

WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM

R&A USGA

Rules of Handicapping

Kenya Player's Edition

Effective January 2020



Foreword

The World Handicap System (WHS) comes in to effect worldwide in 2020. It replaces six existing handicap systems including CONGU. The WHS aims to encourage more people to take up the game and enable golfers of differing abilities, genders and nationalities to compete on a fair basis anywhere in the world. The system allows individual countries a certain amount of flexibility in choosing the options that best suit their particularly golfing environment and separate editions of the Rules of Handicapping exist for different countries. The Kenya Unified Handicapping and Course Rating Committee of the KGU/KLGU through consultation with clubs has chosen the options considered best for Kenya and this Player's Edition provides information on what every player needs to know.

1**Player Responsibility and
Obtaining a Handicap Index****1.1. Player Responsibilities**

In order to comply with the requirements of the *Rules of Handicapping*, a player is expected to:

- Act with integrity by following the *Rules of Handicapping* and to refrain from using, or circumventing, the *Rules of Handicapping* for the purpose of gaining an unfair advantage.
- Have only one *Handicap Index* from a single scoring record, which is managed by the player's home club.
- When submitting acceptable scores for handicap purposes, attempt to make the best score possible at each hole.
- Know their current *Handicap Index*.
- Inform the *Handicap Committee* or the Committee in charge of the competition of any discrepancies with their *Handicap Index* and provide details of any outstanding scores yet to be submitted or posted to their *scoring record*.
- Play by the *Rules of Golf*.
- Certify the scores of fellow players.

Each player will be given a unique golfer's number by the KGU, which will identify the player's home club. This unique number will allow all golfers to access their Handicap Index through their mobile phone.

1.2. Designating a Home Club

A player must designate one *golf club* as their *home club*, to be responsible for maintaining their *Handicap Index*. A player's *home club* should be the club where they submit most of their acceptable scores.

When a player is a *member* of more than one *golf club*, the player must ensure each *golf club* knows the details of:

- Which other *golf clubs* they are a member of, and
- Which *golf club* they have designated as their *home club*.

Players must not designate a *home club* for the purpose of obtaining a *Handicap Index* that could give them an unfair advantage.

Player Changes Designation of Home Club

When a player changes the designation of their *home club* for any reason, they must inform all *golf clubs* of which they are a *member* and provide the new *home club* with their *scoring record*.

1.3. Obtaining a Handicap Index

In order to obtain a *Handicap Index* a player must be:

- A *member* of a *golf club* that is affiliated with the KGU
- A direct *member* of a society or association handicapped directly by the KGU.

To obtain an initial *Handicap Index* a player is required to submit hole-by-hole scores from a minimum of 54 holes, certified by a marker. Three 18 hole scores or six 9 hole scores or any combination thereof are acceptable. The marker must be a person acceptable to the *Handicap Committee*.

The maximum *Handicap Index* that can be issued to a player is 54.0.

2

Scores Acceptable for
Handicap Purposes

2.1. Acceptability of Scores

A score is acceptable for handicap purposes if the round has been played:

- In an *authorized format of play* (see Table 1) over either 9 or 18 holes.
- In the company of at least one other person, who can act as a marker and certify the score.
- By the *Rules of Golf*.
- On a *golf course* from a set of tees with a current *Course Rating* and *Slope Rating*.

2.2. Table 1: Authorized Format of Play

Individual stroke play - Organized competition/general play	9	18
Individual Stableford - Organized competition/general play	9	18
Individual par/bogey - Organized competition/general play	9	18
Individual Maximum Score - Organized competition/general play	9	18

2.3. Registering Intent to Submit a Score in General Play

A player is required to pre-register their intent to submit an *acceptable score* in *general play* for handicap purposes.

Such pre-registration must be made:

- Before the player starts the round, and
- According to the requirements or conditions established by the *Handicap Committee*.

2.4. Played by the Rules of Golf

A round must be played by the *Rules of Golf* to be acceptable for handicap purposes. In a situation where a player is disqualified from a competition for a breach of the *Rules of Golf*, but no significant scoring advantage has been gained, the score should remain acceptable for handicap purposes.

RULE
3

**Adjustment of
Hole Scores**

For a player with an established *Handicap Index*, the maximum score for handicap purposes for each hole is limited to a *net double bogey*, calculated as follows:

Par of the hole + 2 strokes + Any handicap stroke(s) that the player receives on that hole*

*(*or minus any handicap stroke(s) that a plus handicap player gives back on that hole.)*

- A *net double bogey* is equal to the lowest score on a hole for which the player would achieve zero Stableford points.
- There is no limit to the number of holes in a round where a net double bogey adjustment may be applied.

RULE
4Submitting a
Score

- (i) A score posted into the player's *scoring record* must be:
 - An *acceptable score* certified by a marker.
 - Recorded in the correct chronological order, even if the score is submitted on a day later than the date the round was played.
- (ii) A score should be posted to the player's *scoring record* in the form of hole-by-hole scores, an *adjusted gross score* or Stableford points.
- (iii) Upon submission of a score, a player must ensure that the following information is provided for inclusion in their *scoring record*:
 - Date of the round played,
 - *Course Rating* and *Slope Rating* for the set of tees played.

