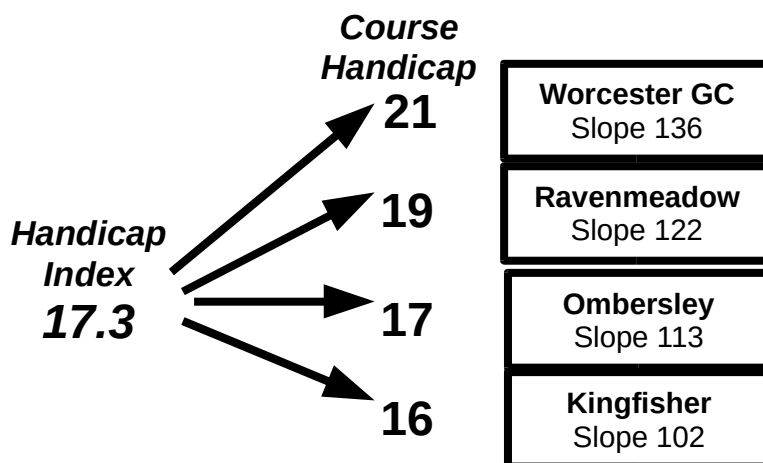


The central purpose of the World Handicap System is to generate **different** handicaps when playing at different courses. The player is assigned an “Index” on Howdidido, a single figure expressed to one decimal place, which is a measure of the player’s golfing ability but it is **NOT** a handicap.

At any given course, the player’s index converts to a handicap based on that course’s “Slope”. More difficult courses have a large slope, easier courses have a lower slope. The diagram below shows how a player with an index of 17.3 will have different handicaps at a selection of local courses.



A number of our players have dual membership, able to play at Ravenmeadow and also at Worcester G&CC (Boughton). One of them currently has an index of 35.0 and consequently has a handicap of 37 when playing at Ravenmeadow but a handicap of 40 when playing at Boughton. It isn’t possible for the computer system to state what handicap she should put on her scorecard until she identifies which of the two courses she is playing on that given day because she must put 40 on her scorecard when playing at Boughton but 37 on her scorecard at Ravenmeadow. It is fundamental to the operation of the World Handicap System that the computer system cannot provide her with her handicap until she signs in to a competition because only at that point has she identified which of her two clubs she is playing at.

The majority of our members play their golf exclusively at Ravenmeadow and for them it may seem counter-intuitive that Howdidido now shows a number (your Index) but that isn’t the number you put on your scorecard. Once it’s understood what the system is designed to achieve, then hopefully it becomes clearer why the system CANNOT provide your handicap until the moment that you sign into a competition. It isn’t a fault, that’s the way the World Handicap System is designed to operate.

Also I’ve seen letters on the internet from golfers at clubs like Boughton (with a high slope) complaining bitterly that their CONGU handicap was 21 but under the new World Handicap their index is 17 and it is totally unjust that they’ve been cut 4 shots and they’ll never play to the new figure. Hopefully they will eventually realise that at their home course an index of 17 always converts to a handicap of 21. However the figure of 21 only becomes available on the day of a competition at the moment that you sign in.

Your index is NOT your handicap, it is a measure of your playing ability which generates different handicaps on golf courses all around the world!