



# HANDICAP

## WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM

Find out about the preparations – Update May 2019

[www.fpg.pt](http://www.fpg.pt)

### What are the objectives of WHS?

The WHS will unify the six handicap systems currently used around the world, into one single handicap system, providing a worldwide more consistent method for handicapping players.

The WHS seeks an inclusive system that welcomes players from different backgrounds and profiles- a system that is fair, robust and trusted by all, with clear concepts and that promotes consistency and portability of handicaps.

The project is promoted by The R&A and USGA, with the collaboration of the EGA and the other 5 handicapping authorities (Golf Australia, CONGU, SAGA, AAG e USGA). The FPG has been supporting and directly contributing to the development of the WHS.

### When will the WHS be implemented in Portugal?

The WHS international project has been developing in a collaborative way. The Portuguese Golf Federation has also started national preparations for implementation, but is aiming for a balanced view on the implementation process, taking the various preparation areas, such as protocol finalization, software development, tests, translations, preparation of informative materials, planning and execution of the training, in a phased and safe way.

**In that sense, preparations are planned for 2019, with a testing period extending to 2020. After these experimental tests, more information about the date of entry into force will be available, which is expected to happen during 2020.**

The Portuguese Golf Federation will continue to communicate on the implementation planning in the coming semesters, and given the magnitude of the project worldwide, it is expected that different timings of implementation will occur in different countries.

### What Main Features will the WHS have?

There is no real need for players to worry about the technical details of the new system. However, for those who are interested – here are some of the highlights:

#### Basis of Calculation

The handicap will be calculated from the average of the best 8 of the last 20 eligible handicap rounds, also featuring a balance between responsiveness and control, with memory of previously demonstrated playing ability.



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### Acceptable Scores for Handicap Purposes

All the current formats of play will be available. Both competitive and recreational rounds are included. Frequent submission of scores is promoted in order to provide evidence of demonstrated ability.

### Minimal Number of Scores to Obtain a Handicap

A minimal number of scores is needed to obtain a new handicap. This also means that a valid handicap is calculated before the player has the 20 scores on his record.

### Course Rating and Slope Rating

The Course Rating System will continue to be used to rate courses, as part of the WHS and, therefore, allowing for portability from course to course and country to country.

### Playing Conditions

A statistical feature will consider the impact of abnormal playing conditions, namely regarding course and weather conditions.

### Maximum Hole Score

The maximum score per hole for handicapping purposes continues to be the equivalent to zero Stableford points (net double bogey).

### Daily Revisions

Handicaps are daily updated, therefore scores should be submitted by players and committees before the end of the day, for updating the player's handicap when the calculations are run.

### Maximum Handicap

The maximum handicap will be 54.0, for an inclusive system.

## **How will the WHS training take place in Portugal?**

Training initiatives will be gradual and essentially divided into two groups:

- Awareness Campaign: starting in 2019, a campaign will be developed with informative and generic videos on the main elements of the future rules of handicapping. Its purpose will be to make available the principles, concepts and terminology, in a simplified way.
- Training program: the structured training will be aimed at handicap managers and sports agents. This is planned to start only after the international/European level training takes place. The national training for the Handicap Committees is estimated to run between the last quarter of 2019 and the first half of 2020.

Simplified educational materials will also be prepared, for general information.



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### What will it mean for the FPG players?

#### Keep Playing and Enjoying Golf

For the FPG players, no major changes are necessary from the point of view of the using a handicap. Players will continue to play, enjoy golf and submit scores. All other regulatory parameters, besides the calculation system, remain in force.

#### Playing Handicap Calculation

The number of strokes received during a round will continue to be based on the choice of course, tees and format of play. This will include any handicap allowances, based on the format of play, that have been set to promote fairness of play.

#### Submit the Score

Each score card should be submitted as soon as possible, preferably until the end of the day, for inclusion in the daily calculations.

#### Handicap Calculations

The calculation of the handicap formula itself will be different, i.e., based on the average of the best, most recent, scores. All calculations will be digitally and the handicap updated, for the next day. Handicaps will continue to be calculated/recorded on the Portuguese Golf Federation Handicap Central Server. The structure of delegated handicapping authority to affiliated Clubs and monitoring by Handicap Committees will also be maintained.

### What should FPG's players and Handicap Committees do prior to implementation?

#### Players

Playing and enjoying golf! Moreover, players are encouraged to return as many handicap rounds as possible, in order to have more scores available in the handicap record at the time of the transition.

#### Handicap Committees

Handicap Committees should stay tuned to the awareness campaign, mindful of future training and testing timings and available to support their players, and other bodies and committees of their Club, during the change process.



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### How will the transition take place?

The transition will be calculated on the FPG's Central Handicap System, based on the player's handicap record. The FPG is planning to have the handicap updated to WHS, available for consultation by the player and review by the player's Handicap Committee, before date of entry into force.

### What is the FPG's position on WHS?

The FPG has supported and contributed directly to the WHS project since its start, notably through representation in the international commission, consisting of about 20 elements, which was created specifically for the development of system proposals. In addition, the project also brings together the most advanced research on the subject of handicaps. This project fits into a vision of innovation and modernity for golf, promoting opportunities to bring all players, clubs, players and agents closer to the sport and closer together.