

World Handicapping System

You may be aware that the handicapping system currently in place is due to change to the World Handicapping System (WHS) on the 2nd November. I wanted to set out our transition to this new system and note some key points for your information and to prepare you for this move. Before going over these points I wish to note my thanks to Jonathan Porteous for all the hard work he has put in so we are ready for moving over to this new system. I also want to say that whilst the notes that follow may seem different, perhaps confusing and there will no doubt be many questions from members going forward, please remember the principle of playing golf and scoring remains the same and staff at Craigiellaw will continue to work behind the scenes to make playing in competitions and maintaining your handicap as simple as we can.

What is the WHS?

The purpose of the WHS is to provide players of any ability from anywhere in the world to play and compete with others on a fair basis.

Handicap Index

Your handicap index is a figure set to one decimal place and represents your current playing ability. This handicap index can be used to play at your home course or anywhere in the world. To simplify things this is similar to your current exact handicap e.g. 16.3

Course Handicap

Your course handicap is the number of shots you are allocated for a particular set of tees at a particular course. Whilst you can calculate your Course Handicap by using the formula below we will have course handicap calculation sheets in the pro shop and notice board and we are looking to install a larger version near the first tee.

Formula

Course Handicap = Handicap Index x (Slope Rating / 113)

Course Rating and Slope Rating

The course rating is the evaluation of the playing difficulty of a course for scratch golfers under normal course and weather conditions this replaces SSS.

The slope rating evaluates the relative playing difficulty of a course for players who are not scratch golfers. The lowest slope rating is 55 and the highest is 155. A golf course of standard playing difficulty has a slope rating of 113.

I have noted our course and slope ratings for all sets of tees at Craigiellaw in the link below:

<https://www.craigiellawgolfclub.com/wp-content/uploads/CertificationPoster-Craigiellaw.pdf>

As part of a review from our course architect Tom McKenzie we were advised to introduce multipurpose tees. You will see above that the Blue and the new Green tees have now been rated for women and men.

Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC)

At the end of each day, a PCC will take place automatically behind the scenes, to determine if scores made at the course were significantly higher or lower than expected. If scores were unusually low or high, a PCC adjustment between -1 and +3 will be applied to your score differential calculation to reflect the playing conditions on the day.

Adjusting your handicap

You can record a score for handicap in a competition or recreational game as long as there is another person present during the round, you play to the rules of golf and your score is attested.

Once you have returned your score and at the end of the day a PCC is applied then your final score differential will be calculated which will represent the handicap you played to for that round relative to the difficulty of the course played, as determined by the course rating, slope rating and the playing conditions.

Your handicap index is calculated by averaging your best 8 score differentials out of the most recent 20 within your scoring record meaning your handicap may fluctuate more than with the current system.

Please note there are measures in place to deal with improved play (your score can come down quickly) and indeed if you are showing a temporary loss of form your handicap will rise however there are measures that can slow down this rise.

As ever if you feel your handicap does not fully reflect your ability please let the pro shop team or the golf office know and we can review your handicap.

Computer System and App

Craigielaw has had to move to a new computer system as our current software provider did not wish to apply for the license for the new WHS. We have moved over to Club Systems which is a provider that deals with a large proportion of the UK golf club market and many of you will know the online portal and App - How Did I Do which allows you to input scores, track performance, enter events etc. We are in the final process of having our system built ready for the move to WHS and when we have everything up and running we will circulate the links to download the app and online portals so you can access your handicap information.

Please note that the current booking system for tee times will remain the same.

To find out more detail on the WHS you can visit the R&A website.

<https://www.randa.org/en/worldhandicapsystem>

I said in my opening paragraph the rules of playing the game and scoring have not changed and I feel that once you have played a few rounds and witnessed how this impacts on your handicap index you will become familiar with the new system. Please remember we are here to make this move as simple as we can but I would advise you to visit the site above and get to know the system as this is your handicap not ours.

Derek Scott
Manager