5

Handicap Index
Calculation

A *Handicap Index* is calculated from the lowest *Score Differentials* in the *scoring record*.

5.1. 18-hole Score Differential

An 18-hole *Score Differential* is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Score Differential} = (113 \div \text{Slope Rating}) \times (\text{Adjusted gross score} - \text{Course Rating} - \text{PCC adjustment})$$

and rounded to the nearest tenth, with .5 rounded upwards.

For stableford format:

$$\text{Adjusted Gross Score} = \text{Par} + \text{Course Handicap} - (\text{points scored} - 36)$$

For example on a par 71 course a player with a *course handicap* of 20 scores 39 points,

$$\text{Adjusted Gross Score} = 71 + 20 - (39 - 36) = 88.$$

5.1a *The playing conditions calculation (PCC):*

- Includes only *acceptable scores* submitted on the same day by players with a *Handicap Index* of 36.0 or below.
- Equals zero if fewer than eight *acceptable scores* are submitted.
- Can determine an adjustment of -1.0, 0.0, +1.0, +2.0 or +3.0 and is applied in the calculation of *Score Differentials* for all players.

5.2. For 20 Scores

If a *scoring record* contains **at least 20** *Score Differentials*, the procedure for calculating the current *Handicap Index* is:

Average the **lowest 8** of the **most recent 20** *Score Differentials* rounded to the nearest tenth.

BUT if this average is >3 greater than a player's *Low Handicap Index* a **Cap** on the upward movement of *Handicap* is applied. (A player should consult the *Handicap Committee* for details).

5.2a Low Handicap Index: is the lowest *Handicap Index* achieved by a player during the preceding year. It provides a reference point against which the current *Handicap Index* can be compared.

5.2b Exceptional Score: is where the *score differential* is 7 or more lower than the player's *Handicap Index* and an exceptional score reduction is applied (A player should consult the *Handicap Committee* for details).

If applicable, the *cap* on the upward movement of the *Handicap Index* or the exception score reduction is automatically applied within the calculation of a player's updated *Handicap Index* following the submission of a new score.

5.3. For Fewer Than 20 Scores

If a *scoring record* contains fewer than 20 *Score Differentials*, the table below is used to determine the number of *Score Differentials* to be included in the calculation and any adjustment that may apply. Round the result of the calculation to the nearest tenth.

Table 2: Handicap Index with less than 20 scores

Number of Score Differentials in scoring record	Score Differential(s) to be used in calculation of Handicap Index	Adjustment
3	Lowest 1	-2.0
4	Lowest 1	-1.0
5	Lowest 1	0
6	Average of Lowest 2	-1.0
7 or 8	Average of Lowest 2	0
9 to 11	Average of Lowest 3	0
12 to 14	Average of Lowest 4	0
15 or 16	Average of Lowest 5	0
17 or 18	Average of Lowest 6	0
19	Average of Lowest 7	0
20	Average of Lowest 8	0

5.4. Ageing of Scores and Lapsing of a Handicap Index

A score continues to be part of the *Handicap Index* calculation as long as it remains within the player's most recent 20 scores recorded, regardless of the age of the score.

A *Handicap Index* only lapses if a player is no longer a *member* of at least one *golf club*.

5.5. For a 9-hole Score

A 9-hole score is scaled up to an equivalent 18-hole *Score Differential* for immediate use in the *scoring record*. This is achieved by adding *net pars* for the second nine holes plus one additional stroke or 17 points in Stableford format.

RULE **6** Course Handicap and Playing Handicap Calculation

6.1. Course Handicap

$$\text{Course Handicap} = \text{Handicap Index} \times (\text{Slope Rating} \div 113) + (\text{Course Rating} - \text{Par})$$

The full calculated value is retained and rounding occurs only after the Playing Handicap calculation.

6.2. Playing Handicap

$$\text{Playing Handicap} = \text{Course Handicap} \times \text{handicap allowance}$$

The calculated Playing Handicap is rounded to the nearest whole number, with .5 rounded upwards.

Table 3: Handicap Allowances

Format of Play	Type of Round	Handicap Allowance
Strokeplay	Individual	95%
	Individual Stableford	95%
	Individual Par/Bogey	95%
	Individual Max Score	95%
	Four-Ball	85%
	Four-Ball Stableford	85%
Match Play	Individual	100%
	Four-Ball	90%
Other	Foursomes	50% Combined
	Greensome/Pinehurst	60% Low + 40% High
	Scramble	25%/20%/15%/10% Lowest to Highest

RULE
7 Committee
Actions

The Handicap Committee of a player's home club has the power to adjust an initial *Handicap Index* if it is not a true reflection of the player's ability. The Handicap Committee may also adjust or freeze a *Handicap Index* at any time to ensure that all player's are treated fairly and consistently.

