



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON TOURNAMENT SCORES

What is a Tournament Score?

A 'Tournament Score (T-score)' is a score made in a competition organised 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) should 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 Notes:

- Clubs have the responsibility of determining which events are to be classified as meaningful with scores from that event designated as T-scores. If too many events are classified as suitable for T-scores the smaller the reductions will become. In effect, a high number of T-scores defeats the purpose of having this calculation.
- Clubs should also refrain from setting up competitions as tournaments during summer months, when the course may be playing much easier than the Course Rating. This will have an affect later in the year when a player's Handicap Index naturally moves out in the winter months.

Why does New Zealand Golf use the T-Score function?

Clubs and members wanted Handicap Indexes 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 a player's Handicap Index based on casual play. It identifies players who have had at least two scores which fall outside of the normal distribution of scores for a player with a certain handicap.

How does the T-Score Work?

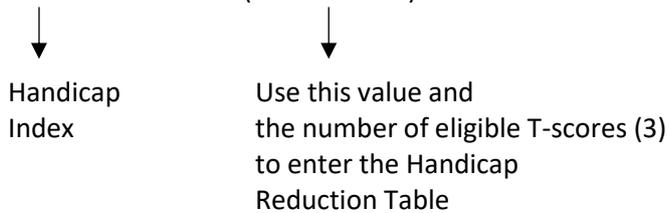
There is a four-step process to calculating if T-scores will affect a Handicap Index.

- Handicaps refresh or are updated every two weeks. At the fortnightly rollover the Handicap Index is calculated on the average of the best 10 cards from the 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 calculate if any T-scores will cause a reduction.
- A separate file holds all the T-scores. Players may have any number of T-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 six months of the fortnightly revision (rollover) date, or part of the 20-score history.
 - For this example, let's assume the Handicap Index is 17.3 and 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

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



| | | NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE TOURNAMENT SCORES | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------------------------------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5-9 | 10-19 | 20-29 | 30-39 | ≥ 40 |
| AVERAGE OF BEST TWO T-SCORE DIFFERENTIALS BELOW HANDICAP INDEX | 3.0 to 3.4 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| | 3.5 to 3.9 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| | 4.0 to 4.4 | 1 | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| | 4.5 to 4.9 | 1.8 | 1 | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| | 5.0 to 5.4 | 2.6 | 1.9 | 1 | * | * | * | * | * |
| | 5.5 to 5.9 | 3.4 | 2.7 | 1.9 | 1 | * | * | * | * |
| | 6.0 to 6.4 | 4.1 | 3.5 | 2.8 | 1.9 | 1 | * | * | * |
| | 6.5 to 6.9 | 4.8 | 4.3 | 3.7 | 2.9 | 2 | 1 | * | * |
| | 7.0 to 7.4 | 5.5 | 5.0 | 4.5 | 3.8 | 3 | 2.1 | 1 | * |
| | 7.5 to 7.9 | 6.2 | 5.7 | 5.3 | 4.7 | 3.9 | 3.1 | 2.2 | 1 |
| | 8.0 to 8.4 | 6.8 | 6.4 | 6 | 5.5 | 4.8 | 4.1 | 3.2 | 2.2 |
| | 8.5 to 8.9 | 7.4 | 7.1 | 6.7 | 6.2 | 5.7 | 5 | 4.2 | 3.3 |
| | 9.0 to 9.4 | 8.1 | 7.8 | 7.4 | 7 | 6.5 | 5.9 | 5.2 | 4.4 |
| | 9.5 to 9.9 | 8.7 | 8.4 | 8.1 | 7.7 | 7.3 | 6.7 | 6.1 | 5.4 |
| | 10.0 to 10.4 | 9.2 | 9.0 | 8.8 | 8.4 | 8 | 7.6 | 7 | 6.4 |
| | 10.5 to 10.9 | 9.8 | 9.5 | 9.4 | 9.1 | 8.7 | 8.3 | 7.8 | 7.2 |
| | 11.0 to 11.4 | 10.4 | 10.2 | 10 | 9.7 | 9.4 | 9.1 | 8.6 | 8.1 |
| 11.5 to 11.9 | 11.0 | 10.8 | 10.6 | 10.4 | 10.1 | 9.8 | 9.4 | 8.9 | |
| 12.0 to 12.4 | 11.5 | 11.4 | 11.2 | 11 | 10.7 | 10.5 | 10.1 | 9.7 | |
| 12.5 to 12.9 | 12.1 | 11.9 | 11.8 | 11.6 | 11.4 | 11.1 | 10.8 | 10.5 | |
| 13.0 to 13.4 | 12.6 | 12.5 | 12.4 | 12.2 | 12 | 11.8 | 11.5 | 11.2 | |
| 13.5 to 13.9 | 13.2 | 13.1 | 12.9 | 12.8 | 12.6 | 12.4 | 12.2 | 11.9 | |
| 14.0 or more | 13.7 | 13.6 | 13.5 | 13.4 | 13.2 | 13.0 | 12.8 | 12.6 | |

