



# Management of Flexi Club Handicaps



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## Overview

To obtain and maintain a handicap index under the World Handicap System (WHS), a Flexi Club Member must adhere to the rules set out in this document.

These rules are aligned to the Rules of Handicapping and ensure that all golfers, whether affiliated club members or Flexi Club members, gain and maintain handicaps in the same way.

### What is WHS?

The purpose of the WHS is to provide maximum enjoyment for all who play the game by enabling players of any ability, from anywhere in the world, to play and compete with others on a fair basis.

The World Handicap System is designed to welcome more players, make golf easier to understand and to give all golfers a handicap which is portable all around the globe.

It has been developed by The R&A and The United States Golf Association (USGA), supported by the world's handicapping authorities, including CONGU, which represents the four home countries of Great Britain and Ireland.

## Handicap Allocation: New Flexi Club Member

### New to golf or no previous club membership:

- A player must submit 54 holes worth of scores from a club affiliated to Wales Golf. These scores must be attested (marked) by a player who holds either a membership at an affiliated club, or by a fellow Flexi Club member.
- Only affiliated courses will display on the Wales Golf App
- Scores will only be accepted from the start of the membership and should be submitted through the Wales Golf app.
- A handicap index is allocated once 54 holes have been completed. These can be played over a combination of 9 or 18-hole rounds.

### Player was previously a member of an affiliated club:

- A player must provide their previously allocated membership number (formerly known as a CDH Number).
- If the player has historical scores on their record their initial index will be allocated based on these scores and the last held handicap index will be reinstated
- Where a membership number is not available, a new membership number will need to be issued and scores from a further 54 holes must be submitted.

### Player previously held a handicap or currently holds a handicap index in another country

Details of the handicap index must be provided by email along with their membership number to [flexiclub@walesgolf.org](mailto:flexiclub@walesgolf.org)

If a player is maintaining an index in more than one country, then scores from rounds played in Wales must be returned to other handicapping authorities. Scores from rounds played outside of Wales must be returned to their Welsh record using the overseas score process.

## Professional Golfers

The WHS allows professional golfers to hold a handicap index. If you are a professional golfer, please ensure that you have notified us so that your record can be flagged.

## Leaving the Flexi Club programme

### Joining an Affiliated Golf Club

As soon as a member joins an affiliated club their Flexi Club membership ends. A club membership supersedes a Flexi Club membership.

Players must join their new club first to allow easy transfer of the handicap index.

Once a player has joined the new club and provided their membership number, the new club will add them as a member on the WHS platform.

The new club will send an auto email to Wales Golf to release the record.

Wales Golf will approve the transfer and then resign the record from Flexi Club.

### Cancelling a membership

A member may choose to leave the Flexi Club programme at the end of his/her membership period. When a player cancels his/her membership, they are simply resigned from the WHS platform. The handicap and player record will remain on the system, but a player will be marked as resigned and will no longer be able to use/access the WHS system including the Wales Golf app or Flexi Club platform.

## Submitting Scores

When submitting a score it is expected that all players do the following:

- complete their designated round
- attempt to make the best score possible

Scores submitted in the UK must be individual stroke play rounds over 9/18 holes.

Scores must be posted according to the Rules of Golf. These will primarily be general play rounds.

However, competition scores will be acceptable if the organiser has allowed Flexi Club members to take part (see Terms and Conditions of the competition you are playing in)

### General Play (within Wales)

- Rounds must be pre-registered.
- General play scores from within Wales must be submitted via the Wales Golf app.
- Scores must be submitted on the day of play.
- Scores must be attested (marked) by a fellow Flexi Club member or a member of an affiliated club in Wales with access to the Wales Golf app.

### General Play (Outside of Wales)

- General play scores from outside of Wales must be returned to Flexi Club within 3 weeks of the round being played.
- Scores must be attested (marked) by a golfer who holds a WHS handicap index.
- When submitting score cards, you must provide the following information:
  - Date of Round
  - Country
  - Venue
  - Tee/Marker used
  - Course Rating
  - Slope Rating
  - Par
  - A copy of your scorecard, signed by you marker/ attester.
  - Name and Local Id number of the attester.

Acceptance of scores returned outside the submission window will be at the discretion of Wales Golf.

### Non-Return of Scores

- Any delay in posting a pre-registered score could result in a penalty score being added to a player's record.
- Failure to submit a pre-registered score without good reason will result in a penalty score being added.

In the first instance, players will be given a warning for failing to submit a score from a pre-registered round. They will then have 48 hours from the warning being issued to resolve and submit the score.

Failure to do so would see the addition of a penalty score equal to their current handicap index.

If this occurs on a second occasion the player will again be given 48 hours to return their score. If the score is not returned in this time an additional penalty score will be added to the player's record. The Flexi Club Handicap Committee will initiate a review and may decide that the player's handicap should be frozen and a formal warning issued.

Further failures to submit a score from a pre-registered round may result in the withdrawal of the player's handicap index.

#### Competition Scores:

Any score returned in an organised competition must be returned via the WHS platform by the event organiser. Scores will not be accepted manually. If playing in a society event which is not a tournament recognised provider, a score should be returned as a general play score.

## Handicap Review

#### Annual Handicap Review

Each year between October and December the Flexi Club Handicap Committee will review each Flexi Club member's handicap index.

During the review, the committee will look at the player's current index and scores returned within the last 12 months. This will ensure that the allocated index is a true reflection of the player's ability.

Should an adjustment be required, the member will be notified in writing (by email), offering them an opportunity to respond and, if required, provide evidence of why the adjustment shouldn't be applied. They will also be given the right to appeal the decision

Questions regarding the Rules of Handicapping

Members who have questions regarding the Rules of Handicapping and the impact on their index should submit these to [handicapping@walesgolf.org](mailto:handicapping@walesgolf.org), ensuring that they include their membership number and a detailed explanation of the question.

#### Requesting a Handicap Review

All players can request a review of their handicap index if they believe that it no longer reflects their current ability.

To assist with this assessment, the Flexi Club Handicap Committee requires a player to have at least 20 scores in their handicap record. Alternatively, a player should be able to provide a reason for the change in ability. For example this

may be due to an illness or injury. The handicap committee will then review all recent scores and establish if the handicap index is a fair reflection of current playing ability.

Further details on WHS can be found [here](#)

For details of member responsibilities please see [Flexi Club Terms & Conditions](#)