

World Handicap System (WHS)

On January 1, 2020, the new World Handicap System (WHS) will be rolled out. The primary goal of WHS is to create a handicap index (HCi) that can be used on any rated golf course worldwide. Another objective is to attract more people to the game of golf, and to that end, the **maximum** course handicap will increase to 54 for both men and women. (It was previously 36.4 for men and 40.4 for women.)

The following is a summary of the most critical changes the WHS will bring and their near term **impact on you**. More detail will be forthcoming after the roll out.

1. Between Jan 1 and Jan 5, the GHIN system will be shutdown, during which time we will not be able to post scores. Please retain your cards and post the rounds when GHIN is reactivated, hopefully on January 6.
2. Every GHIN holder must have **a unique email address** associated with their GHIN profile. This is **required** in order to authenticate and match you to your online profile, and to ensure you get updates from GHIN. If you currently share an email address with another GHIN holder (ie. spouse), neither of you will have their email address loaded to your personal profiles during the conversion. Your unique email address must be in place by Jan 1st.
3. Both GHIN and the AGA will release new apps for posting scores. Neither is available at this time and very few details are known about their features and functionality. We DO know that they will offer **hole-by-hole posting**, and it is **strongly** advised you use this feature.
4. Your HC(i) will be based off your **best 8 scores** of the prior 20 posted rather than 10 of 20 as previous. (The .96 modifier has been eliminated.) Players already in the GHIN system will have their prior posting history used to determine their new HC(i). Those without a GHIN history must post 54 holes (in any combination of 9 and 18 hole rounds) in order to establish a HC(i).
5. Following the conversion, your HC(i) may be different, even if you have not played and posted scores.
6. Your HC(i) will update **daily**, not just on the 1st and 15th of the month. It is important that you get in the habit of **posting your score by midnight on the day you played**. On the days you don't play and submit a score, no update will take place.
7. Your handicap history will be retained for a period of 12 months. The system will also retain a "memory" of your **low** HC(i) and will use it to ensure you have an appropriate handicap by limiting extreme movements in your HC(i). For example, if you post an exceptional round of at least 7 strokes better than what you previously posted, the system will immediately and automatically reduce your HC(i). There are also caps for how much your handicap can move upward. You can find more detail on this topic on the AGA website.
8. **Maximum Hole Scores**: Under the old system we had "Equitable Stroke Control". The "maximum" score we could post for **any** hole depended **solely** on where your handicap fell within a range—between 20 and 29 for example, the max score was an 8.

Under WHS, your max score is dependent on the **par rating** of the hole AND any handicap **strokes/pops** you may get on it. [In other words, your course handicap must be known in order to know the pops for a given hole.]

The max score will be limited to a Net Double Bogey calculated as (Par + 2 + pops).

For example,

If you get 2 strokes on a particular par 5, the max score you can post is 9. (5 + 2 + 2)

If you get 1 stroke on a particular par 3, the max score you can post is 6. (3 + 2 + 1)

If you get 0 strokes on a particular par 4, the max score you can post is 6. (4 + 2 + 0)

We think the GHIN app will perform the Net Double Bogey conversion when posting gross hole-by-hole scores, but this is yet unconfirmed. In the interim, we have provided a **look-up table** as a guide for play at SBR. To use the table, locate your Course HC along the left edge and the specific hole to the right to see the max score you can take for that hole. For example, the expression **/7 indicates you get two pops and your max score is 7. You will be able to download this table from the SBRWGA website for printing.

For those interested, the new formula for calculating Course Handicap is as follows:

$$(HC_i \times \text{slope}/113) + (\text{Course Rating} - \text{Course Par})$$

9. On **league days**, you will continue to record your gross score on your card and any max score adjustments will be made when posted through Golf Genius. The league day maximum 10 stroke rule will still be in effect until further notice.
10. The new **Playing Conditions Calculation** (PCC), which is designed to address abnormal playing conditions such as inclement weather and course setup, is another reason why it is important to post **on the day of play**. Just 8 scores posted from players whose HC(i) is 36.0 or below are needed. The system will then look to see if the scores are outside the “expected norm” for those players. If the “threshold” is met, the system will **automatically** apply a PCC adjustment for that day. This is the final piece of the HC revision that would be applied at the end of the day. **Please post your scores by midnight on the day of play!!**

More information on WHS can be found on the AGA website under the LEARN tab.

<https://www.azgolf.org/world-handicap-system-2/>