

EPIC World Handicap System



EPIC Golfing Society
WHS Implementation
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Neil Meixner
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Background

The World Handicap System (WHS) is designed to be more inclusive, accessible and to make golf easier to understand for all.

The WHS incorporates the Rules of Handicapping and the Course Rating System, (a consistent method to calculate a golf course's difficulty), to successfully determine a golfer's Handicap Index.

The system, which came into effect on 2 November 2020 has replaced six different systems previously used by over 15 million golfers, in more than 80 countries, to unify all golfers across the world.



How is the EPIC Golfing Society going to implement WHS?

The integration of the WHS into EPIC culture will take place over 3 seasons (2023-2025) as follows: -

Stage 1 – Season 2023

- All members who wish to enter society competitions **and** win “Silverware” must register with a bona fide WHS handicap provider BEFORE the season starts (14th March 2023). They don’t have to be affiliated to a golf club. As an example, they could sign up to England Golf at <https://englandigolf.co.uk/> for £44 per annum but there are others.
- If members choose not to register, then they will not be eligible to win trophies.
- Until the platform provides an interim WHS handicap the existing “Society Handicap” will be used.
- All WHS members must enter the scores with their chosen WHS provider for any of the 6 EPIC trophy events they enter as a minimum and must have a minimum of 6 scores from EPIC &/or elsewhere recorded on their chosen platform by the end of 2023.

Stage 2 & 3 – Seasons 2024 & 2025

- As above plus by the end of the 2024 season they must have at least 12 compliant scores and by the end of the 2025 season have a fully compliant WHS Handicap i.e. at least made up of 20 compliant scores from EPIC events &/or elsewhere.
- Throughout the process and beyond the Secretary will publish a list of WHS handicaps approximately one week before a competition. It is the member’s responsibility to ensure their WHS handicap is correct and notify the Secretary by the end of the Sunday prior to the event any change to their WHS Handicap.
- To make things easier, Sunday nights handicap will be deemed current for the forthcoming event.
- This avoids having to alter things on the day!
- In addition, all new members joining from the AGM in Feb 2023 onwards must be registered for a WHS Handicap as a prerequisite of becoming a member.

Members who do not wish to become WHS players are of course welcome to play, win prizes and network but they will not be awarded the “Silverware” associated with an event.

How does the Handicap Index work

As a player compiles compliant scores on their chosen platform their WHS is generated by that system automatically until finally when a player has achieved 20

scores, a 'fully developed' Handicap Index is calculated using the top 8 scores to provide the most accurate representation of a player's ability.

In the interim after to 3 rounds, the LOWEST score , taking into account the course played) -2 shots will be the interim handicap, after 9 rounds the average of the best 3 will be taken and after 15 rounds the average of the best 5. You do not need to remember this as the platform will do all the calculations for you!!

To ensure a player has only one Handicap Index, golfers will nominate a home club or platform. The home club is determined by the player, but for practicality it is recommended this is where the player typically submits most of their scores.

It is the members responsibility to notify the Secretary with the attendance form what there current WHS handicap is and to update that by the Sunday night before the event of any changes to that declared on the attendance form.

Course Handicap

Before any player starts a round, they must convert their Handicap Index into a Course Handicap. Clubs now do display a chart for this adjustment. The Course Handicap will determine the number of strokes a player will receive for any set of tees on any course. For the geeks, this is $\text{Handicap Index} \times \text{Slope Index of the course and tee to be played} / 113$. Don't ask why 113, it just is!!! That number is rounded to the nearest whole number.

Playing Handicap

Playing Handicap is a stroke allowance that is implemented to maintain the integrity of the WHS when used in competition. The Course Handicap converts to a Playing Handicap for competition purposes and changes depending on the format of play. Again, for the geeks, for EPIC, as we play Stableford singles rather than medal, its 95% of the Course Handicap. This number is also rounded to the nearest whole number.

Team competitions which are always better-ball and played concurrently with the individual scoring will be played off the same individual Playing Handicaps at 95% rather than the strictly required 90% to make administration simpler.

All members and guests with WHS handicaps will play as above.

Members and Guests without WHS handicaps

All members and guests with "Society" handicaps will play off their handicap unadjusted for both individual and team events.