



Inter-Club Competitions 2021

Information on the application of the World Handicapping
System

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Introduction

- The purpose of this document is to provide information on how the World Handicapping System will impact the 2021 Inter-Club competitions – particularly with regard to what handicaps will be eligible for each competition.
- Full regulations for all competitions and championships will be published in the coming weeks. This will cover other related handicapping issues such as how handicapping may determine the order of play and balloting in certain events. It will also cover age limits, other eligibility criteria and the rules of play in the normal way.

How have we reached these decisions?

- The relevant Committees of the GUI and ILGU considered an analysis of handicap data for players prior to the changeover to the World Handicapping System (WHS) on 2 November 2020, and how handicaps in various categories changed following WHS going live.
- The GUI and ILGU made recommendations to Golf Ireland intended to provide as many golfers as possible the chance to continue to compete in Inter-Club competitions in 2021.
- Due to the fundamental nature of the change that comes with the World Handicapping System, it would never have been possible to accommodate everyone who was previously eligible to play in competitions, or to preclude people who weren't previously eligible now becoming eligible.
- The data will continue to be reviewed closely, particularly in the next three years, and it is likely there may be annual adjustments to the handicapping criteria set out here during that period.

Note on Handicap Indexes and eligibility

- As most will now know, the new system has three separate handicap calculations that apply to each player – handicap index, course handicap and playing handicap. **Where lower handicap limits apply in competitions, the player's handicap index will be used.**
- The handicap index is always expressed as an exact figure to one decimal point - never rounded up or down.
 - **This is an important point, particularly in the case of competitions involving pairs. The exact combined index will determine the pair's eligibility, and eligibility will be determined by a player's handicap index at their Home Club on 1 January 2021 (except where otherwise stated).**
- For 2021, there will be no requirement for players to have a specific number of cards on their record.

Notes on giving/receiving shots foursomes and four-ball match play

Foursomes

- Previously, both pairs would have added their handicaps together and shots would be given or received based on half the difference between the two handicaps.
- Under WHS, both pairs will calculate their pair's playing handicap (50% of the combined total of the course handicaps of both players). The full difference between the playing handicaps of each pair will determine the number of shots given/received.

Four-Ball

- Previously, the lowest player would have assumed a scratch handicap and the higher-handicapped players would have received 90% of the shot difference between their handicaps and his/hers.
- Under WHS, all players in the match will individually calculate a course handicap and a playing handicap (90% of the course handicap) and then the higher handicapped players will take their full difference in playing handicap from the low player.

Examples of this in various contexts will be provided in the full Tournament Regulations when published.

Women's Senior Cup

- To be eligible, players must have a handicap index not exceeding 14.0 on 1st January 2021.
- All games are played off scratch.

Men's Senior Cup

- To be eligible, players must have a handicap index at the time of competing.
- All games are played off scratch.

Men's Barton Shield

- To be eligible, players must have a handicap index at the time of competing.
- All games are played off scratch.

Women's Junior Cup

- To be eligible, players must have a handicap index of no less than 7.5 on 1 January 2021.
- All games are played off scratch.

Men's Junior Cup

- To be eligible, players must have a handicap index of no less than 2.5 on 1 January 2021.
- All games are played off scratch.

Women's Senior Foursomes

- To be eligible to play in this competition, players must have a handicap index of no higher than **14.0** on 1 January 2021.
- All games are played off scratch.
- For a pair to be eligible, their handicap indexes on 1 January, when added together, must not be lower than **12.0**.
 - Therefore:
 - A pair consisting of a player with an index of 5.9 and a player with an index of 6.1 on 1 January 2021 is eligible as their combined index equals 12.0.
 - A pair consisting of a player with an index of 5.5 and a player with an index of 6.4 on 1 January 2021 is not eligible as their combined index equals 11.9.

Women's Junior Foursomes

- To be eligible, players must have a handicap index of no lower than **13.0** on 1 January 2021.
- All games are played off scratch.
- For a pair to be eligible, their handicap indexes on 1 January, when added together, must not be lower than **28.0**.
 - Therefore:
 - A pair consisting of a player with an index of 13.9 and a player with an index of 14.1 on 1 January 2021 is eligible as their combined index equals 28.0.
 - A pair consisting of a player with an index of 13.5 and a player with an index of 14.4 on 1 January 2021 is not eligible as their combined index equals 27.9.

Women's Intermediate Cup

- To be eligible, players must have a handicap index of no less than **15.0** on 1 January 2021.
- All games are played off scratch.

