

WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM (WHS) TECHNICAL ARTICLE 3, SCORE DIFFERENTIAL ADJUSTMENTS

Once we have calculated the score differential (see Technical Article 2) by applying the maximum Net Double Bogey score per hole (see Technical Article 1) we will see that on occasions these score differentials need to be adjusted before calculating the average of the best 8 scores from the last 20. There are three types of adjustment: Exceptional Score, Evidence of Previous Ability and No Return/Disqualification.

1. EXCEPTIONAL SCORE

There are some players, especially young or very skilful players whose game improves quicker than their handicap can reflect. In such cases, these players would have an advantage when playing competitions. The World Handicap System (WHS) will have an Exceptional Score adjustment to better adapt the player's handicap to his/her real playing level.

An Exceptional Score is one that is 7 strokes or more better than the player's handicap for the round. That is, once the score differential has been calculated, it is compared to the handicap with which the player played the round not the one calculated afterwards.

Example 1

A player submits a score of 77 strokes (AGS) from a set of tees with a rating of CR 71.8 and SR 131. Her handicap for the competition was 11.1 Is this an exceptional score?

Let's first calculate the score differential:

$$\text{Score Differential} = (77 - 71.8) * \frac{113}{132} = 4.451$$

As her handicap was 11.1, the score is 6.649 strokes better, so this is not an Exceptional Score.

Example 2

A player submits a score of 87 strokes (AGS) from a set of tees with a rating of CR 70.2 and SR 129. His handicap for the competition was 23.6 Is this an exceptional score?

Let's first calculate the score differential:

$$\text{Score Differential} = (87 - 70.2) * \frac{113}{129} = 14.716$$

As his handicap was 23.6, the score is 8.884 strokes better, so this is an Exceptional Score.

Once we have detected that we have an Exceptional Score, the following adjustment is made:

- if the Exceptional Score is 10 strokes or more better than the handicap with which the player played, an extra adjustment of 2 strokes is made to the calculation of the average.
- if the Exceptional Score is 7 strokes or more better than the handicap with which the player played, an extra adjustment of 1 stroke is made to the calculation of the average.

In order to apply these additional adjustments, the score differentials are adjusted before calculating the average, so that the adjustment is reflected in them. Thus, a series of columns will appear next to the score differential so that we can see how what adjustments are to be applied.

Example 3

A player is going to play a competition. His handicap is calculated from his last 20 rounds:

	DATE	WHS HANDICAP	AGS	RATING	SCORE DIFFERENTIAL	ADJUSTMENTS			DIFFERENTIAL
						EXC. SCORE.	PREVIOUS ABILITY	NO RETURN	
1	2020-08-10	4.5	80	70.8/135/72	7.7	0	0	0	7.7
2	2020-08-04	4.5	78	73.2/136/72	4.0	0	0	0	4.0
3	2020-08-03	4.8	80	73.2/136/72	5.7	0	0	0	5.7
4	2020-06-16	4.9	52	50.0/55/54	4.1	0	0	0	4.1
5	2020-06-15	5.2	57	50.0/55/54	14.4	0	0	0	14.4
6	2020-06-15	5.2	53	50.0/55/54	6.2	0	0	0	6.2
7	2020-06-02	5.1	56	52.6/71/54	5.4	0	0	0	5.4
8	2020-04-06	5.4	79	71.5/128/72	6.6	0	0	0	6.6
9	2020-03-09	4.8	56	50.0/55/54	12.3	0	0	0	12.3
10	2020-01-19	4.3	55	51.7/73/54	5.1	0	0	0	5.1
11	2020-01-05	4.7	78	71.5/128/72	5.7	0	0	0	5.7
12	2019-12-15	4.9	79	71.5/128/72	6.6	0	0	0	6.6
13	2019-11-11	5.1	55	50.0/55/54	10.3	0	0	0	10.3
14	2019-11-10	5	56	50.0/55/54	12.3	0	0	0	12.3
15	2019-11-10	5	58	50.0/55/54	16.4	0	0	0	16.4
16	2019-09-22	5	56	50.0/55/54	12.3	0	0	0	12.3
17	2019-09-08	5	81	71.5/128/72	8.4	0	0	0	8.4
18	2019-08-05	4.8	78	73.2/136/72	4.0	0	0	0	4.0
19	2019-08-04	5	76	73.2/136/72	2.3	0	0	0	2.3
20	2019-07-25	5	79	71.7/122/71	6.7	0	0	0	6.7

