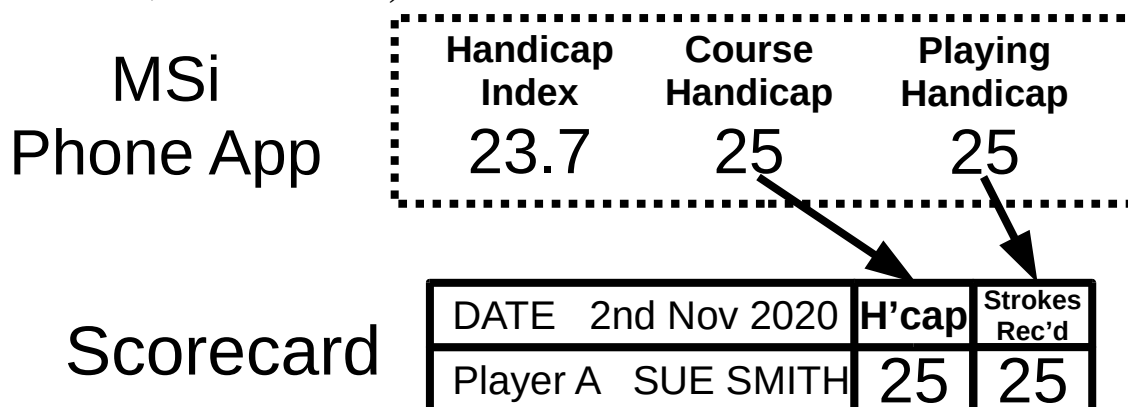


Currently under CONGU we have one single handicap number which is easily understood and applied. My handicap on Howdidido is 12, I write handicap 12 on my scorecard and 12 is deducted from my score to give the “Nett” score which determines the result of the competition.

The WHS replaces this with three DIFFERENT numbers. For people with smart-phones, these numbers will all be displayed on the MSi Phone App (provided free by Howdidido) prior to play when you sign-in for the competition of the day. Two of these numbers are then transferred to your scorecard as shown. People without smart-phones will have to ask the pro-shop staff to transfer these numbers from the in-shop PSi screen (which players cannot touch, because of Covid)



Handicap Index (HI)

From 2nd Nov your web-based Howdidido account will display only a figure for your Handicap Index, shown to one decimal point. This is a measure of your ability to play golf but it is not your handicap at R&PPGC. Instead it is your handicap on a theoretical course of “standard” slope 113 (more later). Unlike your CONGU handicap which is currently updated by us when closing a competition, your new HI will be calculated by England Golf and issued via Howdidido at midnight every night.

Your Handicap Index is based on taking the latest 20 scores in your playing record, selecting the best 8 from those 20, then taking the average of the best 8. However there may be times when your HI is capped to prevent it rising too fast. Also, the Handicap Committee are entitled to impose Reviews to change your HI for a chosen period. The perspective I would like to encourage is that if Howdidido says your HI is 15.8 then that must be accepted as fact even the derivation of that number is far from obvious.

Course Handicap (CH)

Course Handicap is your handicap for the course you are about to play and **it is the whole number that you must write on your scorecard in the handicap box or else face disqualification.** A “course” refers to a specific set of tees, so that playing from white tees is a different course from yellow tees. Each set of tees is allocated a slope by assessors and R&PPGC have been assessed at 122 from white tees and 119 from red. Since these slopes are larger than the theoretical “standard” course with a slope of 113, your course handicap at R&PPGC will be larger than your HI.

When you play at a different clubs, perhaps in a matches against another team, your Handicap Index will convert into different Course Handicaps, more shots on harder courses and fewer shots on easier courses.

