

Rules of Handicapping Comparison of Key Features		
I. Fundamentals of Handicapping		USGA vs. WHS
<b>Rule 1 – Purpose and Authorization; Obtaining a Handicap Index</b>		
1.1	Purpose of the World Handicap System	No Change
1.2	Authorization to Use the World Handicap System	USGA will issue a Handicap Index through AGAs and their member golf clubs, and those affiliated with it for handicap administration purposes.
1.3	Responsibilities of Player, Handicap Committee and Authorized Association	No Change
1.4	How to Obtain a Handicap Index	
	a. Joining a Golf Club	No change
	b. Designating a Home Club	New Rule helps with integrity of WHS ensuring one Handicap Index for each golfer. For multi-members, all clubs will be permitted to administer handicapping (edit scores, etc.). Where any disagreements or conflict arise, the player’s Home Club will have final authority on the matter (and its AGA).
II. Scores for Handicap Purposes		
<b>Rule 2 –Scores Acceptable for Handicap Purposes</b>		
2.1	Acceptability of Scores	
	a. Played in an Authorized Format of Play	No Change for USGA as all formats of play from the authorized list (both 9 & 18 holes) will be acceptable for handicap purposes.
	b. Played by the Rules of Golf	No change
2.2	Minimum Number of Holes Played for a Score to be Acceptable	
	a. For a 9-hole Score	Minimum of 7 holes for WHS
	b. For an 18-hole Score	Minimum of 14 holes for WHS (changed from minimum of 13 holes today)
<b>Rule 3 – Adjustment of Hole Scores</b>		
3.1	Maximum Hole Score for Handicap Purposes	
	a. Before a Handicap Index has been Established	Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) is used today by USGA with the same fixed maximum hole score for all holes. The new Rule of Net Double Bogey will apply Par plus 5 strokes until a Handicap Index is established.
	b. After a Handicap Index has been Established	Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) is used today by USGA with the same fixed maximum hole score for all holes. The new Rule of Net Double Bogey that is already in use in other parts of the world presents a significant change to the USGA as it impacts the golfer directly. This new rule will have other implications, such as how NDB and Net Pars are determined.
3.2	When a Hole is not Played	No Change. The use of Net Par is the same as used by the USGA.
3.3	When a Hole is Started but Player does not Hole Out	No Change (MLS used by USGA)

<b>Rule 4 – Submitting a Score</b>		
<b>4.1</b>	Information Required for Scoring Record	
	a. General	No Change
	b. For Scores Prior to Establishing a Handicap Index	New Rule <u>recommends</u> initial scores to be posted hole-by-hole
<b>4.2</b>	Eligibility to Submit a Score	No Change
<b>4.3</b>	Timeframe for Submitting a Score	New Rule states a score <u>should</u> be posted as soon as possible on the day of play, after completion of their round and preferably before midnight (local time) to help facilitate the new daily Playing Conditions Calculation procedure. (See Rule 5.6)
<b>4.4</b>	Certification of a Score	No Change (Peer Review used by USGA)
<b>4.5</b>	Scores for Initial Handicap Index	USGA requires a minimum of five 18-hole scores (or 90-holes) for initial Handicap Index. New Rule sets the minimum number of scores at 54-holes.
<b>III. Handicap Calculation and Updating a Handicap Index</b>		
<b>Rule 5 – Handicap Index Calculation</b>		
<b>5.1</b>	Calculation of a Score Differential	Addition of Playing Conditions Calculation (see Rule 5.6)
	a. For an 18-hole Score	No Change (USGA use of stroke play score differentials).
	b. For a 9-hole Score	No Change (follows USGA method of combining two 9-hole scores)
	c. For Minus Handicap Differentials	No Change
<b>5.2</b>	Calculation of a Handicap Index	USGA’s average-based system is used for the new Rules of Handicapping, but the best 8 of the most recent 20 scores will be used as opposed to 10 out of 20. This will allow the system to be more responsive to good scores and less responsive to bad scores.
	a. For Fewer than 20 Scores	Calculation adjusted to accommodate new 54-hole minimum number of holes for initial Handicap Index.
	b. For 20 Scores	Calculation adjusted to accommodate the use of 8 of the most recent 20 scores.
	c. For Plus Handicap Index	No Change
<b>5.3</b>	Maximum Handicap Index	USGA set the maximum Handicap Index at 36.4/40.0 for men and women. The new Rule will set the maximum Handicap Index at 54.0 for both genders. This is to ensure WHS is as inclusive as possible and encourage participation.  To ensure equity for specific formats of play, further safeguard against abuse, or to support pace of play, Clubs have the discretion to implement a lower maximum limit for certain competitions through its Terms of Competition.
<b>5.4</b>	Frequency of Revision of a Handicap Index	A USGA Handicap Index is revised on the 1st and 15th of each month. The new Rule will revise a Handicap Index daily, enhancing the value to the golfer, but presenting some challenges to the Club Handicap and Tournament Committees.  A golf club can set an effective date to determine a Handicap Index to use for competition purposes.
<b>5.5</b>	Aging of Scores and Lapsing of a Handicap Index	No Change (pending decision on Rule 5.1 b)

