Safeguards have been added under the World Handicap System

**Safeguard #1 – Playing Conditions Calculation**

A daily Playing Conditions Calculation compares actual scores made at each course to the expected scores of the players who made them. If the scores are **significantly** higher or lower than expected, an automatic adjustment is applied to the score differential calculation of those who played that day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The range of the PCC is <strong>-1.0 to +3.0</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A <strong>0.0</strong> adjustment means the course played as expected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A <strong>-1.0</strong> adjustment means the course played easier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A <strong>+1.0, +2.0, or +3.0</strong> adjustment means the course played more difficult</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: The PCC is conservative and will result in **0.0** on most days. If an adjustment is made, it will be clearly identified in the player’s scoring record.

**Safeguard #2 – Limit on Extreme Upward Movement**

Each time a player’s Handicap Index updates, the new value is compared to the player’s Low Handicap Index from the past year and:

- If a 3.0 stroke increase takes place: A **soft cap** will slow additional upward movement **by 50%**.
- If a 5.0 stroke increase takes place (after the soft cap is applied): A **hard cap** will prevent any additional upward movement.

**Safeguard #3 – Exceptional Score Reduction**

An **Exceptional Score Reduction** will be applied automatically when a player submits a score that produces a score differential **7.0** strokes or better than their Handicap Index at the time the round was played:

- If the score is **7.0 – 9.9** strokes better: A **-1.0** Handicap Index adjustment will be applied.
- If the score is **10.0 or more** strokes better: A **-2.0** Handicap Index adjustment will be applied.

Notes: The **-1.0 or -2.0** adjustment is applied to each of the most recent 20 score differentials in the player’s scoring record. Future scores will not contain the **-1.0 or -2.0** adjustment, allowing the reduction to play itself out of the scoring record.

For more information or to learn more about the WHS, visit [usga.org/whs](http://usga.org/whs)