

# WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM

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**USGA**®

## Numbers of Scores Required to Obtain a Handicap Index

**USGA Handicap System (pre-2020):** A Handicap Index is issued to a player after five 18-hole scores are submitted and a revision takes place.

- Scores can be made up of any combination of 9-hole and 18-hole scores.
- A Handicap Index is revised on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

**Rule Change for 2020:** A Handicap Index will be issued to a player after three 18-hole scores are submitted and a revision takes place.

- Scores can be made up of any combination of 9-hole and 18-hole scores.
- Revisions will be daily, so a player's Handicap Index will become active the day after their third 18-hole score is submitted.

### **Reasons for Change:**

- One of the key principles of the World Handicap System is to enable as many golfers as possible the opportunity to establish and maintain a Handicap Index.
  - By requiring fewer scores, players who only play sporadically may be more likely to obtain a Handicap Index.
- Statistics show that players with a Handicap Index play more rounds of golf, so making it easier to get a Handicap Index can help increase participation.