5.6	Playing Conditions Calculation	<p>USGA has no such feature today. This new Rule will be an automatic calculation based on expected scores. The calculation helps for when conditions on the day (i.e. weather or course setup) has created abnormal conditions where scores would likely have been better (or worse if easy conditions) and should not be discarded for handicapping purposes.</p> <p>The Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC) will be simple and conservative in nature, depicting when abnormal conditions has created a significant difference to the Course as rated under normal conditions. This will also help with seasonality where courses play longer or shorter due to soft or hard/firm conditions.</p> <p>This presents a change to AGAs, golf clubs and golfers.</p>
5.7	Low Handicap Index	<p>USGA has no such feature today. The new Rule is designed to provide more insight into a golfer's demonstrated ability over time and is required to support the limit on upward movement of a Handicap Index. This will present a change to golfers. (see Rule 5.8)</p>
5.8	Limit on Upward Movement of a Handicap Index	<p>USGA has no such feature today. The new Rule limits upward movement of a Handicap Index when movement is more than 3 strokes above the player's lowest index within the trailing 12 months. In addition to this, a player's Handicap Index will be prevented from rising more than 5 strokes above the player's lowest Handicap Index in the trailing 12 months. This will present a change to golfers.</p>
5.9	Submission of an Exceptional Score	<p>USGA requires a minimum of 2 Tournament scores at least 3 strokes better than current Handicap Index, but is a reactive calculation as reduction is dependent on second occurrence. The new Rule will apply a reduction where the score differential is at least 7.0 or 10.0 strokes better than the player's Handicap Index at the time the round was played, resulting in an immediate reduction to the score differential from a single score. This features also includes all scores types as opposed to only Tournament scores. This will present a change to golfers.</p>
<b>Rule 6 – Course Handicap and Playing Handicap Calculation</b>		
6.1	Course Handicap Calculation	<p>New Rule will include an adjustment for the difference between the Course Rating and Par in the calculation of a Course Handicap and should help resolve the issue with the application of section 3-5 today under the USGA Handicap System (though only where Par is the same). While this method is dependent upon Par, the Course Rating and Slope Rating System continue to be the more significant part of the calculation where strokes exchanged between players remains the same.</p>
6.2	Playing Handicap Calculation	
	a. Standard Calculation	<p>New Rule carries all rounding through until the final step removing errors from multiple rounding. Also introducing new term 'Playing Handicap' that will present change to golfers.</p>
	b. Calculation When Multiple Tees are in Use	<p>With Rule 6.1 above factoring the difference in Course Ratings inherently, the new Rule will require the difference between Pars where Par is different (Par 72 vs. Par 70).</p>

<b>IV. Administration of a Handicap Index</b>		
<b>Rule 7 - Committee Actions</b>		
<b>7.1</b>	Handicap Committee	
	a. Adjusting a Handicap Index	No Change
	b. Conducting a Handicap Review	No Change
	c. Withdrawing a Handicap Index	No Change
	d. Reinstating a Handicap Index	No Change
	e. Applying a Penalty Score	No Change
<b>7.2</b>	Committee in Charge of the Competition	
	a. Terms of the Competition	No Change
	b. Other Actions	No Change