

WORLD HANDICAPPING SYSTEM (WHS)

As you will all know by now a new handicapping system is being launched on 2nd November 2020. Under normal circumstances I would have been able to give “teach-ins” to groups of ladies to advise them as to how the new system will work, not only at Blankney but in the county as well. 2020 has not been a normal year so I have decided to put some main points down on paper which will, hopefully, give you all some idea of how the system will work. There are also some different expressions/names that I will try to highlight with this resumé.

Your handicap will become your **Handicap Index** (HI) and it is possible that you may receive notification of your projected HI this week. This may differ from your present handicap as it will be the average of your best 8 scores (the formal term for this is *Score Differential*) taken from your last 20 qualifying scores. If you have fewer than 20 qualifying scores then a table is used to determine how your Handicap Index is calculated. The Handicap Index is likely to be a number to one decimal point and is the number you use to look-up your **Course Handicap** (even at Blankney). This is also the number you put on your card in the handicap box.

Before playing it will be necessary for you to know what your Course Handicap is. Clubs will have a board or table that players should use to find their (see table below) Course Handicap prior to playing a round of golf. Your Course Handicap will be a whole integer (ie with no decimal points), this is called the **Rounded Course Handicap**

Just to explain how the Course Handicap is arrived at, all courses have what is known as a **Slope Rating** and this is used in the calculation of the Course Handicap as follows: -

$$\text{Handicap Index} \times (\text{Slope Rating} \div 113) = \text{Course Handicap}$$

The Slope Rating for Blankney, off the Red tees is 123. England, Wales and Ireland will be using the **Rounded Course Handicap**, whilst Scotland will be using the full calculated Course Handicap.

The CSS is to be replaced with the **Playing Conditions Calculation** (PCC). The calculation considers scores from qualifying competitions (**acceptable scores**) submitted on a golf course each day and requires scores from at least 8 players (eight **acceptable scores**) to determine if an adjustment is required. For instance if the Ladies were running an **acceptable scores** competition on the same day as the men, all scores from players with a Handicap Index of 36.0 and below would be put into the calculation.

In a non-Covid 19 world all **acceptable scores** should be entered into the system on the day that they are played (usually via the screen in the clubhouse), the relevant scores are then calculated and new Handicap Index's are issued. This will all happen overnight, is not dependant on competitions being closed and if you are on Howdidido or have the England Golf App (launch expected soon) you will be notified if your Handicap Index has changed.

Most competitions, particularly during the summer months, will be played using a **Handicap Allowance** which will be used to calculate your **Playing Handicap**. For single stroke play

competitions the Handicap Allowance will be 95%. The GUIDANCE ON THE WHS RULES OF HANDICAPPING AS APPLIED WITHIN GB&I Version 1.1, 09/10/2020 states:

“The WHS Handicap Index calculation, by design, provides equity for singles match play. The 95% allowance is needed to provide equity for singles stroke play, as this must also take into account the probability of a steady golfer gaining a leader board position. ”

The National Associations within CONGU® have determined that allowances set out in the table in Appendix C are **mandatory**.

The table below shows the Handicap Allowance that must be applied to the various formats of play: -

Format of Play	Type of Round	Recommended <i>Handicap Allowance</i>
Stroke play	Individual	95%
	Individual Stableford	95%
	Individual Par/Bogey	95%
	Individual Maximum Score	95%
	Four-Ball	85%
	Four-Ball Stableford	85%
	Four-Ball Par/Bogey	90%
Match Play	Individual	100%
	Four-Ball	90%
Other	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%

From 02 Nov 2020 Supplementary Scores will be referred to as **General Play** scores. It states in the rules that you must declare an intention to submit a General Play score prior to playing and in an ideal world this will be done in the clubhouse and scores then posted onto the system via the screen on completion of play. We are not able to do this at present so I will arrange for a sign-up sheet to be placed in the entrance to the locker room and on completion of your round, ask you to forward your scores to me via phone please.

Blankney GC, Ladies Section
Effective from 02 Nov 2020 V1

You may have heard such phrases as “soft cap” and “hard cap”. These are expressions of limits that will be in place to prevent extreme fluctuations of the player’s Handicap Index following a really good (or bad) score.

As we all get used to the new system I expect there will be a number of queries and questions (even misunderstandings) but this is the system that we will be handicapped under and I hope I have helped in some way for you to understand a little of what will be.

If any of you do have any queries please do not be afraid to get in touch. My email address is terry.macarthy@mypostoffice.co.uk and my telephone numbers are 01507 523122 or 07979 538812. More information can be obtained on the England Golf website.

Terry Macarthy
Handicap Secretary

2 October 2020.