: You may notice players with a large number of 9-hole scores are more likely to be impacted by the change, as the handicap index has a much bigger influence in 9-hole scores than 18-hole scores due to the scaling up.

Before you make any changes it's important to remember that the design of WHS is that the player's handicap index reflects their demonstrated ability based on the scores that they have posted (the most recent the scores, the more accurate their demonstrated ability will be).

Under WHS a handicap index will change quickly based on the scores submitted so we would recommend not making any adjustments but rather encourage to your golfers to submit scores more often.

It is also important to remember that the handicap index still needs to be converted into a 'course and playing' handicap, so small changes in a handicap index will result in little or no change to the course and playing handicap.

Important note

Please do not make any adjustments until Scottish Golf have confirmed that this is ok as our new provider may be making some changes over the next 2 weeks before our app launches.



Email the Handicapping team