



**MGA WHS Guidance Document
for
Club and Corporate golf competition
In
Malaysia
Version 1.2**

WORLD HANDICAP SYSTEM

R&A **USGA**

Introduction

This Guidance document provides additional information to support the implementation of WHS by MGA in Malaysia. It is not a substitute for the WHS Rules of Handicapping and the two documents should be read side by side. This Guidance document is aimed primarily for Committees and Officials within Golf Clubs responsible for handicapping and the running of competitions in Malaysia. It will also be helpful to those golfers who wish to have a deeper understanding of handicapping under WHS.

Format

This document is available in downloadable electronic format only. The Guidance sections reflect the order of the Rules within WHS Rules of Handicapping (Effective January 2020, updated April 2024)

Pursuant to the recent WHS Handicapping rules update in 2024, the following are the recommended guidelines by MGA to all golf clubs and golf events organisers who organize golf tournaments in Malaysia. Golf tournaments in Malaysia which involved using the R&A World Handicapping System (WHS) as the basis of establishing the players course playing handicap in their tournament are advised to follow the following tournament guidelines to ensure a fair and equitable playing field in the tournament.

1. Terms of Competition

MGA is recommending that all its Terms of Competition (TOC) for net golf competition to have the following statements in their TOC to ensure a equitable playing field in the tournament :

- i. Handicap
All players in the tournament must obtain a WHS handicap index by joining a golf club or by affiliating themselves directly with MGA.
Examples of affiliating with MGA Gogolf
- ii. Handicap Eligibility
Only players with proper WHS handicap index with active handicap score submission (at least 4 score for the last six months) are eligible to participate in the tournament. Those without score submission for the last 4 months should play scratch handicap of 0 or their lowest handicap index
- iii. Handicap Index Withdrawal
MGA WHS handicapping committee reserves the right to withdraw a player handicap index (WHS Rule 7,1c) if a player is found to deliberately or repeatedly fails to comply with the players responsibilities under the Rules of Handicapping,
- iv. Maximum Handicap.
The Tournament committee reserves the right to limit the maximum handicap for entry into a tournament and have the right to set the maximum playing handicap for the tournament.
- v. Divisions or Category
To cater for handicap large handicap differentials between players in a tournament. It is recommended that the tournament is divided to multiple category or divisions to ensure a more equitable of play in the tournament. e.g. 0-12 Handicap in Division A, 13-18, Division B, 19-28 in Division C and if required Division D from 29 to 36.
- vi. In the event of tie, in all the net event competition the winner on countback should be based on the following criteria
 - a. The player on the lowest handicap.
 - b. In the event of further ties, the count back should be on scores of mode of play from the last 18 holes, 9 holes, 6 holes, 3 holes and last hole. Further Ties will be decided with a toss of coin.

vii. Handicap Allowance

Handicap allowance are design to ensure equity in different format of play over 9 holes or 18 holes. The following set out to be the recommended handicap allowance to be used in all golf tournaments in Malaysia.

FORMAT OF PLAY	TYPE OF ROUND	PLAYING HANDICAP ALLOWANCE
STROKEPLAY	Individual	95%
	Individual Stableford	95%
	Individual Par/Bogey	95%
	Individual Maximum Score	95%
	Fourball	85%
	Fourball Stableford	85%
	Fourball Par/Bogey	90%
MATCHPLAY	Individual	100%
	Fourball	90%
STROKEPLAY	Foursomes	50% of combined team handicap
	Greensomes	60% low handicap + 40 high handicap
	Pinehurst/Chapman	60% low handicap + 40 high handicap
	Best 1 of 4 Stroke Play	75%
	Best 2 of 4 Stroke Play	85%
	Best 3 of 4 Stroke Play	100%
	All 4 of 4 Stroke Play	100%
	Scramble (4 players)	25%/20%/15%/10% from lowest to highest handicap
	Scramble (2 players)	35% low/15% high
	Total score of 2 match play	100%
	Best 1 of 4 Par/Bogey	75%
	Best 2 of 4 Par/Bogey	81%
	Best 3 of 4 Par/Bogey	90%
	4 of 4 Par/Bogey	100%
	***Modified MGA Stableford	100%

*** Modified MGA stableford which format of play is based on stableford scoring format and the player playing handicap is derived by the following formula - Player WHS course playing handicap plus player's handicap of the day divided by two.

Score recording and submission

1. Organised Competition.

All scores recorded and played in an organized competition i.e. clubs monthly medals competition, club cup competition MGA sanctioned golf events are to be recorded as a tournament score in the MGA WHS system. All MGA sanctioned events will need to submit the tournament scores immediately (latest 48 hours) after the completion of the tournament through MGA tournament scoring application or through the other tournament scoring applications authorized by MGA.

2. General Play

Any rounds of golf which is not contested, their scores are considered to be general play score. They are to be submitted to MGA WHS score submission application or any application authorized by MGA. All the scores must be played by the Rules of Golf.

Model Local Rules

Golf clubs can utilise Model Local Rules throughout the year, but ONLY when it is absolutely necessary to do so, on specified areas of the course and when the conditions would mean that acceptable scoring would not be possible without them being in place. Furthermore, the Model Local Rules MUST be removed as soon as practicably possible. When implementing any of the Model Local Rules for your golfers, it must be clearly communicated and signposted which MLRs are in place and the areas in which they are to be used.

It is very important to remember that Model Local Rules should only be used when absolutely necessary, to ensure equity within the World Handicap System™.

Situation	Rule to use first	Additional Rules which can support	Acceptable for Handicap Index®
Adverse course conditions (regardless of the time of year) such as heavy rain, prolonged rains or extreme heat can sometimes damage the course or prevent use of heavy mowing equipment.	MLR E2 —specify the areas of the course where this rule applies. Can be implemented anywhere within the General Area	MLR E3 – specify the specific areas, only applicable to areas closely mown to fairway height or less.	Yes
Ground under repair (GUR). Bunker full of water for example.	MLR F-16		Yes
Closed hole/s. Hole or holes closed for play by the club or organisers, so long as the golfer can play the minimum number for an acceptable score.	WHS™ Rule of Handicapping 3.2 (minimum 9 holes for an 18-hole score)		Yes
Relief from abnormal course conditions (including immovable obstructions), dangerous animal condition, embedded ball, or temporary water for example.	Rules of golf – Rule 16		Yes