

WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM (WHS)

The New World Handicap System (WHS) comes into operation in Ireland on **2nd November 2020** replacing the CONGU Unified Handicap System which has been the handicap system for the last number of years. Perhaps the lockdown will give us time to find out what it is all about and our Handicap Committees time to get up to speed on it.

Basically, your old CONGU handicap will no longer be valid and is replaced with a new **Handicap Index**. Members will still be able to access their old CONGU Handicap records on www.golfnet.ie, should they need to access their old records for any purpose.

A Player's **Handicap Index** will be used no matter what course you play in the world. At every course there will be a **Conversion Chart** called a **Course Handicap Table for each Set of tees**, (in Tullamore - Blue, White and Red) and from this Table you will get your **Course Handicap**. **The Course Handicap is what must appear on your score card.** **Make sure you use the correct table.**

Therefore, there is no need for players to get into all the technical stuff re Course Rating, Slope Rating etc. These are matters that have already been calculated.

Players' scores from 2018-2020 inclusive, will be transferred from the Golfnet Server to the WHS and will be used as the basis for calculating each player's Handicap Index.

For most players, their handicap will change only slightly as they will be coming from systems which are generally similar to the WHS. However, this will be dependent on many factors – including the number of scores available upon which the calculation of a handicap can be based. The more scores available in a player's scoring record at the time of transition, the less impact that golfer will feel on his/her handicap. The WHS is responsive to good scores by averaging your eight (8) best scores out of your most recent twenty (20) but it also includes safeguards to prevent handicaps from increasing too much over short periods of time.

If you have less than 20 scores in 3 years this table is used to calculate your Index.

Calculation of a Handicap Index

For Fewer Than 20 Scores

Number of score differentials in scoring record	Score differential(s) to be used in calculation of Handicap Index	Adjustment
3	Lowest 1	-2.0
4	Lowest 1	-1.0
5	Lowest 1	0
6	Average of lowest 2	-1.0
7 or 8	Average of lowest 2	0
9 to 11	Average of lowest 3	0
12 to 14	Average of lowest 4	0
15 or 16	Average of lowest 5	0
17 or 18	Average of lowest 6	0
19	Average of lowest 7	0
20	Average of lowest 8	0



There may be variances between your CONGU handicap and the new Handicap Index and it expected there will be some anomalies which Handicap Committees will examine as the method of calculation of the initial WHS Indices is not a precise science. **Please be patient and give our Handicap Committees in the Club time to do the cross-checking that they need to do and to get familiar with the new system before contacting them – remember they are volunteers giving their time freely.**

Members will be provided with access to the new system shortly and, initially, will have to use **their 8-digit GUI/ILGU Member Number and 4-digit PIN**, both of which are printed on the rear of their GUI/ILGU Member Card.

If you have lost your card and **don't know your 4-digit pin number it is accessible by logging in to your Golfnet record** (just below your card number, email address and Tullamore top left-hand corner).

The screenshot shows the 'Course Rating and Slope Database™' interface. At the top, it says 'Course Rating Search Results'. Below this is a table with three columns: 'Club/Course Name', 'City', and 'State'. The results show 'Tullamore Golf Club - Tullamore Golf Club' in 'Tullamore', 'IE-OY'. Below this is a larger table with columns: 'Tee Name', 'Gender', 'Par', 'Course Rating (18)', 'Bogey Rating (18)', 'Slope Rating (18)', 'Front (9)', and 'Back (9)'. The data rows are as follows:

Tee Name	Gender	Par	Course Rating (18)	Bogey Rating (18)	Slope Rating (18)	Front (9)	Back (9)
Blue	M	70	71.9	95.8	129	35.1 / 124	36.8 / 133
White	M	70	71.0	94.6	127	34.7 / 122	36.3 / 132
Red	F	72	72.7	102.5	127	36.0 / 125	36.7 / 128

Some definitions you may be interested in:

Scratch Player

A player with a Handicap Index of 0.0

Bogey Player

A player with a Handicap Index of approximately 20.0 for men and approximately 24.0 for women

Course Rating™

An indication of the difficulty of a golf course for the scratch player under normal course and weather conditions.

Bogey Rating

An indication of the difficulty of a golf course for the bogey player under normal course and weather conditions.

Slope Rating®

An indication of the relative difficulty of a golf course for players who are not scratch players compared to players who are scratch players. The lowest Slope Rating is 55 and the highest is 155.

Our Ratings can be found [HERE](#) (Link to be inserted to page on website by AM)

Course and Slope ratings for courses throughout the world can be found through these links

<https://www.randa.org/courseteeinfo?CourseID> **OR**

<http://ncrdb.usga.org/>

More detailed information on the WHS is available at the following

<https://www.golfnet.ie/whs>

<https://www.randa.org/>

<https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/handicapping.html>

<https://www.randa.org/en/worldhandicapsystem/qandas>