**THE INTRODUCTION OF TOURNAMENT SCORES TO THE HANDICAP FORMULA CALCULATIONS**

Following our handicap system review one of the changes that will be incorporated from 3 July 2014 is the alternate calculation for a handicap index based on exceptional performance in tournaments. Our survey completed by 244 Golf Clubs and 9,774 golf club members indicated that the movement of handicaps at times was not quick enough to allow for low scoring. Following consultation with the USGA and feedback from all stakeholders in New Zealand we believe this part of the USGA handicap system is very relevant and will deal with this situation.

The purpose of the tournament scores procedure is to identify players who excel in meaningful competition well beyond their current Handicap Index. If the competition, in the judgment of the Handicap Committee, would identify such players, the Committee may announce that scores from the competition will be identified as tournament scores when posted. The club Committee is best qualified to make the decision because it knows its traditions, schedules, formats, and members.

Clubs that use the DotGolf system will identify events as eligible for ‘T’ scores when setting up their event. All scores will then be added as ‘T’ scores to the player’s record.

The following information should assist with your understanding of how this works. For further news on handicapping refer to [http://www.golf.co.nz/About/Handicaps.aspx](http://www.golf.co.nz/About/Handicaps.aspx)

**DEFINITION**

A tournament score (referred to as a ‘T’ score) is a score made in a competition organised and conducted by a Committee in charge of the competition. The competition must identify a winner(s) based on a stipulated round(s), and must be played under the principles of the Rules of Golf.

The Committee (preferably the Handicap Committee, in consultation with the Committee in charge of the competition) must determine in advance if these conditions are met, and announce in advance whether the score must be identified by the letter ‘T’ when posted.

Scores in 9 hole tournaments will not qualify to be entered as ‘T’ scores.

Any Tournaments which are played under a match play format may be exempt from handicapping and are therefore not considered as ‘T’ scores. Check the exemptions at: [http://www.golf.co.nz/About/Handicaps.aspx](http://www.golf.co.nz/About/Handicaps.aspx)

Handicap match play cards are to be entered for handicap purposes but not as ‘T’ scores.

**THE EFFECT OF THE TOURNAMENT SCORE FORMULA**

An alternate calculation is used to determine the Handicap Index of a player who has two or more eligible ‘T’ scores with tournament score differentials at least 3.0 better than the player’s Handicap Index.

If a player has ‘T’ scores counting in their record, therefore reducing their handicap index, an ‘R’ will follow the handicap index to reflect that.
THE QUIRKY CHANGES THAT CAN OCCUR WITH THE T SCORE CALCULATION

We are confident that with the right events selected for T score calculations that this will work well. However, at times a reduction or the removal of a reduction may be difficult to follow. Below are some of the things to be aware of:

1. A reduction only occurs when there are two T scores 3.0 better than your current handicap index.

2. By using the current handicap index and the fact that T scores have a life of 12 months, a score can retrospectively qualify (as per our example later in this document)

3. There may be the occasion where a further score entered as an eligible T score means the reduction is lifted:

   e.g. Two T scores in record
        (4.4 & 4.0 better than the handicap Index)
        Average of 4.2 with 2 scores in record represents a reduction of 1

        Three T scores in record
        (4.4 & 4.0 are the two best that are better than the handicap Index)
        Average of 4.2 with 3 scores in record represents no reduction.

4. A score card qualifying retrospectively may be difficult to identify as the projected handicap index shows the R reduction rather than the handicap index before this takes effect which would illustrate that the current handicap index now exceeds the handicap differential that has qualified retrospectively.
NEW ZEALAND GOLF RECOMMENDATION FOR WHAT EVENTS MAY BE TAGGED

The following is a guide as to what competition would be eligible for tournament scores:

- Club competitions (This is to be determined by each Club/Handicap Committee and notified in advance of the competition)
  - Club championship stroke play and qualifying rounds
  - Stroke play qualifying rounds for Trophy events
  - Monthly medal
  - Events requiring an official registration where an entry fee is paid, a draw and/or starting times posted, prizes awarded
  - Four-ball stroke play events

NOTE: It is our recommendation that regular club day competitions, which may also include the pro’s scramble should not be designated as Tournament scores. By using this level of event reduction will be minimized over time.

