



ENGLAND
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SCORE

Playing Handicap EXPLAINED

Playing Handicap

What is it?

- A stroke allowance that a player will receive when playing in competition with or against other players

Why is it important?

- It allows for a level playing field that will promote both enjoyment and inclusivity

NEW RULE

**Course
Handicap**

X

**Handicap
Allowance**

=

**Playing Handicap
(rounded)**

WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM

R&A USGA

To find out more on the
World Handicap System visit:
englandgolf.org/whs



COMING INTO PLAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2020



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PLAYING HANDICAP & COURSE CONDITIONS

What is a Playing Handicap?

Playing Handicap is a stroke allowance that is implemented in order to maintain the integrity of the WHS when used in competition. It allows golfers to compete on a level playing field, regardless of their Handicap Index. The Course Handicap converts to a Playing Handicap for competition purposes and changes depending on the format of play.

The four most important aspects of Playing Handicap to remember are:

- It is only used for competition purposes
- It ensures equity to calculate competition results (via Handicap Allowances)
- Golfers do not need to calculate it (it is generated before their round)
- Golfers should continue to play in the mindset of their Course Handicap in competition:

The Playing Handicap is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Course Handicap} \times \text{Handicap Allowance} = \text{Playing Handicap}$$

PLEASE CLICK ON LINK BELOW FOR VIDEO ON ABOVE TOPIC

<https://www.EnglandGolf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/World-Handicap-System-Slope-Rating.mp4>

How do course conditions effect scores?

The Playing Conditions Calculation is worked out daily, it factors in how course and weather conditions can affect the difficulty of the course on the day and is similar to the CSS calculation in the current system:

- It includes all 9 hole and 18 holes scores from the course that have been submitted on the day.
- It requires at least 8 scores from players with a fully developed Scoring Record (20 scores) and a Handicap Index of 36 or below.
- It is applied conservatively and won't result in changes as often as the current CSS calculation.
- It can result in all Score Differentials on the day being increased by 1 stroke in easy conditions, or reduced by 1, 2 or 3 strokes in difficult conditions.