

## WCF Working Group 1 – Global Handicap System Preliminary Report

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It is the view of the group that handicap systems around the world are now reasonably well aligned, particularly with regard relative handicaps and the calculation used in the Automatic Handicap System operated by various members. At a more detailed level there are some quite significant differences listed below.

The group is aware of the investigation of the feasibility of creating a global game and player database (WCF Working Group 2). It believes that the introduction of such a system would have a profound impact on the possibilities for global handicapping. If the introduction of such a database is seen as feasible in the next few years the group believes that its time would be better spent considering how such a database should be best utilised for global handicapping purposes. The status quo is fit for purpose in the interim given the limited amount of inter country play that takes place.

In the event that such a database is not going to be forthcoming in the foreseeable future the group believes that it is worth ironing out the remaining differences in the operation of the Automatic Handicap System. The codifying and maintenance of handicap systems at a global level should prove both administratively more efficient, better support inter country play and also make it easier for those Members not currently operating handicap systems to introduce them.

The following matters have been identified as requiring consideration in due course should aligning the existing system be the goal. If anyone is aware of anything further please let us know:-

When should handicap changes (e.g. immediately upon trigger, end of day, end of tournament)

What should the high (weak) limit be?

What should the low (strong) limit be?

Should doubles games count, if so how?

Should handicap games be included in the calculation?

Should level games be included in the calculation?

Should players with a very high handicap be unable to lose points?

Should cards be counter-signed by the opponent?

Should there be a derogation to allow minus players not to keep cards?

How should starting handicaps be determined?

When should manual interventions be allowed?

Should adjustments be made to the handicap advantage in games with short time limits?