On 22 September 2020 he submitted a score of 47 strokes (AGS) on a pitch & Putt course with a rating of CR 51.3 and SR 62. The previous rounds will be adjusted as follows:

	DATE	WHS HANDICAP	AGS	RATING	SCORE DIFFERENTIAL	ADJUSTMENTS			DIFFERENTIAL
						EXC. SCORE.	PREVIOUS ABILITY	NO RETURN	
1	2020-09-22	4.5	49	51.3/62/54	-4.2	-1	0	0	-5.2
2	2020-08-10	4.5	80	70.8/135/72	7.7	-1	0	0	6.7
3	2020-08-04	4.5	78	73.2/136/72	4.0	-1	0	0	3.0
4	2020-08-03	4.8	80	73.2/136/72	5.7	-1	0	0	4.7
5	2020-06-16	4.9	52	50.0/55/54	4.1	-1	0	0	3.1
6	2020-06-15	5.2	57	50.0/55/54	14.4	-1	0	0	13.4
7	2020-06-15	5.2	53	50.0/55/54	6.2	-1	0	0	5.2
8	2020-06-02	5.1	56	52.6/71/54	5.4	-1	0	0	4.4
9	2020-04-06	5.4	79	71.5/128/72	6.6	-1	0	0	5.6
10	2020-03-09	4.8	56	50.0/55/54	12.3	-1	0	0	11.3
11	2020-01-19	4.3	55	51.7/73/54	5.1	-1	0	0	4.1
12	2020-01-05	4.7	78	71.5/128/72	5.7	-1	0	0	4.7
13	2019-12-15	4.9	79	71.5/128/72	6.6	-1	0	0	5.6
14	2019-11-11	5.1	55	50.0/55/54	10.3	-1	0	0	9.3
15	2019-11-10	5	56	50.0/55/54	12.3	-1	0	0	11.3
16	2019-11-10	5	58	50.0/55/54	16.4	-1	0	0	15.4
17	2019-09-22	5	56	50.0/55/54	12.3	-1	0	0	11.3
18	2019-09-08	5	81	71.5/128/72	8.4	-1	0	0	7.4
19	2019-08-05	4.8	78	73.2/136/72	4.0	-1	0	0	3.0
20	2019-08-04	5	76	73.2/136/72	2.3	-1	0	0	1.3

The score is an Exceptional Score and therefore all of the differentials are adjusted with one point less so that the calculation (average) reflects this adjustment. We can see that all of the differentials are one point less than in the previous calculation.

2. EVIDENCE OF PREVIOUS ABILITY

Committees will still have the chance to adjust a player's handicap up or down if they have evidence that the handicap does not reflect the true playing level. In order to guarantee that the handicap calculation (average) reflects this manual modification of the handicap, all of the differentials are adjusted accordingly.

Example 4

The player in example 3 continues to play but gets injured in January 2021 and has to have an operation on his shoulder. When he returns to the golf course after the operation his playing level is not the same as seen in the last three results:

