

## **Highlights of the World Handicapping System (WHS)**

This infographic presents that the introduction of the WHS does not change the way that golf is currently played, while introducing readers to some of the key features of the new system.

On the course, the infographic is designed to suggest that the golfer simply needs to focus on:

- Determining a playing handicap for their chosen format of play, prior to starting the round
- Playing and enjoying their round, as done currently
- Submitting their score, as soon as possible, after completing their round

Below the fairway, some of the key features of the WHS are summarized, giving golfers an insight into some of the behind-the-scenes, mechanics of the new system. Separating these from the playing aspects is intended to portray that golfers do not need to worry about these mechanics while playing, as they simply relate to the administration and calculation of players handicaps.

Overview of the key features:

### **Course Rating and Slope Rating**

Currently used in over 80 countries worldwide, the USGA Course Rating System has been adopted under the WHS umbrella.

### **Minimal Number of Scores to Obtain a Handicap**

To encourage players to obtain a handicap, National Associations can set the number of holes required to obtain a handicap. It is recommended that the minimum number of holes should be 54.

### **Acceptable Scores for Handicap Purposes**

Singles and Stableford formats of stroke-play competitions must be submitted by all players. National Associations have discretion, within their jurisdiction, to choose other acceptable formats of play for handicap purposes - giving players plenty of opportunity to submit scores and provide evidence of their potential ability. To protect equity, handicaps allowances will be recommended for the most commonly played formats of play.

### **Maximum Hole Score of Net Double Bogey**

Limiting occasional submission of high scores on a hole which does not reflect the player's potential ability. This only applies for handicap adjustment purposes.

### **Basis of Handicap Calculation**

Averaging of the best 8 of the most recent 20 scores, provides a good indicator of a player's potential ability. Combined with memory of previously demonstrated potential this creates a balance between responsiveness and control. The WHS will ensure that a player's temporary loss of form does not result in an excessive increase in handicap. Oversight of player's handicaps is fundamental within the WHS. A player's handicap will be reviewed periodically to ensure that it remains representative of potential ability.

### **9-hole and 18-hole Scores**

WHS is designed to accept both 9 and 18-hole scores when chosen by National Associations for handicap purposes.

### **Abnormal Course and Weather Conditions Adjustment**

Considering the impact of daily course and weather conditions on each golfer's performance.