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

- Current Handicap Index of 17.3 then becomes 12.3 R. The 'R' indicates there is a reduction due to T-scores. This reduction is in place until the next fortnightly revision (rollover) when the same approach is used.

How will the 'R' Handicap Index and T-Scores be illustrated in my scoring record?

- The T-scores are identified by the letter 'T' showing against the score in the Adjusted Gross column.
- The 'R' showing next to the Projected Handicap indicates the Projected Handicap will be a reduced handicap at the next revision (rollover) date
- The 'R' showing next to the Handicap Index indicates the score was played off a reduced handicap
- The 'R' showing next to the 'Handicap Index' on the player's home page indicates a reduced handicap

| DASHBOARD ▸ SCORES ▾ COMPETITIONS ▸ FOR TIGER WOODS | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|----------------|--------|-------|-----------|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| TIGER'S SCORES - 349 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Entered | Played | Course | Marker | Slope | Adj Gross | NZSCR | Hdcp Diff | Projected | Crse Hdcp | Index |
| 18/06/2014 | 15/06/2014 | Alexandra | White | 121 | 100 | 69.8 | 28.2 | 23.9R | 26 | 23.9R |
| 12/12/2013 | 11/12/2013 | Alexandra | White | 121 | 101 ● | 69.8 | 29.1 | 23.9R | 26 | 24.5 |
| 12/12/2013 | 8/12/2013 | Alexandra | White | 121 | 102 | 69.8 | 30.1 | 24.5 | 26 | 24.5 |
| 3/12/2013 | 27/11/2013 | Alexandra | White | 121 | 99 ● | 69.8 | 27.3 | 24.5 | 26 | 24.6 |
| 24/11/2013 | 21/11/2013 | Hanmer Springs | White | 111 | 94 ● | 67.0 | 27.5 | 24.3 | 24 | 24.6 |
| 18/11/2013 | 14/11/2013 | Hokitika | Blue | 119 | 97 ● | 68.7 | 26.9 | 24.6 | 25 | 24.2 |
| 1/11/2013 | 30/10/2013 | Alexandra | White | 121 | 106 | 69.8 | 33.8 | 24.2 | 25 | 23.8 |
| 18/10/2013 | 13/10/2013 | Alexandra | White | 121 | 101 ● | 69.8 | 29.1 | 23.8 | 25 | 23.2 |
| 23/09/2013 | 21/09/2013 | Alexandra | White | 121 | 95 ● | 69.8 | 23.5 | 23.2 | 25 | 23.8 |
| 23/09/2013 | 18/09/2013 | Alexandra | White | 121 | 91 ● T | 69.8 | 19.8 | 23.7 | 25 | 23.8 |
| 7/09/2013 | 6/09/2013 | Alexandra | White | 121 | 112 | 69.8 | 39.4 | 23.8 | 25 | 23.1 |
| 4/09/2013 | 30/08/2013 | Alexandra | White | 121 | 103 | 69.8 | 31.0 | 23.5 | 25 | 23.1 |
| 26/08/2013 | 21/08/2013 | Alexandra | White | 121 | 103 | 69.8 | 31.0 | 23.1 | 24 | 22.8 |
| 19/08/2013 | 18/08/2013 | Alexandra | White | 121 | 98 ● | 69.8 | 26.3 | 22.8 | 24 | 22.8 |
| 8/08/2013 | 7/08/2013 | Alexandra | White | 121 | 102 | 69.8 | 30.1 | 22.8 | 25 | 23.4 |
| 2/08/2013 | 31/07/2013 | Alexandra | White | 121 | 93 ● T | 69.8 | 21.7 | 22.8 | 25 | 23.4 |
| 28/06/2013 | 26/06/2013 | Alexandra | White | 121 | 104 | 69.8 | 31.9 | 23.4 | 25 | 23.4 |
| 16/06/2013 | 14/06/2013 | Alexandra | White | 121 | 106 | 69.8 | 33.8 | 23.4 | 24 | 22.6 |
| 10/06/2013 | 9/06/2013 | Alexandra | White | 121 | 102 | 69.8 | 30.1 | 23.4 | 24 | 22.6 |
| 7/06/2013 | 5/06/2013 | Alexandra | White | 121 | 101 ● | 69.8 | 29.1 | 23.1 | 24 | 22.0 |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3/06/2013 | 31/05/2013 | Alexandra | White | 121 | 107 | 69.8 | 34.7 | 22.6 | 24 | 22.0 |
| 28/04/2013 | 24/04/2013 | Alexandra | White | 121 | 96 | 69.8 | 24.5 | 22.0 | 24 | 22.0 |
| 23/04/2013 | 19/04/2013 | Alexandra | White | 121 | 103 | 69.8 | 31.0 | 22.0 | 24 | 22.0 |
| 11/04/2013 | 10/04/2013 | Alexandra | White | 121 | 97 | 69.8 | 25.4 | 22.0 | 24 | 22.0 |
| 25/03/2013 | 20/03/2013 | Alexandra | White | 121 | 103 | 69.8 | 31.0 | 22.0 | 24 | 22.1 |