- An annual event at a Golf Club where a Trophy is awarded
  (e.g. Stroke Play championship, etc)
- 18/36 hole Open days run by Golf Clubs
  (e.g. Templeton Open, Otaki Open, etc)
- 72 Open Tournaments run by Golf Clubs
  (e.g. Stewart Gold Cup, Kapi Tareha, Cambridge Classic, etc)
- Provincial stroke play events run by District Associations
  (e.g. Auckland, Waikato, BOP Open)
- Charles Tour events run by NZ Golf and the NZPGA
  (e.g. Muriwai Open, Akarana Open, etc)
- National stroke play events run by New Zealand Golf
  (e.g. NZ Stroke Play, North Island Stroke Play, Gross Stableford Rosebowl, Women’s Home Links & National Teams)

IMPORTANT NOTE:
Scores returned in 9 Hole tournaments will not qualify as eligible to be entered as ‘T’ scores.
EXPLANATION OF THE TOURNAMENT SCORE CALCULATIONS

There is a four step process to calculating if tournament scores will affect your Handicap Index (HI).

1. Our handicaps refresh or are updated every two weeks. At this time our handicap index is based on the average of our best ten cards from our last 20 entered. A potential factor of 96% is multiplied to provide the handicap index result. This is the handicap index that is then used to consider if any tournament scores will cause a reduction. HI = 17.3

2. A separate file holds all of the tournament scores. Players may have any number of tournament scores (although for the system to work correctly, less is better than more)

The tournament scores used to calculate any adjustment are either rounds within the last 12 months of the fortnightly revision date, or part of the 20 score history.

For this example let's assume there are 3 T scores in the current file. The two best handicap differentials are 9.9 and 10.8 providing an average of 10.35

$$17.3 - 10.35 = 6.95 \text{ (rounded to 7)}$$

3. We now take this information to our Reduction Table.

3 eligible T scores with an average of 7.0 will result in a reduction of 5.0

4. Our current handicap index of 17.3 then becomes 12.3 R.

The R indicates there is a reduction due to tournament scores. This reduction is in place until the next revision (in two weeks) when the same approach is used.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Every 2 weeks your current handicap index (excluding the T score calculation) is checked against your file of T scores. If a player’s handicap index is inflating then a T score from earlier in the record (within 12 months) could suddenly come in to effect. Hence, it can count retrospectively.
This is the number of scores in your record that have been entered as T scores in the last 12 months, or in your last 20 rounds.

From your record of T scores this column represents the average of the best two scores below your Handicap Index.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AVERAGE OF BEST TWO T-SCORE DIFFERENTIALS BELOW HANDICAP INDEX</th>
<th>NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE TOURNAMENT SCORES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.0 to 3.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.5 to 3.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.0 to 4.4</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.5 to 4.9</td>
<td>1.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.0 to 5.4</td>
<td>2.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.5 to 5.9</td>
<td>3.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.0 to 6.4</td>
<td>4.1</td>
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<td>6.5 to 6.9</td>
<td>4.8</td>
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<td>7.0 to 7.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.5 to 7.9</td>
<td>6.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.0 to 8.4</td>
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<td>8.5 to 8.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.0 to 9.4</td>
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<td>10.0 to 10.4</td>
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<td>12.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.5 to 13.9</td>
<td>13.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.0 or more</td>
<td>13.7</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
HOW THIS WILL BE ILLUSTRATED IN YOUR SCORING RECORD

The tournament scores will be easily identifiable by the letter 'T' showing against the score in the Adjusted Gross column. How to determine a reduced handicap using the below record as an example:

- Count the number of T scores in the 12 month handicap record (2)
- Identify the two best differentials and average (3.2 + 5.1 = 8.3 / 2 = 4.15 (rounded 4.2))
  - Calculating the best differentials is projected handicap from 10 of 20 scores minus T score differentials.  (24.9 – 21.7 = 3.2 and 24.9 – 19.8 = 5.1)
- Referring to the handicap reduction table, the result is a reduction of 1 to the player’s handicap
  - 2 tournament scores entered, average of best two T score differentials = 4.2 equates to a handicap reduction of 1
- Projected handicap shows as 23.9R indicating a reduced projected handicap
- New handicap index shows as 23.9R indicating a reduced handicap index.

NOTE:

- The use of the T identifies whether the score was a T Score
- The use of an R next to the projected is to indicate the projected handicap will be a reduced handicap (affected by the T Score calculation)
- The use of an R next to the handicap index is to indicate this score was played off a reduced handicap (affected by a T Score)
- The use of an R next to the current handicap index is to indicate the current handicap is reduced