Women's Minor Cup

- To be eligible, players must have a handicap index of no less than 21.0 on 1 January 2021.
- All games are played off scratch.

Women's Challenge Cup

- To be eligible, players must have a handicap index of no less than 26.0 on 1 January 2021.
- All games are played off scratch.

Men's Jimmy Bruen Shield

- To be eligible, players must have a handicap index of no less than **3.5** on 1 January 2021.
- For a pair to be eligible, their handicap indexes on 1 January, when added together, must not be lower than **14.0**.
 - Therefore:
 - A pair consisting of a player with an index of 6.9 and a player with an index of 7.1 on 1 January 2021 is eligible.
 - A pair consisting of a player with an index of 6.5 and a player with an index of 7.4 on 1 January 2021 is not eligible.
- All games are played off scratch.

Men's Pierce Purcell Shield

- To be eligible, players must have a handicap index of no less than **10.5** on 1 January 2021.
- For a pair to be eligible, their handicap indexes on 1 January, when added together, must not be lower than **25.0**.
 - Therefore:
 - A pair consisting of a player with an index of 11.9 and a player with an index of 13.1 on 1 January 2021 is eligible.
 - A pair consisting of a player with an index of 11.5 and a player with an index of 13.4 on 1 January 2021 is not eligible.
- All games are played off scratch.

Mixed Foursomes

- To be eligible, players must have a handicap index on 1 January 2021. This handicap index applies throughout the competition.
- For a pair to be eligible, their handicap indexes on 1 January, when added together, **must not be lower than 19.0**
- Therefore:
 - A pair consisting of a player with an index of 2.8 and a player with an index of 16.2 on 1 January 2021 is eligible (=19.0).
 - A pair consisting of a player with an index of +2.2 and a player with an index of 21.2 on 1 January 2021 is eligible (=19.0).
 - A pair consisting of a player with an index of 2.3 and a player with an index of 16.6 on 1 January 2021 is not eligible as they are too low (=18.9).

Mixed Foursomes (contd.)

- **As in previous years, there will be a limit on the playing handicap a pair can have, which is explained below:**
 - Each player uses their handicap index on 1 January to calculate their course handicaps.
 - The pair then add their course handicaps together and the pair's playing handicap is 50% of their combined course handicap.
 - **If a pair's playing handicap (when the two course handicaps are added together and reduced to 50%) exceeds 15, they must play off 15.**
 - In match play, the difference between the two pairs' playing handicaps determines shots given and received.
- Examples of how this works in practice will be provided in the full regulations.

Women's All-Ireland Four-Ball

- To be eligible, players must have a handicap index on 1 January 2021.
- For a pair to be allowed to play together, their handicap indexes on 1 January 2021,, when added together, **must not be lower than 19.0 and must not higher than 46.0.**
 - Therefore:
 - A pair consisting of a player with an index of 22.8 and a player with an index of 23.2 on 1 January 2021 is eligible (=46.0).
 - A pair consisting of a player with an index of 22.9 and a player with an index of 23.2 on 1 January 2021 is not eligible as they are too high (=46.1).
 - A pair consisting of a player with an index of 5.2 and a player with an index of 13.8 on 1 January 2021 is eligible (=19.0).
 - A pair consisting of a player with an index of 5.1 and a player with an index of 13.8 on 1 January 2021 is not eligible as they are too low (=18.9).
- Notwithstanding the above, in this competition, current handicap indexes on the day of each match will be used to determine course handicaps, from which playing handicaps and shots will be derived. Further information on this will appear in the full regulations.

Men's All-Ireland Four-Ball

- To be eligible, players must have a handicap index of no less than **14.5** on 1 January 2021.
- For a pair to be eligible, their handicap indexes on 1 January, when added together, must not be lower than **34.0**.
 - Therefore:
 - A pair consisting of a player with an index of 16.9 and a player with an index of 17.1 on 1 January 2021 is eligible (=34.0).
 - A pair consisting of a player with an index of 16.5 and a player with an index of 17.4 on 1 January 2021 is not eligible (=33.9).
- All games are played off scratch.

Men's Fred Perry (Seniors) Trophy

- To be eligible, players must have a handicap index of no higher than **28.0** on 1 January 2021 (no dropping down allowed).
 - A player with an index of 28.1 or higher is not eligible.
- For a pair to be eligible, their handicap indexes on 1 January, when added together, must not be higher than **42.0**.
 - Therefore:
 - A pair consisting of a player with an index of 16.8 and a player with an index of 25.2 on 1 January 2021 is eligible (=42.0).
 - A pair consisting of a player with an index of 16.9 and a player with an index of 25.2 on 1 January 2021 is not eligible (=42.1).
- Players' handicap indexes on 1 January will be used to determine their course handicap, from which playing handicaps and shots in matches will be based (further information will follow in the full regulations).