● = Used in New Zealand Golf Slope calculation
 T = Tournament score

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With T-Scores used in calculating a handicap, does that mean they are the only cards used for handicapping so essentially, only competition cards are used for handicapping?

No. All cards are required to be entered for handicap purposes whether a casual round, 9 holes or handicap match play. There are some match play cards which are exempt. (*Refer to 'Match Play Card Exemptions for Handicapping'*)

What is an eligible T-Score?

An 'eligible T-score' is a tournament score made either within the last six months or within the player's current 20-score history.

Handicap Index reduction for exceptional T-scores is calculated at each fortnightly revision (rollover) date and may vary from revision to revision based on a number of factors:

- Additional T-scores
- Expiration of eligible T-scores
- Variation in handicap formula calculation
- Fluctuation of handicap formula calculation in relation to the two lowest eligible T-scores

Is it compulsory for my club to use T-Scores?

If clubs 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 New Zealand Golf will address accordingly.

Why do I have an 'R' following my Handicap Index?

Because of the return of two exceptional scores in tournaments during the last six months, an extra calculation means a reduction to the player's Handicap Index.

A player should not feel they are under review and their integrity questioned. This is the result of very good play in events which have been tagged as T-scores. If a T-score differential meets the reduction criteria a player will find that an extra calculation will reduce their Handicap Index and this is illustrated by the 'R' which follows the Handicap Index.

The calculation can work like an anchor therefore a player may lose form or struggle more during the winter months and feel their handicap should be going out, however that may not occur. There is a trend that what may have been non-counting T-scores in the summer may become counting T-scores under winter conditions resulting in a handicap reduction in the winter. Basically, what can happen is that the worse the player's winter differentials get, the more the reduction from summer T-score conditions.

Do I have to accept this reduction?

A player can contact New Zealand Golf, or their club Handicap Committee for clarification or to query the 'R' following their Handicap Index. New Zealand Golf or the club Handicap Committee, following a review, may override or cancel the reduction.

How did a score from many months ago suddenly become a counting T-score?

At the fortnightly handicap review both the average of best 10 of last 20 cards (multiplied by 96%) and the T-score file are used in calculating the revised Handicap Index.

If a player has moved to a new Handicap Index, for example to 23.0, and two T-scores within the six-month period earlier had differentials of 20.0 or lower, then they qualify for inclusion in the current fortnightly review.



The player's Handicap Index may have been sitting between 19.5 and 22.9 during the six-month period the T-scores were entered, therefore the T-score differentials had not reached the 3.0 difference below the Handicap Index to have any impact. But the outward movement of the Handicap Index to 23.0, and with there being two 'live' T-scores in the handicap record, the T-scores now impact reducing the Handicap Index accordingly.

If there are four or more T-scores in my record, is it still the two best used for any reduction?

Yes. It is always the two best, provided both are 3.0 or more lower than the 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 shows that the two best T-scores, averaged, are used.

Does the 'last six months' provision only apply to those who do not have 20 cards in the system?

No. An 'eligible tournament score' is a T-score made either within the last six months or within the player's current 20-score history.

