USGA Handicap System to World Handicap System – Change Summary

Frequency of Handicap Index Updates

**USGA Handicap System (pre-2020):** Following the National Revision Schedule, a player’s Handicap Index was updated on the 1st and 15th of each month.

**Rule Change for 2020:** A player’s Handicap Index updates daily, provided that the player posted a score the day before. On days where the player does not post a score, no update takes place.

**Reasons for Change:**

- To provide players with a more responsive and up-to-date Handicap Index.
  - Under the previous system, a newly posted score sometimes had to wait up to two weeks before it was factored into the player’s Handicap Index calculation.

- To streamline the process of establishing a Handicap Index.
  - After a player posts their third acceptable 18-hole score (made up of any combination of 9-hole and 18-hole rounds), they are issued a Handicap Index the next day.

- To encourage players to post scores as soon as practicable, preferably before midnight on the day of play.
  - Since the Playing Conditions Calculation uses scores posted at a course each day, it is crucial that scores are posted on the same day of play.