

SNGA Handicap Policy

The SNGA has recently taken steps to address the concerns many players within the Net and Senior Net Divisions have brought up with regards to the Handicap Policy. In the past many players were unsure how the handicap they were playing to at each tournament was established. Others expressed concern and frustration that we had a field of players playing to two separate handicap criteria's. It is our hope that the new system will clear up any confusion and put all players on the same level playing field. It is our goal to make even Par a good score again.

Handicap Explanation

Players signing up to play in a SNGA Net Division Event and Senior Net Event will play to their low-12 month USGA Index. The Competition Handicap Committee reserves the right to adjust any player's Course Handicap before or in between any stipulated round of the competition based on either the reviewing of Tournament Score Differentials or "Exceptionally Low Tournament Score's".

Tournament scores will consist of any scores posted in SNGA events over the same past 12 months that is being used to establish your low – 12 month USGA index. The guideline in which a player's Course Handicap is adjusted follows the formula for adjusting a player's Handicap Index. The basis for this formula can be found in section 10-3 of the USGA Handicap System with the exception that we will now only use your two lowest Exceptionally Low Tournament Scores posted over a year's time and not the total number of tournament rounds (or the total number of Exceptionally Low Scores as we did previously) when referring to the reduction chart I section 10-3. Ultimately the Competition Handicap Committee reserves the right to adjust any players Course Handicap as it sees fit.

The steps in making this adjustment are as follows in accordance with the Guidelines (example):

A player with a low-12 Month Index of 17.3 has two eligible tournament scores of 82T, and 83T. These eligible tournament scores, an 82T and 83T, produce the lowest tournament score differentials. They were made on a course with a USGA Course Rating of 70.6 and a Slope Rating of 130.

The committee will calculate the tournament score differentials by subtracting the USGA Course Rating from each eligible tournament score; multiply the result by 113, and divide by the Slope Rating for each course played. Select the two lowest eligible tournament score differentials.

$$82T - (82-70.6) \times 113 / 130 = 9.9$$
$$83T - (83-70.6) \times 113 / 130 = 10.8$$

You then subtract the second lowest differential from the Handicap Index (we will be using low-12 month which will reduce the possibility of the adjustment) under Section 10-2.

$$17.3 - 10.8 = 6.5 \text{ (any total 3.0 or greater is eligible for 10-3 review)}$$

If you have a total of 3.0 or greater we will average the two lowest tournament score differentials
 $(9.9 + 10.8) / 2 = 10.35$

Take Player A's current low-12 month index and subtract 10.35

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

The committee will use this total and match it against the “Handicap Reduction Table” provided in Section 10-3 of the Guidelines. In this instance matching the total would result in a 5 stroke reduction to the player’s Course Handicap, thus player A would be playing to a Course Handicap of 12. The Competition Handicap Committee will review Tournament Scores before each event and after the first round of each event. The reduction in Course Handicap will occur until the “Exceptionally Low Tournament Scores” is no longer within the 12 month period for review. Remember we are using the total number of “Exceptionally Low Tournament Scores”...not the total number of tournament scores.

Finally, the Handicap Committee has addressed the 10-3 “R” reduction related to a competitor’s 12 month low Handicap Index. If a competitor participating in an SNGA Tournament has a 10-3 Reduction, his handicap will be reviewed to see if the “Two Exceptionally Low Tournament Scores” that are creating the 10-3 “R” lie outside the 12 month Low Handicap Index Range. If those tournaments scores lie outside the range, the competitor will not be penalized for the 10-3 “R”. The competitor will still be subject to the other Handicap Policy reduction methods.

The goal of this new policy is to place everyone on a level playing field and to make sure everyone understands where their handicap comes from.

Please feel free to contact Drew Smith, Steve Zyla or Randy Goodwill via email or phone call to discuss any questions or concerns. If you have an issue, please do not wait until the morning of the Tournament to discuss this.

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