FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT TOURNAMENT SCORES

WHAT IS A TOURNAMENT SCORE?

A "tournament score" is a score made in a competition organized and conducted by the 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.

Using the above definition as a guideline, 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.

Routine events, such as regular play days, normally are not to be designated as T-scores because they are not significant in the traditions, schedules, formats, and membership of the club.

Examples of club competition scores that may be posted as tournament scores when they meet the above conditions are low gross or low net competitions, four-ball match or stroke-play competitions, Stableford competitions, and club championships which are stroke or match play, scratch, or with handicap.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Club's have the responsibility of determining which events are to be classified as meaningful and therefore scores from that event designated as T scores. If you classify too many events as suitable for T scores the smaller reductions will become. In effect it defeats the purpose of having this calculation.

WHAT IS AN ELIGIBLE TOURNAMENT SCORE?

An "eligible tournament score" is a tournament score made either within the last 12 months or within the player's current 20-score history. So each revision date a total of your eligible T scores is required to determine which column will be used in the Reduction table.

WHY ARE WE NOW USING THIS T SCORE FUNCTION?

Clubs and members wanted handicap indices to move faster based on exceptional play. Basically the T-score reduction procedure is added to the system to lessen the need for a Handicap Committee to constantly review tournament results and see how they compared to the handicap based on casual play. It identifies players that have had at least 2 scores that fall outside of the normal distribution of scores for a player with a certain handicap.

NOW THAT TOURNAMENT SCORES ARE USED IN CALCULATING A HANDICAP DOES THAT MEAN THEY ARE THE ONLY CARDS USED FOR HANDICAPPING? SO ESSENTIALLY WE ARE ONLY USING COMPETITION CARDS FOR HANDICAPPING?

No. We still require all cards to be entered for handicap purposes whether a casual round, 9 holes or handicap match play. There are some match play cards that are exempt.
IS IT COMPULSORY FOR OUR CLUB TO USE TOURNAMENT SCORES?

If Club’s refrain from tagging meaningful events as tournaments, and therefore avoiding any T score calculation for their members exceptional play, then the integrity of the system falls down. In handicapping we are looking for national uniformity so if some Clubs elect not to use this component of the system then NZ Golf will address accordingly.

HOW DOES THIS NEW T SCORE WORK?

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.
HOW DID A SCORE FROM MANY MONTHS AGO SUDDENLY BECOME A COUNTING T SCORE?

As we review both our Handicap Index (Average of best 10 of last 20 cards multiplied by 96%) every two weeks, we also consider the T score file and any handicap differentials that may now count. If a player has moved to a new handicap index of 23.0 and a score from eight months earlier had a differential of 20.0 or lower, then it qualifies for inclusion. The handicap index may have been sitting between 19.5 and 22.9 during this period therefore it had not reached the 3.0 difference to qualify. But the outward movement of the handicap index means it now qualifies.

IF THERE ARE 4 OR MORE T SCORES IN MY RECORD IS IT STILL THE TWO BEST USED FOR ANY REDUCTION?

It will always be your two best as long as both are 3.0 better than your current handicap index. If there is only one eligible low score in the player’s record then there will be no T score calculation. As in the table illustrating the reduction, the left row states that you use the two best T scores and average.

When you have found the average of your two best tournament scores below your current handicap index, you count all of the eligible tournament scores in your record. This provides the information now taken in to the reduction table.

DOES THE “LAST 12 MONTHS” PROVISION ONLY APPLY TO THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE 20 CARDS IN THE SYSTEM?

No. An "eligible tournament score" is a tournament score made either within the last 12 months or within the player’s current 20-score history. Whilst you may receive a reduction if your form fades and T scores are still added then the table shows that your reduction will change or maybe even be lifted.

DO T SCORES IN YOUR MOST RECENT 20 CARDS DROP OFF AS AT PRESENT FOR THE CALCULATION?

No. T scores do have a 12 month life regardless of how many cards are returned during that period. With a loss of form and then more T scores in the record the reduction will lessen and may even be removed.

WHAT IS THE CALCULATION FOR MORE THAN 3 CARDS? HOW DOES IT WORK IF YOU PLAY TWO ROUNDS THURSDAY, TWO SATURDAY, TWO SUNDAY AND AN AWAY COMPETITION AS WELL? THAT’S A TOTAL OF 7 CARDS ENTERED.

On each occasion you are only looking for the best two eligible tournament scores to average, but the total that qualify for eligible is also counted. Whilst you may enter 7 scores from the above week it is still important to remember that your golf needs to be of a high quality to qualify as eligible tournament scores. Seven T scores in one week should be avoided at Club level.

IS THE HANDICAP INDEX CALCULATED ON ALL CARDS AND THEN A ‘T’ ADJUSTMENT MADE OR IS IT CALCULATED ON AN ONGOING BASIS AS NOW?

Our handicaps are reviewed every 2 weeks and so is our T score record. As the table illustrates, the reduction lessens the more counting cards you have in your 12 month scoring record.
CLARIFICATION IN DETERMINING A TOURNAMENT

As our club plays for many trophies, just about every weekend the competition, whether it be Stable ford or Stroke Play, is a trophy event. If all were deemed to be ‘tournaments’ most scores would be entered as such.

Your club/handicapping committee has the discretion to determine what club events should be designated ‘tournaments’ and we suggest the club give consideration to what would be regarded as the more ‘important’ trophy events and deem those to be tournament scores.

CLARIFICATION FOR A TROPHY EVENT WITH QUALIFYING ROUNDS FOLLOWED BY MATCH PLAY

Our Club has a qualifying round where 32 players qualify for the Match Play section of the event. How should this be treated in regard to tournament scores?

We have decided that match play events are not to be used for tournament scores. However your qualifying rounds should be if this is a meaningful event.

CAN SCORES FROM A 27 HOLE TOURNAMENT BE ENTERED AS T SCORES?

Our Club plays a 27 hole tournament where 18 holes played in the morning and 9 in the afternoon – or vice versa. As scores returned in 9-hole tournaments do not qualify as eligible to be entered as ‘T’ scores, does this mean that scores from a 27 hole tournament cannot be entered as T scores, or are scores from the 18-hole round only entered as T scores?

Our DotGolf programme won’t allow a 9 hole score to be entered. A solution could be that you announce at the start of the event that only the 18 hole score will be entered as a T score. If the event is 54 holes, with 27 holes played each day, then the two 9 hole scores can be combined and a T score entered.

IMPORTANT NOTES

For many golfers they may not return two exceptional scores in a tournament and they will always remain with the normal handicap index calculation.

We do realise players may find a reduction confusing but it will only occur if they have played extremely well on two occasions. Based on that alone they should expect a reduction to occur.

Once again we stress the importance of Club and Handicap Committees selecting only meaningful events as tournaments, therefore scores being entered to the handicap system as T scores.