Key Changes to the World Handicap System for 2024

1. Use of Expected Scores and Application of the Minimum Number of Holes Required to Post an Eligible Score

9-Hole Rounds



Prior to 2024, players who completed 7 out of 9 holes were able to post an acceptable score using the "Net-Par" calculation for holes not played.

With the 2024 changes, players must complete all 9 holes to submit a 9-hole score.

The Score Differential calculated from a 9-hole score will be combined with an Expected Score Differential to create an 18-Hole Score Differential.

The Good News –your 9-hole score will be applied to your handicap index right away – no more waiting to post another 9-hole score to update your handicap.

Exception for a hole not played during a 9-hole round. If a hole or green is declared out of play for maintenance or reconstruction purposed, "Net-Par" can continue to be used to produce an acceptable score for that hole. The Score Differentials as noted above are applied to the resulting 9-hole score.

Net Par is calculated as Par plus any handicap strokes you are given for that hole based on your course handicap and the stroke index of that hole.

18-Hole Rounds



Prior to 2024, players who completed 14 out of 18 holes were able to post an acceptable score using the "Net-Par" calculation for holes not played.

With the 2024 changes, players who play between 10 and 17 holes are eligible to post an acceptable 18-hole score, providing there is a valid and acceptable reason for the hole(s) not played. "Expected scores" will be used in place of "Net-Par" for hole(s) not played.

The Score Differential of the holes played are combined with the Expected Score Differential for the holes not played, creating an 18-Hole Score Differential.

The Good News - The calculation for holes not played is done automatically on the Score Centre. Players designate holes not played by entering "0" for the appropriate hole and the system takes care of the rest.

Valid reasons for holes not played.

Fading light or bad weather, player injury or illness, a match finishing before the final hole or a hole or green being declared out of play for maintenance or reconstruction purposes.

Expected Score Differentials

Expected Score Differentials are based on the normal scoring pattern of players with the same Handicap Index as you on the holes that you didn't play over a course of standard difficulty. The new method will produce complete Score Differentials that more accurately reflect a player's ability.

2. Playing Conditions Calculation



Introduced in 2020, the Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC) determines whether playing conditions on a given day differ from normal conditions to the extent that an adjustment is needed to compensate.

The PCC criteria is primarily due to weather and course set-up.

In 2024 the sensitivity for the Playing Conditions Calculations has increased and instead of coming into play 5% -10% of days of play, it may return an adjustment 10-15% of days of play.

How Does PCC Work? The PCC is calculated at the end of the day and compares scores posted for that day to expected scores in normal conditions. If a PCC is warranted, it will be applied to all scores posted for that day. The more scores posted by midnight of the day of play, the more accurate the PCC will be.

3. Enhanced Guidance on Conducting a Handicap Review



New reporting tools have been developed and added to the Score Centre reporting function to assist Handicap Committees in conducting the review process effectively and consistently. The new tools identify abnormalities within a player's scoring

record - including the ability to identify players who frequently score above or below their expected scoring ranges - and can make recommendations for individual Handicap Index adjustments. These data-driven tools provide more objectivity and consistency to the Handicap Review process.

4. Changes to Minimum Length of Golf Courses to Obtain a Course Rating and Slope Rating



The World Handicap System has approved lowering the minimum length of a golf course to be issued a Course Rating and Slope Rating to 1500 yards for 18 holes and 750 yards for 9 holes. This means you may be able to post your scores for rounds played at those Par-3 or Executive courses played here at home or

while you are away! It also means that a Course Handicap can be calculated for your use at those courses.