	DATE	WHS HANDICAP	AGS	RATING	SCORE DIFFERENTIAL	ADJUSTMENTS			DIFFERENTIAL
						EXC. SCORE.	PREVIOUS ABILITY	NO RETURN	
1	2021-07-11	2.8	84	71.5/128/72	11.0	0	0	0	11.0
2	2021-06-23	2.8	82	71.5/128/72	9.3	0	0	0	9.3
3	2021-06-16	2.8	85	71.5/128/72	11.9	0	0	0	11.9
4	2020-12-21	2.8	78	71.5/128/72	5.7	0	0	0	5.7
5	2020-12-06	2.8	76	72.2/131/72	3.3	0	0	0	3.3
6	2020-10-31	2.8	79	71.5/128/72	6.6	0	0	0	6.6
7	2020-09-22	4.5	49	51.3/62/54	-4.2	-1	0	0	-5.2
8	2020-08-10	4.5	80	70.8/135/72	7.7	-1	0	0	6.7
9	2020-08-04	4.5	78	73.2/136/72	4.0	-1	0	0	3.0
10	2020-08-03	4.8	80	73.2/136/72	5.7	-1	0	0	4.7
11	2020-06-16	4.9	52	50.0/55/54	4.1	-1	0	0	3.1
12	2020-06-15	5.2	57	50.0/55/54	14.4	-1	0	0	13.4
13	2020-06-15	5.2	53	50.0/55/54	6.2	-1	0	0	5.2
14	2020-06-02	5.1	56	52.6/71/54	5.4	-1	0	0	4.4
15	2020-04-06	5.4	79	71.5/128/72	6.6	-1	0	0	5.6
16	2020-03-09	4.8	56	50.0/55/54	12.3	-1	0	0	11.3
17	2020-01-19	4.3	55	51.7/73/54	5.1	-1	0	0	4.1
18	2020-01-05	4.7	78	71.5/128/72	5.7	-1	0	0	4.7
19	2019-12-15	4.9	79	71.5/128/72	6.6	-1	0	0	5.6
20	2019-11-11	5.1	55	50.0/55/54	10.3	-1	0	0	9.3

Following an analysis of the situation the committee decides to increase his handicap by 4 strokes. All of the differentials are adjusted:

	DATE	WHS HANDICAP	AGS	RATING	SCORE DIFFERENTIAL	ADJUSTMENTS			DIFFERENTIAL
						EXC. SCORE.	PREVIOUS ABILITY	NO RETURN	
1	2021-07-11	2.8	84	71.5/128/72	11.0	0	+4	0	15.0
2	2021-06-23	2.8	82	71.5/128/72	9.3	0	+4	0	13.3
3	2021-06-16	2.8	85	71.5/128/72	11.9	0	+4	0	15.9
4	2020-12-21	2.8	78	71.5/128/72	5.7	0	+4	0	9.7
5	2020-12-06	2.8	76	72.2/131/72	3.3	0	+4	0	7.3
6	2020-10-31	2.8	79	71.5/128/72	6.6	0	+4	0	10.6
7	2020-09-22	4.5	49	51.3/62/54	-4.2	-1	+4	0	-1.2
8	2020-08-10	4.5	80	70.8/135/72	7.7	-1	+4	0	10.7
9	2020-08-04	4.5	78	73.2/136/72	4.0	-1	+4	0	7.0
10	2020-08-03	4.8	80	73.2/136/72	5.7	-1	+4	0	8.7
11	2020-06-16	4.9	52	50.0/55/54	4.1	-1	+4	0	7.1
12	2020-06-15	5.2	57	50.0/55/54	14.4	-1	+4	0	17.4
13	2020-06-15	5.2	53	50.0/55/54	6.2	-1	+4	0	9.2
14	2020-06-02	5.1	56	52.6/71/54	5.4	-1	+4	0	8.4
15	2020-04-06	5.4	79	71.5/128/72	6.6	-1	+4	0	9.6
16	2020-03-09	4.8	56	50.0/55/54	12.3	-1	+4	0	15.3
17	2020-01-19	4.3	55	51.7/73/54	5.1	-1	+4	0	8.1
18	2020-01-05	4.7	78	71.5/128/72	5.7	-1	+4	0	8.7
19	2019-12-15	4.9	79	71.5/128/72	6.6	-1	+4	0	9.6
20	2019-11-11	5.1	55	50.0/55/54	10.3	-1	+4	0	13.3

All of the differentials have now been adjusted by 4 strokes and this will be reflected in the calculation of the handicap (average).

