Glossary of Key Terms
World Handicap System

To find out more on the World Handicap System visit: englandgolf.org/whs
Course Rating
Measures how many strokes a Scratch Player should take on any given course and it is used to calculate the difficulty of a golf course.

Slope Rating
Is the number which indicates the relative playing difficulty of a course for Bogey Golfers, compared to Scratch Golfers. The combination of the Course Rating and the Bogey Rating is used to calculate the Slope Rating off a particular set of tees.

Handicap Index
The measurement of a player’s potential ability on a course of standard playing difficulty, calculated by taking the best 8 of their previous 20 rounds. It is transferrable to take to any golf course around the world.

Course Handicap
The number of strokes a player will receive for a specific set of tees on the golf course being played.

Playing Handicap
Represents the number of strokes a player receives when playing with or against other players in a competition round.

Handicap Allowance
The stroke allowance applied to the Course Handicap to determine the Playing Handicap.

Score Differential
The difference between a players adjusted gross score and the Course Rating, reflecting the Slope Rating and the Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC). It is a numerical value attributed to a score achieved on a golf course on a specific day that is posted into the players scoring record.

Playing Conditions Calculation (PCC)
PCC is used to adjust Score Differentials to better reflect a player’s actual performance when adverse weather conditions or abnormal course set-up causes scores to be unusually high or low on a given day.

Net Double Bogey
The maximum score on any hole for any player.
Low Handicap Index
Represents the demonstrated ability of a player over a 12-month period, preceding the most recent score in the player’s scoring record. It provides a reference point against which the current Handicap Index can be compared.

Soft Cap
Soft Cap will suppress movement of the Handicap Index by 50% after a 3.0 stroke increase over the Low Handicap Index has been reached.

Hard Cap
Hard Cap will restrict upward movement to 5.0 strokes over the Low Handicap Index.

Exceptional Score Reduction (ESR)
ESR is a procedure for dealing with exceptional scores which may indicate a player’s ability is rapidly improving.

Handicap Committee
A Handicap Committee, consisting of at least three people and the majority being club members, are responsible for ensuring compliance with the golf club’s specified obligations and responsibilities under the Rules of Handicapping.

Scratch Golfer
A player who can play to a course handicap of zero on any and all rated golf courses.

Bogey Golfer
A player that averages a handicap of between 20 for men and 24 for women.

Bogey Rating
Bogey Rating is the measure of the playing difficulty of a set of tees for a Bogey Golfer.

Competition Rounds
Any singles competition rounds both 9 or 18 holes, whether played home or away, that has been organised by the Handicap Committee.
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Recreational Rounds
All General Play ‘Social’ rounds that have been pre-registered will be acceptable for handicap purposes.

Home Club
Is the club nominated by a player, usually one determined by where a player submits the most scores or demonstrates regularity of play.

Away Club
Any golf club that has not been nominated by a player as their home golf club of choice.

The R&A
The R&A, together with the USGA, governs the game of golf worldwide, operating in separate jurisdictions whilst sharing a commitment to Rules of Golf and are responsible for the Rules of Handicapping and the Course Rating System.

The USGA
The USGA is a non-profit organisation that, together with The R&A, are responsible for the Rules of Handicapping and the Course Rating System.

CONGU
The Council of National Golf Unions, originally the British Golf Unions Joint Advisory Committee.

Terms of Competition
The rules published by the Handicap Committee before a competition that outline details such as dates, entry process, format of play, handicap allowance, tees to be used etc.

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