Whilst the player may incur a reduction if their form fades and T-scores are still added, the Handicap Reduction Table shows that the reduction will change or maybe even be lifted.

Do T-scores in my most recent 20 cards drop off as at present for the calculation?

T-score entries can fall below the latest 20 scores of a record, just as a normal score does. However, the T-scores remain 'live' for handicap calculation purposes for six months, regardless of how many cards are returned during the six-month period.

What is the calculation for more than three cards? How does it work if I play in tournaments designated as T-score events with two rounds Thursday, two Saturday, two Sunday one on Tuesday, with a total of seven scores entered?

On each occasion, only the best two T-score differentials below the Handicap Index are used in calculating any T-score reduced handicap, but the total number of eligible T-scores entered are also counted.

Whilst there may be seven T-scores entered from the above week, it is still important to remember that the player's golf needs to be of a high quality for the T-score differentials to have any impact resulting in a reduction.

Note: 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?

Handicaps are reviewed fortnightly and so is the T-score record.

Firstly the 'regular' Handicap Index is calculated and if there are two T-score differentials 3.0 or more below the calculated Handicap Index, the further T-score calculation is applied which is likely to result in a handicap reduction.

As the Handicap Reduction Table illustrates, the reduction lessens the more counting cards in the six-month scoring record.

My club plays for many trophies. Most weekends are trophy competitions of Stableford or stroke play. If all were deemed to be 'T-scores' most scores would be entered as such. Is this appropriate?

The Club/Handicapping Committee has the discretion to determine what club events should be designated 'tournaments'. The Club Committee determines which should be regarded as the more 'important' trophy events and deem those to be T-scores.



My club has a qualifying round where 32 players qualify for the match play section of the event. Should the qualifying round be treated as a T-score?

Match play events are not to be used for tournament scores. However, if the tournament is a 'meaningful event' any qualifying round should be designated as a T-score.

My club plays a 27-hole tournament with 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?

The committee in charge of the competition can, prior to the commencement of the tournament, announce that the 18-hole round will be designated 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 designated as a T-score.

An exceptional score stays in the system for six months. This is appropriate for the player who returns an average number of cards annually, but can severely affect a player who plays 2 – 4 times a week. Is there any consideration for this?

If a player who receives a handicap adjustment plays an exceptional amount of golf which results in the handicap reduction occurring for a substantially higher number of rounds when compared to the average golfer, New Zealand Golf or the club Handicap Committee reserve the right to remove the handicap adjustment.

How many golfers are affected by a reduction due to exceptional scores in tournament play?

On average, there are approximately 50 golfers at any one time with an 'R' reduction. Most have been reduced by 1-2 strokes.

The majority of golfers do not return two exceptional T-scores, therefore they will always remain with the normal Handicap Index calculation.

Understandably, players may find a reduction confusing but it will only occur if they have played extremely well on two occasions within a six-month period. Based on that alone they should expect a reduction to occur.

Can T-scores be entered for nine-hole tournaments?

No, nine-hole tournaments are not eligible to be entered as T-scores.

Note: The consequence of designating too many competition rounds as T-scores is that the chart value in the Handicap Reduction Table will be diluted. The committee should scrutinise each competition in advance to determine whether it should be designated as a T-score.



New Zealand Golf recommendations for what events may be tagged as a T-score

The following is a guide as to what competitions would be eligible for designating as T-scores.

Club competitions, to be determined by each Club/Handicap Committee and announced in advance of the competition, include:

- 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
- An annual event run by the golf club where a trophy is awarded
 - e.g. Stroke Play Championship
- 18/36 hole Open tournaments run by the golf club
 - e.g. Templeton Open, Otaki Open
- 72 Open tournaments run by the golf club
 - e.g. Stewart Gold Cup, Kapi Tareha, Cambridge Classic

NOTE: It is New Zealand Golf's recommendation that regular club day competitions, which may also include the pro's scramble, should not be designated as T-scores. By using this level of event handicap reduction will be minimised over time.

District Association events, to be determined by the Committee and announced in advance of the event, include:

- Provincial stroke play events
 - e.g. Auckland, Waikato, BOP Opens

New Zealand Golf events, to be determined by the Committee and announced in advance of the event, include

- Charles Tour run by New Zealand Golf and the NZPGA
 - e.g. Muriwai Open, Akarana Open
- National stroke play events
 - e.g. NZ Stroke Play, North Island Stroke Play, Gross Stableford Rosebowl