

WHS Data Notice & Key Dates

2 October 2020

To: All affiliated golf clubs

The transition to the World Handicap System (WHS) is the biggest change to golfer handicapping in our lifetime and with it brings a fantastic opportunity to modernise and further develop the sport we all love.

Delivering a smooth WHS implementation process involves the transition from circa 1,800 golf club calculation hubs to one central England Golf calculation system.

A huge part of our responsibility is to ensure the highest level of integrity via golfer identification.

We must all make every effort to avoid the significant levels of inaccurate and incomplete data as well as duplicate and multiple records that exist within the current system.

Providing two key pieces of member information is essential to the identification process:

- A member's email address
- A member's date of birth

In accordance with our [WHS privacy policy](#), member data will only be used for legitimate interests of England Golf. It is primarily gathered to allow us to operate and maintain the integrity of the new handicapping system and provide necessary member services.

No data will be used for marketing purposes.

Data will only be supplied to third parties where those parties supply England Golf with products and services that we need to provide our services to clubs and members, such as our software providers or web hosting service. Those parties will not be permitted to send marketing materials to members.

Key dates to note:

- **From 5 October 2020:** Member email address and date of birth should be logged on your golf club handicapping software system in preparation for it to be transferred to the England Golf WHS platform from this date. Data transfers from ISV software will begin

from this date and are required to ensure player identification and to eliminate the duplication of handicap records.

- **w/c 12 October 2020:** Golf clubs will have access to the England Golf WHS platform to view and update where required member data and to view the functionality the system provides.
- **w/c 19 October 2020:** Golfers will have access to the England Golf WHS platform to view their predicted WHS Handicap Index ahead of launch and to view the functionality the system provides. Note that every affiliated golf club member will have one unique CDH/Member ID and will require an email address to access the system through a two-step authentication process.
- **2 November 2020:** WHS launch date. Ongoing communication with affiliated golf club members will be for handicap purposes and will be fully compliant with GDPR.

All ISVs licensed to provide handicapping software in England will link to the England Golf WHS platform and are currently in testing phase. Once they have met the requirements and terms of the licence, they will be issued with accreditation.

Unfortunately, some ISVs have not met the initial deadlines around testing, which includes parallel running of score data to both the existing and new system. Whilst this will not impact on the WHS launch date, further testing is now required with those ISVs.

Please speak directly with your ISV provider to ensure that the relevant data is ready for transfer from 5 October 2020.

We once again attach a link to our [WHS data FAQs](#) for your information and reference.

Thank you again for your ongoing support in order for us all to deliver a smooth transition to the World Handicap System for our members.

