



Welcome to the first in a series of specific newsletters from Scottish Golf about the new World Handicap System (WHS). These weekly updates will give Clubs updates on the latest news, information and developments about the implementation of WHS in Scotland and while at points, they may be repetitive, they will provide clubs with essential updates on what needs to be done to ensure a smooth transition to WHS.

As outlined previously, from 2nd November 2020, the way handicaps are administered in Scotland, England, Ireland and Wales will change. This is part of the new WHS being rolled out internationally by The R&A and USGA.

WHS will bring the six different handicap systems that are currently in operation around the world together into a single set of Rules for Handicapping, enabling golfers of all abilities to play and compete on a fair and equal basis, no matter how or where they play.

With the date of implementation nearing ever closer, we require clubs to update their club data and educate both their match & handicap volunteers as well as their club members.



Our [WHS readiness document](#) was issued to all affiliated clubs in early August. As part of this process, clubs must ensure all members' handicap data on the CDH is correct and accurate. Clubs must also check that their venue information is up to date.

To access our WHS Readiness Document with more information on how to complete this process, please click [here](#).



Scottish Golf will be using handicap records on the CDH to calculate a golfer's initial WHS Handicap Index. Therefore, clubs must take time to cleanse the data in their CDH record.

This exercise is an important step in preparing for WHS and is in place to follow the steps in our [Readiness Guide](#) to ensure all golfers who currently have a handicap, receive a Handicap Index when we move to WHS.

If a golfer does not have a CDH number and their record has not been uploaded to the CDH, they will not receive a WHS Handicap Index.

Unfortunately, we have been made aware that some Independent Software Vendors (ISVs) allow a handicap to be awarded without issuing a CDH number. While this should not be allowed, it is up to clubs using those platforms to ensure a CDH number has been awarded appropriately.

Clubs also need to ensure their club records match what is on the CDH. Since the start of the process, we have seen clubs whose CDH records have been out by over 800 playing records, this is because the clubs/ISVs have not been following the correct process for resigning players from the CDH. We would encourage all clubs to check with their ISV on the correct method for resigning a CDH number/handicap record from your club software, so they are no longer synced to the CDH. If this is not done correctly, this will cause additional CDH numbers to be created and handicap records to be lost.

While we have made good progress since encouraging clubs to cleanse their CDH record, we still have some issues with conflicted golfers. At present, there are still 1,095 conflicted golfers on the CDH.

This happens when a club does not release a golfer before their new club tries to claim the CDH number for their records and we would ask that clubs please ensure you are doing this correctly.

Should you require any support on cleansing your CDH data, please email handicapping@scottishgolf.org



Clubs need to continue to update their course information on the Venue Tab of the platform. By providing us with the most up to date contact information and course information, this will ensure we have the correct data ready for the implementation of WHS.

When carrying out this process, golf clubs must set up both their 18-hole and 9-hole course cards as per the instructions in our [WHS Readiness Document](#). By doing this, it will allow players to submit a card over 9 holes. Please note that this will have been given an automatic course and slope rating for WHS.

It is important that all 18-hole courses that a club plays over are also set up on the system with front nine and back nine course cards, even if the club has not used these previously for submitting scores or playing competitions over. Any composite 9-hole course cards must also be uploaded.

We would like to thank all the clubs who have already gone through this process. However, we still have 123 affiliated clubs who have not yet provided this information. To ensure your club is ready for WHS, this process must be completed as soon as possible.

As a reminder, you can access our WHS Readiness Document with a step-by-step guide on how to update your Venue Information [here](#).



Under WHS, all handicap calculations will be done centrally by Scottish Golf. This means that ISVs will no longer be licensed to calculate or administer any handicaps.

Affiliated golf clubs need to use an approved WHS provider to be able to upload scores and request information from the WHS platform. To become an approved WHS provider, an ISV must have signed up to the WHS agreement in Scotland.

So far, the ISVs who have signed up to the WHS agreement are:

- Golf Genius
- Handicap Master
- Nexxchange
- GolfBox

This means that along with the Scottish Golf Venue Management System, clubs currently have 5 systems to choose from. We welcome any other ISVs who would like to become WHS approved to get in touch. As this list grows, we will ensure golf clubs are aware of any additions.

If your golf club decides to continue using an ISV who is not approved under WHS to run your competitions then the club or the golfer will need to dual input these scores into the WHS platform in order to have their new Handicap Index calculated. This would apply to both competition and general play scores.



Club and golfer education are vital as we implement WHS in Scotland. We have the biggest change to implement and the biggest challenge to overcome in supporting our 575 golf clubs and educating 180,000 golf club members.

Club Education

As part of preparing all of our affiliated clubs for the transition, Scottish Golf has launched a specific WHS area on our new Hive learning platform.

Hive allows club officials to access a breadth of information on WHS including an overview, key features, rules and club resources. Hive will also enable you to connect with fellow clubs to exchange best practice, tips, insights and ideas. Members of the Scottish Golf team will also be on hand to answer queries you may have regarding WHS.

To access Hive, the individual responsible for Handicapping at your club will need to register. To do so, please click [here](#).

All Scottish Golf clubs should now have received a variety of materials to support the transition to WHS. These will include:

- A full copy of the Rules of Handicapping.
- Two copies of a "What's Changed" poster.
- 25 versions of our new "Players' Guide".
- A display stand for these guides.

Member education

Once you have received these resources, we would encourage you to follow some of the helpful hints below to make golfers at your club aware of the changes coming:

- Setting up the Players' Guides in a prominent position at your club.
- Communicating information to members via the club's social media, website and newsletters.
- Printing off posters and content from Hive and displaying in prominent areas.
- Sending on relevant content from Hive to your membership.

Scottish Golf will also be carrying out a player engagement campaign in the lead up to 2nd November, this will help educate golfers across the country.

More information on this campaign will be shared with all clubs as well as on our [website](#) and through the news feed in the [Scottish Golf App](#).
