

World Handicap System – 7 Rules

- covers the fundamentals,
- determining appropriate scores to post,
- handicap calculation, and
- administration.
- Rules of Handicapping simulates the Rules of Golf.

Highlighting the New

Rule 1 – Purpose; Obtaining a handicap index

1.4b — designating a home club.

Criteria based on one or more of the following:

- Proximity to primary residence,
- Frequency of play, and/or
- The golf club where a player submits most of his/her acceptable scores.

Rule 2 – Scores acceptable for handicap purposes

2.2a — Minimum number of holes played for score to be acceptable:

18-hole score: minimum of 14 holes played

9-hole score: no change; minimum of 7 holes played

Rule 3 – Adjustment of hole scores

3.1 — Maximum hole score for handicap purposes

3.1a — Before a handicap index has been established, maximum number for each hole is par + 5 strokes

3.1b — After a handicap index has been established, maximum number is net double bogey; par of hole + strokes + any handicap strokes. No limit to number of holes

eg: Par 4 with 1 handicap stroke: $4 + 2$ (net double bogey) $+ 1 = 7$

3.3 — When a hole is started but player does not hole out.

Post a most likely score — number of strokes already taken, + any penalty strokes, + stroke/strokes depending on position of ball. Cannot exceed net double bogey. No limit of number of holes.



No more than 5 feet from hole — add 1 additional stroke

Between 5 feet and 20 yards from hole — add 2 or 3 additional strokes.

Add 3 or 4 additional strokes depending on position of ball, difficulty of green, and ability of player.

Rule 4 – Submitting a Score

4.1b – strongly recommended to post hole-by-hole. Calculations of double net bogey will automatically be done

4.3 – Time frame for submitting a score. **Recommendation:** As soon as possible on day of play and before midnight. Reason: Rule 5.6 (playing conditions calculation)

4.5 – Number of scores required for initial handicap index is a minimum of 54 holes

Rule 5 – Handicap Index Calculation

5.2a – for fewer than 20 scores

| Number of Score Differentials in scoring record | Score Differential(s) to be used in calculation of Handicap Index | Adjustment |
|--|--|-------------------|
| 3 | Lowest 1 | -2.0 |
| 4 | Lowest 1 | -1.0 |
| 5 | Lowest 1 | 0 |
| 6 | Average of lowest 2 | -1.0 |
| 7 or 8 | Average of lowest 2 | 0 |
| 9 to 11 | Average of lowest 3 | 0 |
| 12 to 14 | Average of lowest 4 | 0 |
| 15 or 16 | Average of lowest 5 | 0 |
| 17 or 18 | Average of lowest 6 | 0 |
| 19 | Average of lowest 7 | 0 |
| 20 | Average of lowest 8 | 0 |

5.2b – For 20 scores

Average the **lowest 8** of the most recent 20 score differentials.

5.3 — Maximum Handicap Index — **54.0** for both genders

For a competition, Committee may set a maximum limit.

5.6 — Playing Conditions Calculation (PPC) — determines whether playing conditions differ from normal conditions. Daily statistical procedure performed at midnight. At least 8 acceptable scores to determine an adjustment. Based on a handicap index of 36.0 or below.

5.7 — Low handicap index — established once a player has at least 20 acceptable scores in his/her scoring record over a 12-month period.

5.8 — Limit on upward movement of a handicap index

- (1) **Soft cap** — difference between newly H.I. and the low H.I. is greater than 3.0 strokes; value above 3 strokes is restricted to 50% of the increase.
- (2) **Hard cap** — restricts the increase to no more than 5.0 strokes above the low H.I.

5.9 — Submission of an exceptional score — **general** and tournament play

| Number of strokes the <i>Score Differential</i> is lower than a player's <i>Handicap Index</i> in effect when the round was played | <i>Exceptional score</i> reduction |
|---|---|
| 7.0 – 9.9 | -1.0 |
| 10.0 or more | -2.0 |

Rule 6 — Course Handicap and Playing Handicap Calculation — **new**

Rule 7 — Committee Actions — no change

Definitions are included in the manual.

Appendix E — Stroke Index Allocation — Strokes holes based on par.