



The WHS in Great Britain & Ireland: Explaining Key Areas

Topic 3: I Am Playing in a Multi Tee Event... How Many Strokes Do I Get?

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 Mixed/Multi Tee Events

How do Handicap Allowances and any other adjustments get applied in an 18-hole mixed/multi tee event?

- Whatever the format of play, the first step is for each player to calculate their Course Handicap
- Next, the applicable Handicap Allowance for the format of play is applied to the Course Handicap, which creates the player's Playing Handicap
- Next, those players playing from a set of tees with a higher Course Rating add additional strokes to their Playing Handicap – equal to the difference between the Course Rating of the tees they are playing and the tees being played with the lowest Course Rating
- In Four-Ball formats, strokes are only allocated after each player has calculated their individual Playing Handicap. Strokes are then taken from the player with the lowest Playing Handicap
- In Foursomes, any adjustment for the difference in Course Ratings would be half of the combined adjustment for each side

Which card is used in Mixed Foursomes and Four-Ball formats?

- In Foursomes competitions from mixed tees, the Committee must specify in the Terms of the Competition which single set of tees will determine the Pars and Stroke Index that are to be used
- In Four-Ball formats from mixed tees, individual players score using the card and Stroke Index appropriate for the tee they are playing from