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 is updated on the 1st and 15th of each month.

Rule Change for 2020: A player’s Handicap Index will update daily, provided that the player submitted a score the day before. On days where the player does not submit a score, no update will take place.

Reasons for Change:

➢ To provide players with a more responsive and up-to-date Handicap Index.
   
   o Under the current system, a newly submitted score may have to wait up to two weeks before it is factored into the player’s Handicap Index calculation.

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

➢ To encourage players to submit scores as soon as practicable, preferably before midnight on the day of play.
   
   o Since the Playing Conditions Calculation will use scores submitted at a course each day, it is crucial that scores are posted on the same day of play.

➢ A golf club can establish an effective date to use for eligibility or for a Handicap Index to use for a competition. This provides greater discretion than revision dates on the 1st and 15th.