A "HWM Idiot's Guide" to the World Handicap System (WHS)

The World Handicap System (WHS) was launched in England on 2nd November 2020. The notes below set out the main points.

You will have a "**Handicap Index**" which will take into account your previous playing record. This will be the best 8 from your most recent 20 scores but a lower number can be used if you don't have 20. New members without a "**Handicap Index**" will need to submit scores covering a minimum of 54 holes (3 x 18 holes, 6 x 9 holes or a combination of both) All played under the normal rules of golf.

When you play, your "**Handicap Index**" is firstly converted to your "**Course Handicap**" (to reflect course difficulty) and then to your **Playing Handicap** (to reflect the specific golf format being played).

Course Handicap takes into account the different levels of difficulty of different courses and tees. Each club, including Windlesham, will have tables (see example below) showing the conversion to your "**Course Handicap**".

WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM R&A USGA

COURSE HANDICAP™ TABLE

Windlesham Golf Club

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Course Rating 70.2 | Men's Silver (from 15 Apr 2025) | Par 72 | Slope 122

Handicap Index®	Course Handicap™	Handicap Index®	Course Handicap™
+5.0 to +4.4	+7	26.3 to 27.1	27
+4.3 to +3.5	+6	27.2 to 28.0	28
+3.4 to +2.6	+5	28.1 to 28.9	29
+2.5 to +1.6	+4	29.0 to 29.9	30
+1.5 to +0.7	+3	30.0 to 30.8	31
+0.6 to 0.2	+2	30.9 to 31.7	32
0.3 to 1.2	+1	31.8 to 32.6	33
1.3 to 2.1	0	32.7 to 33.6	34
2.2 to 3.0	1	33.7 to 34.5	35
3.1 to 3.9	2	34.6 to 35.4	36
4.0 to 4.9	3	35.5 to 36.4	37
5.0 to 5.8	4	36.5 to 37.3	38
5.9 to 6.7	5	37.4 to 38.2	39
6.8 to 7.6	6	38.3 to 39.1	40
7.7 to 8.6	7	39.2 to 40.1	41
8.7 to 9.5	8	40.2 to 41.0	42
9.6 to 10.4	9	41.1 to 41.9	43
10.5 to 11.3	10	42.0 to 42.8	44
11.4 to 12.3	11	42.9 to 43.8	45
12.4 to 13.2	12	43.9 to 44.7	46
13.3 to 14.1	13	44.8 to 45.6	47
14.2 to 15.0	14	45.7 to 46.5	48
15.1 to 16.0	15	46.6 to 47.5	49
16.1 to 16.9	16	47.6 to 48.4	50
17.0 to 17.8	17	48.5 to 49.3	51
17.9 to 18.8	18	49.4 to 50.2	52
18.9 to 19.7	19	50.3 to 51.2	53
19.8 to 20.6	20	51.3 to 52.1	54
20.7 to 21.5	21	52.2 to 53.0	55
21.6 to 22.5	22	53.1 to 53.9	56
22.6 to 23.4	23	54.0 to 54.0	57
23.5 to 24.3	24		
24.4 to 25.2	25		
25.3 to 26.2	26		

INSTRUCTIONS

Find the range containing your Handicap Index® in the left column.
Play with the Course Handicap™ in the right column which correspond with that range.
Please make sure the tees you are playing correspond with the tees this table applies to.

In cases of difficulty, Proshop staff will be happy to help.

Finally, "**Course Handicap**" will be converted to your "**Playing Handicap**" by applying a "**Handicap Allowance**" (See example below) which depends upon the golf format you are playing e.g. medal, stableford, match play etc. This is the actual number of strokes you receive for the round being played. Each format has its own "**Handicap Allowance**", which is a percentage of your "**Course Handicap**".

ENGLAND GOLF

PLAYING HANDICAP: MANDATORY ALLOWANCES TABLE

FORMAT OF PLAY	TYPE OF ROUND	MANDATORY HANDICAP ALLOWANCE
STROKEPLAY	Individual	95%
	Individual Stableford	95%
	Individual Par/Bogey	95%
	Individual Maximum Score	95%
	Fourball	85%
	Fourball Stableford	85%
	Fourball Par/Bogey	90%
MATCHPLAY	Individual	100%
	Fourball	90%
STROKEPLAY	Foursomes	50% of combined team handicap
	Greensomes	60% low handicap + 40% high handicap
	Pinehurst/Chapman	60% low handicap + 40% high handicap
	Best 1 of 4 Stroke Play	75%
	Best 2 of 4 Stroke Play	85%
	Best 3 of 4 Stroke Play	100%
	All 4 of 4 Stroke Play	100%
	Scramble (4 players)	"25%/20%/15%/10% from lowest to highest handicap"
	Scramble (2 players)	35% low/15% high
	Total score of 2 match play	100%
	Best 1 of 4 Par/Bogey	75%
	Best 2 of 4 Par/Bogey	80%
	Best 3 of 4 Par/Bogey	90%
	4 of 4 Par/Bogey	100%

You will be advised before each Highwaymen's competition what your "**Handicap Allowance**" will be. However, you do not need to apply this Allowance on your scorecard for the vast majority of HWM competitions (but can if you so wish), recording your gross score per hole will generally suffice. GolfGenius will apply your WHS Playing Handicap and calculate your scores. The particular competition notes will advise.

You do not need to submit a card every time you play golf. The official recommendation is that you submit a card each time you play an individual round, or similar, using the rules of golf and of handicapping. There is, as yet, no minimum number of scores you must submit but Clubs may apply their own requirements.

This is meant to be a very simplified note of the main aspects of the WHS. The detailed Rules can be found at https://www.englandgolf.org/world-handicap-system/.