The KGU through the central database will supervise the running of the WHS system throughout Kenya and ensure that the *Rules of Handicapping* are adhered to by all clubs.

Definitions

Acceptable Score

A score from *an authorized format of play* which meets all the provisions set out within the *Rules of Handicapping* (see pg.05).

Adjusted Gross Score

A player's gross score, including any penalty strokes, adjusted for when:

- The player exceeds their maximum hole score,
- A hole is not played, or
- A hole is started but the player does not hole out.

Authorized Association

The Kenya Golf Union (KGU).

Authorized Format of Play

A format of play eligible for handicap purposes.

Bogey Player

A player with a *Handicap Index* of approximately 20.0 for men and approximately 24.0 for women.

Cap

The procedure that reduces or limits the amount by which a player's *Handicap Index* can increase when measured against the player's *Low Handicap Index*.
(See pg.09).

Certification of Score

The verification of a player's score by a marker's physical signature.

Course Handicap

The number of handicap strokes a player receives, before *handicap allowances*, from a specific set of tees as determined by the *Slope Rating* and the difference between *Course Rating* and par (see pg.12).

Course Rating

An indication of the difficulty of a *golf course* for the *scratch player* under normal course and weather conditions.

Exceptional Score

A *Score Differential* which is at least 7.0 strokes better than the player's *Handicap Index* at the time the round was played (see pg.10).

General Play

When an organized competition is not being contested and golfers are playing:

- A casual round; or
- Competitively, but not in an event organized by a Committee.

Golf Club

An organization that is permitted, through affiliation to KGU to administer and manage the *Handicap Index* of those players who have designated it as their *home club*. To qualify for affiliation, a *golf club* may be required to satisfy certain requirements as determined by the KGU.

Golf Course

An area of land where golf is played, made up of the five areas as defined in the *Rules of Golf*:

Each hole may have multiple teeing areas and, for handicap purposes, a golf course is made up of a designated set of tees on each hole. As such, each set of tees (*or golf course*) should have a separate *Course Rating* and *Slope Rating*, including one for each gender where appropriate.

Handicap Allowance

The percentage of a *Course Handicap* recommended to create equity for all players participating in a specific format of play (see pg.12).

Handicap Committee

The entity established by a *golf club* which is responsible for ensuring compliance with the obligations of the *golf club* under the *Rules of Handicapping*.

Handicap Index

The measure of a player's demonstrated ability calculated against the Slope Rating of a golf course of standard playing difficulty (that is, a course with a Slope Rating of 113).

Handicap Review

A procedure carried out by the *Handicap Committee* to determine if the *Handicap Index* of any *member* who has designated that *golf club* as their *home club* needs to be adjusted (see pg.09).

Home Club

A player's primary golf club designated by the player to maintain their *Handicap Index*.

Low Handicap Index

The lowest *Handicap Index* achieved by a player during the 365-day period (one year) preceding the day on which the most recent score on their *scoring record* was played (see pg.09).

Member

An individual who joins a *golf club* in a manner determined by club policy, which allows the player to obtain a *Handicap Index*.

Net Double Bogey

A score equal to the par of a hole plus two strokes and adjusted for any handicap strokes applied on that hole. A *net double bogey* is a player's maximum hole score for handicap purposes (see pg.07).

Net Par

A score equal to the *par* of a hole adjusted for any handicap strokes applied on that hole (see pg.11).

Par

The score that a *scratch player* would generally be expected to achieve on a hole.

Penalty Score

A score posted at the discretion of the *Handicap Committee* for a player who does not submit an *acceptable score* when required.

Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC)

The statistical calculation that determines if conditions on a day of play differed from normal playing conditions to the extent that they significantly impacted players' performance. Examples of conditions that could impact players' performance include:

- Course conditions,
- Weather conditions, and
- Course set-up.

(See pg.09).

Playing Handicap

The *Course Handicap* adjusted for any *handicap allowances* or Terms of the Competition. It represents the actual number of strokes the player gives or receives for the round being played (see pg.12).

Rules of Golf

The Rules of Golf as approved by the United States Golf Association ("USGA") and R&A Rules Limited ("The R&A"), including any Model Local Rules the Committee adopts for the competition or the *golf course*.

Rules of Handicapping

The *Rules of Handicapping* as approved by the United States Golf Association ("USGA") and R&A Rules Limited ("The R&A") and administered by the *Authorized Association* within its *jurisdiction*.

Score Differential

The difference between a player's *adjusted gross score* and the *Course Rating*, reflecting the *Slope Rating* and the *playing conditions calculation*.

A *Score Differential* must be an 18-hole value or its calculated equivalent (see pg.09).

Scoring Record

A history of a player's acceptable scores along with:

- The player's current *Handicap Index*,
- The player's *Low Handicap Index*,
- Other details about each round (such as, the date the round was played), and
- Any applicable adjustments (for example, an *exceptional score*).

Slope Rating

An indication of the relative difficulty of a *golf course* for players who are not *scratch players* compared to players who are *scratch players*.



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