



The WHS in Great Britain & Ireland: Explaining Key Areas

Topic 2: Why Does My Handicap Index Increase After Submitting a Good Score, and Vice- Versa?

Over 100 federations have successfully transitioned to the new World Handicap System (WHS) – a milestone achievement in creating a modern handicap system for all golfers everywhere.

Launched in January 2020, the WHS provides golfers with a unified and more inclusive handicapping system for the first time. Developed by The R&A and USGA in close coordination with existing handicapping authorities, the WHS provides all golfers with a consistent measure of playing ability.

The WHS continued its roll out to Great Britain and Ireland in November in 2020 and, so far, the system has been well received by both federations and golf club administrators, with players also seeing the benefits.

Feedback from across Great Britain and Ireland has identified five topics where golfers and clubs would benefit from further information and, over the course of five weeks, The R&A is offering further guidance on the below areas:

- No Returns and 0.1 Increases
- 20 Score Record
- Mixed/Multi Tee Events
- Playing Conditions Calculation
- 95% Handicap Allowance and Equity

Understanding the 20 Score Record

What happens if I don't have 20 scores on my scoring record?

- Under the WHS, once you have submitted scores from 54 holes, your initial Handicap Index will be calculated
- A score is converted into a score differential, which takes into account the difficulty of the course played
- Until there are 20 Score Differentials in the record, the calculations are based on a sliding scale, with additional adjustments when the number available is less than 7

How is my Handicap Index calculated when I have 20 scores on my record?

- Each new acceptable score that you submit replaces the 20th oldest score, to create a new 'most recent' 20 score record
- Your previous 20th oldest score differential drops to 21st position and is no longer included in your next Handicap Index calculation
- This continues on a 20-score rolling cycle, with new scores added continually replacing your older scores
- The average of the best 8 Score Differentials from your 'most recent' 20 scores is recalculated after each new acceptable score submitted

Watch this video to find out more.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RqSnILbuP78&t=19s>

Why does my Handicap Index increase after submitting a good score, and vice-versa?

- Each new acceptable score that you submit replaces the 20th oldest score and creates a new Score Differential
- If a good 20th Score Differential is replaced within your best 8 Score Differentials with a good, but higher, Score Differential your updated Handicap Index could potentially increase

Record Progression - Good Score added

Score No.	Date Played	Course	Course Rating	Slope Rating	Adjusted Gross Score	Score Differential
1	22/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	91	18.5
2	5/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	92	19.4
3	1/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	99	25.8
4	28/8/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	89	16.7
5	23/8/20	River GC	71.3	127	92	18.4
6	26/7/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	87	12.8
7	14/7/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	97	24.0
8	4/7/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	88	15.8
9	19/6/20	River GC	71.3	127	87	13.5
10	16/6/20	Valley GC	69.9	118	95	24.0
11	12/6/20	Forest GC	70.1	115	86	15.6
12	5/6/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	85	11.0
13	2/6/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	82	10.4
14	30/5/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	94	21.2
15	25/5/20	Valley GC	69.9	118	89	18.3
16	22/5/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	97	24.0
17	29/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	85	13.1
18	14/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	93	20.3
19	10/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	94	21.2
20	3/4/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	86	12.1

Good 20th score differential



Score No.	Date Played	Course	Course Rating	Slope Rating	Adjusted Gross Score	Score Differential
1	25/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	82	10.4
2	22/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	91	18.5
3	5/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	92	19.4
4	1/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	99	25.8
5	28/8/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	89	16.7
6	23/8/20	River GC	71.3	127	92	18.4
7	26/7/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	87	12.8
8	14/7/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	97	24.0
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14	2/6/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	82	10.4
15	30/5/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	94	21.2
16	25/5/20	Valley GC	69.9	118	89	18.3
17	22/5/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	97	24.0
18	29/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	85	13.1
19	14/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	93	20.3
20	10/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	94	21.2
21	3/4/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	86	12.1

Good new score differential added, but not as good as 20th score which now drops out of the top 20.

Better Score Differential drops out of the top 20

In this scenario, the players handicap will **increase** despite the fact a good score was added to the record.

Record Progression - Poorer Score added

Score No.	Date Played	Course	Course Rating	Slope Rating	Adjusted Gross Score	Score Differential
1	22/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	91	18.5
2	5/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	92	19.4
3	1/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	99	25.8
4	28/8/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	89	16.7
5	23/8/20	River GC	71.3	127	92	18.4
6	26/7/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	87	12.8
7	14/7/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	97	24.0
8	19/6/20	River GC	71.3	127	87	13.5
9	16/6/20	Valley GC	69.9	118	95	24.0
10	12/6/20	Forest GC	70.1	115	86	15.6
11	5/6/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	85	11.0
12	2/6/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	82	10.4
13	30/5/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	94	21.2
14	25/5/20	Valley GC	69.9	118	89	18.3
15	22/5/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	97	24.0
16	29/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	85	13.1
17	14/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	93	20.3
18	10/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	94	21.2
19	3/4/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	86	12.1
20	4/7/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	88	15.8

Poor 20th Score Diff

Score No.	Date Played	Course	Course Rating	Slope Rating	Adjusted Gross Score	Score Differential
1	25/6/20	Forest GC	70.1	115	86	15.6
2	22/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	91	18.5
3	5/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	92	19.4
4	1/9/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	99	25.8
5	28/8/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	89	16.7
6	23/8/20	River GC	71.3	127	92	18.4
7	26/7/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	87	12.8
8	14/7/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	97	24.0
9	4/7/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	88	15.8
10	19/6/20	River GC	71.3	127	87	13.5
11	16/6/20	Valley GC	69.9	118	95	24.0
12	25/9/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	89	14.5
13	5/6/20	Meadow GC	72.2	131	85	11.0
14	2/6/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	82	10.4
15	30/5/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	94	21.2
16	25/5/20	Valley GC	69.9	118	89	18.3
17	22/5/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	97	24.0
18	29/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	85	13.1
19	14/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	93	20.3
20	10/4/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	94	21.2
21	4/7/20	Hill GC	70.5	125	88	15.8

Poor new score differential added, but better than the 20th score which now drops out of the top 20.

Poor score differential drops out of the top 20

In this scenario, the players handicap index will **decrease** despite the fact a relatively poor score was added to the record.