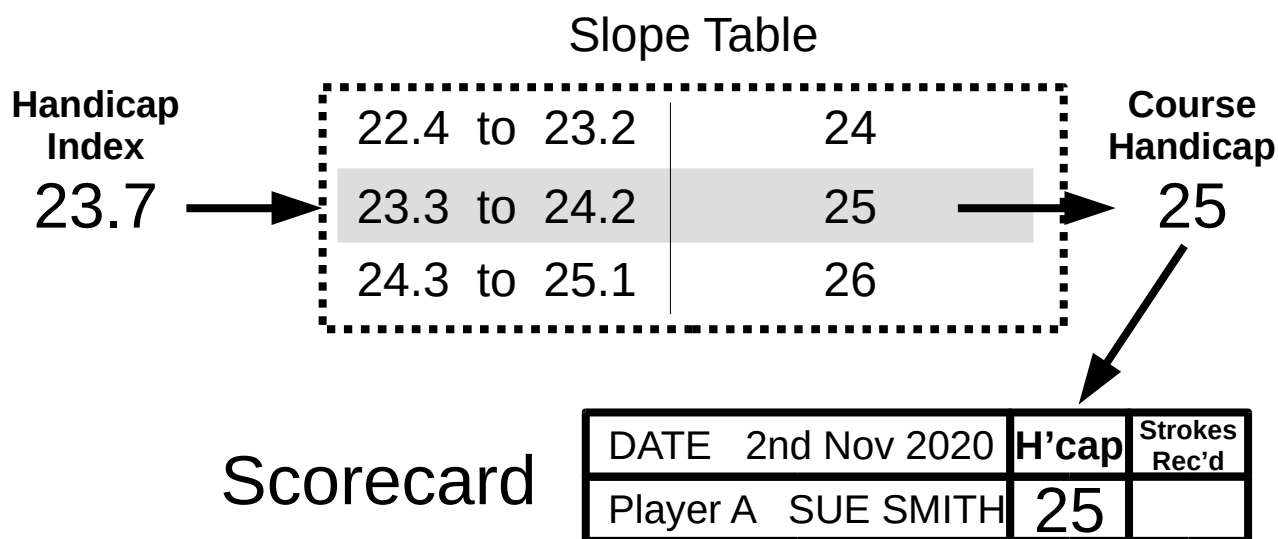
Playing Handicap (PH)

This is the number used to evaluate the result of the competition. It is a whole number derived from your Course Handicap on the day. Firstly the calculation involves a **deduction** based on the chosen form of play. For example, fourball betterball has a different deduction compared with individual strokeplay. Secondly it involves an **addition** for any players using a different course. So, as all our competitions are mixed, ladies will receive an additional 1.4 when playing strokeplay off red tees in competition against men off the white tees.

In strokeplay, it is your Playing Handicap which is deducted from your gross score to give your nett score and in stableford competitions your points must be worked out using this number.

Without Technology

On the rare occasion that the PSI screen is not operational, players without smart-phones will need to use the Slope Tables located by the first tee. These provide conversion from your Handicap Index to the Course Handicap which **must** be written on your card. An image of the Slope Table is shown on the Ravenmeadow website Noticeboard.



However, in this situation, without knowledge of your Playing Handicap you can do no other than simply record your gross scores, surrender your card and await evaluation of the competition result. You will not be in a position to evaluate the stableford points nor work out your nett score. The competition result will be accurate when it is declared.

Social Scores

If players wish to add scores to their playing record to improve the accuracy of their Handicap Index they can do so exactly as in the past. Under the much vaunted “World Handicap System” (which really just involves the Rest of the World swallowing the USGA system, hook, line and terminology) the name “Supplementary Score” will be dropped and instead you will formally sign-in for a “Social Score”. The arrangements are intended to align with those for competitions, namely you may sign-in personally via the MSi smart-phone App or else ask the pro-shop staff to sign you in via the PSi. Men will need to specify whether they are going to play from yellow tees or white. After the round, players can enter their scores in the corresponding manner, either through their own smart-phone or by returning their card to the front desk for entry into the PSi by the pro-shop staff.

From 2nd Nov both men AND ladies will be able to play 9 hole Social Scores and have them count as one of the 20 scores in their playing record but please note that you must play the true 9th hole (the dog-leg left) and walk back from there. The 18th/9a hole across the stream is not acceptable.

As in the past, once or twice a year, the Handicap Committee will accept an exceptionally good scorecard (meaning 5 or more better than par +Course Handicap) even if played without prior sign-in. Your Handicap Index will be reviewed accordingly. But no player will be allowed to continuously put card after card in the box without prior sign-in. It will always be assumed that in doing this you are being selective of which cards you enter and that you are attempting to “shape” your handicap either up or down according to your wishes.

Further Information

For those interested, there is a whole lot more info on the WHS available on the web.

This 3 minute video covers the same ground: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5xeVAfucTTA>

Go as deep as you want: <https://www.whs.com/#learnmore>

For geeks only: <https://www.congu.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/CONGU-Rules-of-Handicapping1.pdf>