Girls' Inter-Club

- Players must have a handicap index at the time of playing.
- If a player's playing handicap on the day of competing, when calculated using their current handicap index, is higher than 36, you must play off 36.

Boys' Inter-Club

- Players must have a handicap index at the time of playing.
- Players will not be eligible to play in this competition if their handicap index was lower than 5.0 on 1 January 2021. However, if a player's handicap index drops below 5.0 after 1 January, they will still be eligible and in this case, they must use their current handicap index on the day of competition.
- If a player's playing handicap on the day of competing, when calculated using current handicap index, is higher than 24, the player must play off 24.

Boys' Foursomes (formerly Junior Foursomes)

- Players must have a handicap index at the time of playing that is 12.0 (ie, if a player's handicap index is higher than 12.0, they must use an index of 12.0 to calculate their course handicap).
- **To determine shots:**
 - Each player uses their current handicap indexes to calculate their course handicaps. (Any player with an index higher than 12.0 must use 12.0 as per the above.)
 - The pair then add their course handicaps together and the pair's playing handicap is 50% of their combined course handicap.
 - In match play, the difference between the two pairs' playing handicaps determines shots given and received.

Fred Daly Trophy (and Fred Daly Plate competitions in regions)

- To be eligible, players must have a handicap index when competing in all matches/rounds.
- All games are played off scratch.

Connacht Shield

- Players must have a handicap index on 1st January, which will be used throughout the competition to determine eligibility and playing handicap.
- Maximum individual handicap index = 20.0 (no dropping down). A player with an index of 20.1 or higher is not eligible.
- There must be no more than 8.0 of a difference between the handicap indexes of any pair selected.

Jack O'Sullivan Trophy (Connacht)

- Players must have a handicap index on 1st January, which will be used throughout the competition to determine eligibility and playing handicap.
- Maximum individual handicap index = 20.0 (no dropping down). A player with an index of 20.1 or higher is not eligible.
- There must be no more than 8.0 of a difference between the handicap indexes of any pair selected.

9-hole course Inter-Club (Connacht)

- Players must have a handicap index on 1st January, which will be used throughout the competition to determine eligibility and playing handicap.

Under-16 Inter-Club (Connacht)

- Players must have a handicap index at the time of playing.
- If a player's playing handicap on the day of competing, when calculated using their current handicap index, is higher than 28, you must play off 28.

Barton Cup (Leinster)

- To be eligible, players must have a handicap index on 1 January 2021. This handicap index applies throughout the competition.
- Lowest combined handicap index of a pair – 14.0.
 - Therefore:
 - A pair consisting of a player with an index of 6.5 and a player with an index of 7.4 on 1 January 2021 is not eligible (=13.9).
 - A pair consisting of a player with an index of 6.9 and a player with an index of 7.1 on 1 January 2021 is eligible (=14.0).
- All matches played off scratch

Provincial Towns Cup (Leinster)

- To be eligible, players must have a handicap index on 1 January 2021. This handicap index applies throughout the competition.
- Lowest permitted handicap index of a player – 8.5.
- All matches played off scratch

Metropolitan Cup (Leinster)

- To be eligible, players must have a handicap index on 1 January 2021. This handicap index applies throughout the competition.
- Lowest permitted handicap index of a player – 8.5.
- All matches played off scratch

Under-15 Inter-Club (Leinster)

- Players must have a handicap index on the day of the competition.
- For Boys aged under-14: If a player's playing handicap on the day of competing, when calculated using the player's current handicap index, is higher than 18, the player must play off 18.
- For all other competitors: If a player's playing handicap on the day of competing, when calculated using the player's current handicap index, is higher than 14, the player must play off 14.

Munster Country Clubs Cup

- To be eligible, players must have a handicap index on 1 January 2021. This handicap index applies throughout the competition.
- Lowest permitted handicap index of a player – 9.5.
- All matches played off scratch

Belfast & District Cup

- To be eligible, players must have a handicap index on 1 January 2021. This handicap index applies throughout the competition.
- Lowest permitted handicap index of a player – 9.5.
- All matches played off scratch

Ulster Cup

- To be eligible, players must have a handicap index on 1 January 2021. This handicap index applies throughout the competition.
- Lowest permitted handicap index of a player – 9.5.
- All matches played off scratch