



## Section 3

### Competition & General Play

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**Q: What formats of play are defined as acceptable for Handicap purposes?**

A: Competition or social scores from Medal, Stableford, Par/Bogey and Max Score – as a single golfer. Team and pairs formats are currently not acceptable. If other formats are played outside GB&I and are acceptable in the jurisdiction in which they were played, then they will also be acceptable for your handicap record.

Please note: additional playing history from other formats/events may be used during annual reviews by the Handicap Committee.

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**Q: What do I need to do when I arrive to play golf?**

A: Register/sign in as normal. Utilise the resources available to determine your Course Handicap for the set of tees being used. Check the Handicap allowance according to the terms of competition or format of play (i.e. full handicap, percentage of handicap) and calculate your Playing Handicap for that event. Once play is complete, return your score for processing in the system.

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**Q: Do I have to record all scores?**

A: Players should submit all singles competition scores and have the ability to pre-register and submit scores from social games played in accordance with the rules of golf. Accuracy of a player's Handicap Index will be improved the greater the number of scorecards submitted.

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**Q: What happens if I do not complete my round?**

A: If you are playing a nine-hole round – then all 9 holes must be played for the score to be included in your record. If playing an 18-hole round you must complete at least 10 holes for the score to be returned. Any holes not played will be allocated a net par or net par plus one, before the score is processed.

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**Q: For multi-round events such as a club championship, would a player use their initial Handicap Index for each round?**

A: It is recommended that the Handicap Index at the start of the competition is used for each round of the event. This must be stated in the terms of competition. The final decision rests with the committee.

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**Q: Will buffer zones still exist?**

A: No - buffer zones will not be part of the World Handicap System.

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**Q: Can players still N/R and gain a 0.1 increase?**

A: There are no 0.1 increases under WHS. A hole that is started but not completed will be recorded as a net double bogey. Any holes not played will be allocated as a net par. The adjusted score is added to the player's record.



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**Q: Can we continue to use Winter Handicaps outside our playing season?**

A: No. From 2 November 2020 WHS will be the Handicap Index used by all golfers at all times.

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**Q: Our club only offer qualifying events during the summer months. Will this still apply?**

A: After the introduction of WHS, clubs may still have a recognised playing season. However, as long as the course is playing to its measured length and the rules of golf are followed, players will be able to return scores throughout the year from authorised formats.

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**Q: When playing other courses can I submit a score card to my home club?**

A: Yes – you can record all pre-registered scores that follow the rules of golf and are authorised formats of play.

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**Q: How can my work/pub golf society access and use the WHS calculations?**

A: In short, they can't. WHS Handicap Indexes will only be available to affiliated golf club members. However, if an individual playing in a society outing is also a member of a golf club that person can pre-register with his club an intent to hand in a card from an event played according to the rules of golf.

To find out more on the World Handicap System visit:

**[englandgolf.org/whs](http://englandgolf.org/whs)**



**WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM**

