



# World Handicap System (WHS) – Exceptional Score Reductions (Rule 5.9)

On occasions golfers can perform much better than their handicap would suggest. WHS has a safeguard built into the system known as an 'Exceptional Score Reduction'.

Any exceptional score reduction is applied automatically by the system, as an additional adjustment and can be from general play and/or competition scores.

An automatic adjustment is triggered when a score differential is at least 7.0 – 9.9 strokes better than the player's Handicap Index at the time the round was played. A -1.0 reduction would be applied to each of the most 20 recent scores in the handicap record.

A -2.0 reduction is applied when a score differential of 10 or greater has been calculated, with any -2.0 reductions being applied to all of the most recent 20 scores in the handicap record.

\* **Note** – Multiple exceptional score reductions can be applied should the golfer have more than one score differential of 7.0 or greater. This would be shown as a cumulative value in the handicap record.

Number of strokes the Score Differential is lower than a player's Handicap Index in effect when the round was played	Exceptional score reduction
7.0 – 9.9	-1.0
10.0 or more	-2.0

The handicap committee can override an exceptional score reduction if they feel it is not justified and a fair reflection of any demonstrated ability (7.1a).



However, the Committee should bear in mind that only a percentage of the actual score has been used in the new handicap index calculation: and therefore, the extra reduction is usually warranted to correctly reflect the player's current playing ability.