3. NO RETURN

Those players who do not return their score card or are disqualified with their score not being acceptable for handicapping purposes will receive an increase of 2 tenths to their handicap. This adjustment will be made as before, with 0.2 added to all the previous differentials.

Example 5

The player from the previous examples continues to play and his handicap for a competition on 31 August 2021 is:

	DATE	WHS HANDICAP	AGS	RATING	SCORE DIFFERENTIAL	ADJUSTMENTS			DIFFERENTIAL
						EXC. SCORE.	PREVIOUS ABILITY	NO RETURN	
1	2021-08-19	6.7	57	50.0/55/54	14.4	0	0	0	14.4
2	2021-08-13	6.9	83	73.2/136/72	8.1	0	0	0	8.1
3	2021-07-25	6.8	82	71.5/128/72	9.3	0	0	0	9.3
4	2021-07-11	2.8	84	71.5/128/72	11.0	0	+4	0	15.0
5	2021-06-23	2.8	82	71.5/128/72	9.3	0	+4	0	13.3
6	2021-06-16	2.8	85	71.5/128/72	11.9	0	+4	0	15.9
7	2020-12-21	2.8	78	71.5/128/72	5.7	0	+4	0	9.7
8	2020-12-06	2.8	76	72.2/131/72	3.3	0	+4	0	7.3
9	2020-10-31	2.8	79	71.5/128/72	6.6	0	+4	0	10.6
10	2020-09-22	4.5	49	51.3/62/54	-4.2	-1	+4	0	-1.2
11	2020-08-10	4.5	80	70.8/135/72	7.7	-1	+4	0	10.7
12	2020-08-04	4.5	78	73.2/136/72	4.0	-1	+4	0	7.0
13	2020-08-03	4.8	80	73.2/136/72	5.7	-1	+4	0	8.7
14	2020-06-16	4.9	52	50.0/55/54	4.1	-1	+4	0	7.1
15	2020-06-15	5.2	57	50.0/55/54	14.4	-1	+4	0	17.4
16	2020-06-15	5.2	53	50.0/55/54	6.2	-1	+4	0	9.2
17	2020-06-02	5.1	56	52.6/71/54	5.4	-1	+4	0	8.4
18	2020-04-06	5.4	79	71.5/128/72	6.6	-1	+4	0	9.6
19	2020-03-09	4.8	56	50.0/55/54	12.3	-1	+4	0	15.3
20	2020-01-19	4.3	55	51.7/73/54	5.1	-1	+4	0	8.1

At the end of the competition he forgets to return his card. The differentials are adjusted as follows for handicapping purposes:

	DATE	WHS HANDICAP	AGS	RATING	SCORE DIFFERENTIAL	ADJUSTMENTS			DIFFERENTIAL
						EXC. SCORE.	PREVIOUS ABILITY	NO RETURN	
1	2021-08-19	6.7	57	50.0/55/54	14.4	0	0	+0.2	14.6
2	2021-08-13	6.9	83	73.2/136/72	8.1	0	0	+0.2	8.3
3	2021-07-25	6.8	82	71.5/128/72	9.3	0	0	+0.2	9.5
4	2021-07-11	2.8	84	71.5/128/72	11.0	0	+4	+0.2	15.2
5	2021-06-23	2.8	82	71.5/128/72	9.3	0	+4	+0.2	13.5
6	2021-06-16	2.8	85	71.5/128/72	11.9	0	+4	+0.2	16.1
7	2020-12-21	2.8	78	71.5/128/72	5.7	0	+4	+0.2	9.9
8	2020-12-06	2.8	76	72.2/131/72	3.3	0	+4	+0.2	7.5
9	2020-10-31	2.8	79	71.5/128/72	6.6	0	+4	+0.2	10.8
10	2020-09-22	4.5	49	51.3/62/54	-4.2	-1	+4	+0.2	-1.0
11	2020-08-10	4.5	80	70.8/135/72	7.7	-1	+4	+0.2	10.9
12	2020-08-04	4.5	78	73.2/136/72	4.0	-1	+4	+0.2	7.2
13	2020-08-03	4.8	80	73.2/136/72	5.7	-1	+4	+0.2	8.9
14	2020-06-16	4.9	52	50.0/55/54	4.1	-1	+4	+0.2	7.3
15	2020-06-15	5.2	57	50.0/55/54	14.4	-1	+4	+0.2	17.6
16	2020-06-15	5.2	53	50.0/55/54	6.2	-1	+4	+0.2	9.4
17	2020-06-02	5.1	56	52.6/71/54	5.4	-1	+4	+0.2	8.6
18	2020-04-06	5.4	79	71.5/128/72	6.6	-1	+4	+0.2	9.8
19	2020-03-09	4.8	56	50.0/55/54	12.3	-1	+4	+0.2	15.5
20	2020-01-19	4.3	55	51.7/73/54	5.1	-1	+4	+0.2	8.3

