



Definitions & FAQs

World Handicap System (WHS)

The WHS Rules of Handicapping (RoH) come into effect during 2020 and the Cyprus Golf Federation has decided to adopt the WHS and RoH on 1 February 2020.

Here we will use Questions and Answers to explain the basics of WHS, if you have not already viewed them educational videos can be seen on the CGF and club website. We do not attempt to go into all the mechanics of the calculations WHS employs.

You will come across new terms and some of them are abbreviated below, be aware that the full definitions of these terms are contained in the Rules of Handicapping.

Definitions

- Handicap Index (*HI*) – the new term for your golf handicap.
- Low Handicap Index (*LHI*) – the lowest *HI* achieved by a player during the 365 days preceding the day on which the most recent score on their scoring record was played.
- Score Differential – simply the handicap you played on your last round of golf.
- Soft Cap – a cap which suppresses upward movement of a players *HI*.
- Hard Cap – a cap which prevents further upward movement of a players *HI*.
- Playing Conditions Calculation (*PCC*) -this is the term to replace the old CBA, it does not change the way the calculation is made.
- Exceptional Score – a score differential at least 7 strokes better than your current *HI*.
- Fully developed record – your record once you have a history of 20 or more scores. Some calculations require a fully developed record before making adjustments. The more you play and enter scores the more current your *HI* will be.
- Maximum Handicap Index – this is set at 54 for all age and gender profiles.
- MyCGF – web portal to your playing records and a tool for entering casual round scores.

FAQs

Q. What does that mean to my handicap on 1 Feb 2020?

Your EGA handicap will automatically be converted into a WHS *HI* by the DataGolf handicap software. You might get a reduction and you might get an increase.

Q. How will it do that?

It will use the average of the best 8 *score differentials* from your last 20 scores no matter how old those scores are. If you do not have 20 acceptable scores on your record, then a sliding scale makes that calculation. As an example, if you only have 16 *scores differentials* within your playing history then it will be based upon the average of the lowest 5, if you only have 7 then it is based upon the average of the lowest 2.

The CGF handicap software retains a full history of your scores and once you have 20 acceptable scores on record your handicap is considered *fully developed*, as and when you submit a new score the oldest score is discarded from the best 8 from 20 calculation. This keeps your record as current and up to date as possible.

Q. What is my Low Handicap Index?

This represents the lowest *HI* you played to in the preceding 365 days and is used to compare against your current *HI*.

Q. How are new handicaps calculated?

Only one score will be required to gain a *HI* and this can be from a 9 or 18 hole round. A new player will no longer be required to submit 3 cards for an Initial handicap to be awarded.

Q. When will handicaps be updated?

Across the world, *HI* updating will take place every day after midnight local time and before play commences the day after a round is played.



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Q. Can I still submit Extra Day Scores?

These are now called casual rounds and there is no limit on how many you can submit over the year. Subject to other provisions set out within the Rules of Handicapping, an acceptable score from an authorized format of play within a player's home jurisdiction must be submitted for handicap purposes.

All players have the ability to submit their own scores using MyCGF portal.

Q. So what is MyCGF?

This is a secure web portal to your playing records and personal data. Your member profile with the club MUST have a working email address or you will not be able to use MyCGF. Please ensure you check with your club's DataGolf Administrator that your personal record on DataGolf is up to date. CGF will be releasing user instructions for MyCGF in the near future.

Q. How do the soft and hard caps work?

The calculation of your best 8 from 20 scores produces a new *HI* each time you record a new score. The software (caps calculation) looks at the new *HI* and compares it to your *LHI* over the last 365 days. If the new *HI* is greater than 3 strokes it is restricted to 50% of the increase above 3. If after applying the soft cap the change is more than 5 strokes your new *HI* will be capped at a maximum of 5 strokes. That calculation will then be your new *HI*.

Q. What happens if I have an exceptional score, can the committee further adjust my *HI*?

An exceptional score is a score better than 7 or more strokes lower than the *HI* used for that round. An exceptional score reduction of -1 stroke is applied. If you score 10 or more strokes better, an exceptional score reduction of -2 strokes is made.

Q. Can a committee still carry out General Play cuts?

Yes, the committee can still review and manually adjust your *HI*.

Q. What happens if I submit a No return?

If the committee believes the reason is valid under RoH Rule 7.1b (i) then the score *may* be acceptable for handicap. If the reason is NOT valid under RoH Rule 7.1b (ii) it has a range of options open to it which can involve adjusting the score by adding a penalty and including it in your record. The final decision lies with the committee.

Q. Have the handicap categories 1 to 6 been changed?

Handicap categories are no longer a part of the handicap system.

Q. Why doesn't the new system increase handicaps by 0.1 if I do not make my buffer zone?

Any new *HI* is based on the best 8 from 20 calculation so you no longer receive an increase of 0.1 to your handicap, as there are no longer any buffer zones.