Finally, it must be pointed out that these adjustments are accumulative, that is if the player has another Exceptional Score or the Committee decides to apply an adjustment or he does not return his card or is disqualified without a result, all 20 differentials are adjusted as seen above and if any of them already has one of these adjustments they are added to the previous ones.

Example 6

In the next competition, the player from the previous examples returns an exceptional score. His new handicap is calculated as follows:

	DATE	WHS HANDICAP	AGS	RATING	SCORE DIFFERENTIAL	ADJUSTMENTS			DIFFERENTIAL
						EXC. SCORE.	PREVIOUS ABILITY	NO RETURN	
1	2021-09-12	6.7	72	73.2/136/72	-1.0	-1	0	0	-2.0
2	2021-08-19	6.7	57	50.0/55/54	14.4	-1	0	+0.2	13.6
3	2021-08-13	6.9	83	73.2/136/72	8.1	-1	0	+0.2	7.3
4	2021-07-25	6.8	82	71.5/128/72	9.3	-1	0	+0.2	8.5
5	2021-07-11	2.8	84	71.5/128/72	11	-1	+4	+0.2	14.2
6	2021-06-23	2.8	82	71.5/128/72	9.3	-1	+4	+0.2	12.5
7	2021-06-16	2.8	85	71.5/128/72	11.9	-1	+4	+0.2	15.1
8	2020-12-21	2.8	78	71.5/128/72	5.7	-1	+4	+0.2	8.9
9	2020-12-06	2.8	76	72.2/131/72	3.3	-1	+4	+0.2	6.5
10	2020-10-31	2.8	79	71.5/128/72	6.6	-1	+4	+0.2	9.8
11	2020-09-22	4.5	49	51.3/62/54	-4.2	-2	+4	+0.2	-2.0
12	2020-08-10	4.5	80	70.8/135/72	7.7	-2	+4	+0.2	9.9
13	2020-08-04	4.5	78	73.2/136/72	4	-2	+4	+0.2	6.2
14	2020-08-03	4.8	80	73.2/136/72	5.7	-2	+4	+0.2	7.9
15	2020-06-16	4.9	52	50.0/55/54	4.1	-2	+4	+0.2	6.3
16	2020-06-15	5.2	57	50.0/55/54	14.4	-2	+4	+0.2	16.6
17	2020-06-15	5.2	53	50.0/55/54	6.2	-2	+4	+0.2	8.4
18	2020-06-02	5.1	56	52.6/71/54	5.4	-2	+4	+0.2	7.6
19	2020-04-06	5.4	79	71.5/128/72	6.6	-2	+4	+0.2	8.8
20	2020-03-09	4.8	56	50.0/55/54	12.3	-2	+4	+0.2	14.5

We can see that when adjusting the 20 previous rounds by -1 due to the exceptional score, the first ten rounds are adjusted by -1 but the rest are adjusted by -2 as they already had an exceptional score adjustment.

Once we have all the differentials, that is we have adjusted the score differentials, the calculation is the average which is the main calculation of the new WHS.