

## Determining a Most Likely Score and Holes Not Played for Handicap Posting Purposes

### Most Likely Score

For holes that are unfinished or strokes that are conceded, post a score for handicap purposes by determining a “most likely score” (Section 4-1). The “most likely score” is the number of strokes taken so far plus the estimated number of strokes needed to finish the hole more than half the time (in the player’s best judgment). These scores should be preceded by an “X” when recorded on a scorecard.

*Example:* Player A is playing in a four-ball match play event. A’s partner, player B, hits an approach shot to within inches of the hole and the other side conceded the next stroke for player B, a 5. Player A, receiving no strokes on this hole, is lying 5, 15 feet away from the hole. Player A picks up and posts a most likely score of X-7 for this hole based on the 5 strokes taken plus the estimated amount of stroke(s) needed to finish the hole more than half the time.

MIDDLE	70.9/131	353	161	509	370	385	495	189	394	295	3151
BACK	72.1/132	353	166	510	387	385	509	204	409	303	3226
MEN’S PAR		4	3	5	4	4	5	3	4	4	36
MEN’S HANDICAP		9	15	11	3	13	5	7	1	17	
Player A		X-7									
Player B		5									
HOLE		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT
WOMEN’S HANDICAP		5	17	9	3	7	1	11	13	15	
WOMEN’S PAR		4	3	5	4	4	5	3	4	4	36
FORWARD	M 64.9/123 W 70.7/122	282	127	412	289	350	395	133	297	247	2532

### Holes Not Played/Not Played Under The Rules of Golf

For any holes that are not played or not played under The Rules of Golf (except preferred lies), the score recorded for handicap purposes must be par plus any handicap strokes that the player is entitled to receive on these holes (Section 4-2). These scores should be preceded by an “X” when recorded on a scorecard.

*Example:* Player A with a Course Handicap of 15 receives a handicap stroke on the first 15 allocated handicap-stroke holes. If player A does not play the fifth allocated stroke hole, a par 4, because of construction on the green, player A must record a score of par (4) plus one for handicap purposes for an X-5.

*Example:* Player B with a Course Handicap of 15 stops play after the 16th hole due to darkness. Hole 17 is a par 3 and is the number 12 stroke hole. Player B records a score of par (3) plus 1 stroke for an X-4 on hole 17. Hole 18 is a par 4 and is the number 4 handicap-stroke hole. Player B records a par (4) plus 1 stroke for an X-5 on hole 18.

### Acceptability of Scores: To Post or Not to Post A Player's Responsibility

The following are acceptable scores and must be posted for handicap posting purposes:

- Post scores when at least seven holes are played in accordance with "The Rules of Golf" (7-12 holes are posted as a 9-hole score; 13 or more are posted as an 18-hole score). Holes not played are posted as par plus any handicap strokes to which the player is entitled.
- Post scores made in an area observing an active season.
- Post scores on all courses with a valid Course Rating™ and Slope Rating®.
- Post scores in all forms of competition: match play, stroke play, and team competitions where players play their own ball.\* Check with the Committee to see if the score is posted as a tournament (T) score.
- Post scores played under the Local Rule of "preferred lies."
- Post scores when a player is disqualified from a competition but still has an acceptable score for handicap purposes (e.g., failure to sign a score card).

\* This does not mean all holes must be physically completed (see Section 4-1).

The following are unacceptable scores for handicap posting purposes:

- Do not post scores when fewer than seven holes are played.
- Do not post scores made on a golf course in an area which an inactive season established by the authorized golf association is in effect (e.g., Saskatchewan in December).
- Do not post scores made when a majority of the holes are not played in accordance with The Rules of Golf.
- Do not post scores when the length of the course is less than 3,000 yards for 18 holes (or 1,500 yards for nine holes).
- Do not post scores when, as a condition of the competition, the maximum number of clubs allowed is less than 14, or types of clubs are limited as, for example, in a competition that allows only iron clubs.
- Do not post scores when scores are made on a course without a Course Rating or Slope Rating (e.g. on an international golf course that has not been licensed by the USGA to utilize the USGA Course Rating System™).
- Do not post scores when a player uses non-conforming clubs, balls, or tees.
- Do not post scores when an artificial device or piece of unusual equipment (as defined under Rule 14-3) is used during the execution of a stroke (e.g. a towel placed under the arms during the execution of a stroke) or when equipment is used in an unusual manner during the execution of a stroke.
- Do not post scores when playing alone.

## Recommended Handicap Allowances

In individual events, full Course Handicap™ is recommended. In some team events, using a full Course Handicap would favour higher-handicapped sides. Therefore, we recommend using a percentage of Course Handicap in some team events to make competition equitable. See Section 9-4 of “The Golf Canada Handicap Manual” for more information.

### Common Match Play Allowances

#### Four-Ball

The player with the lowest Course Handicap plays at scratch. The other three players receive 100 percent of the difference between their Course Handicap, respectfully.

*Example:* Players A, B, C, and D have a Course Handicap of 5, 10, 15 and 20, respectively. Player A plays at scratch, B receives 5 strokes, C receives 10 strokes, and D receives 15 strokes.

#### Chapman or Pinehurst

The partner with the lower Course Handicap receives 60 percent of Course Handicap. The partner with the higher Course Handicap receives 40 percent of Course Handicap. Add the percentage allowance together. The side with the higher Course Handicap receives the difference between the Course Handicap of each side. The lower-handicapped side plays at scratch.

*Example:* Side A-B with player A ( $5 \times 60\% = 3$ ) and player B ( $10 \times 40\% = 4$ ), compete against side C-D with player C ( $14 \times 60\% = 8.4$  rounds to 8) and D ( $17 \times 40\% = 6.8$  rounds to 7). Side A-B’s Course Handicap is 7 (A, 3 + B, 4) and side C-D’s Course Handicap is 15 (C, 8 + D, 7). Side A-B plays at scratch and side C-D receives 8 strokes.

### Common Stroke Play Allowances

#### Four-Ball

Men receive 90 percent of Course Handicap and women receive 95 percent of Course Handicap.

*Example:* On men’s side A-B, Player A has a Course Handicap of 11 and Player B has a Course Handicap of 20. At 90 percent of Course Handicap, Player A receives 10 strokes ( $11 \times 90\% = 9.9$ , rounded to 10) and Player B receives 18 strokes ( $20 \times 90\% = 18$ ).

*Note:* It is recommended that Committees consider it a condition of four-ball stroke-play competitions that the Course Handicap (after allowance) of the members of a side may not differ by more than eight strokes. A side with a large difference has an advantage over a side with a small Course Handicap difference. If a difference of more than eight strokes cannot be avoided, it is suggested that an additional 10 percent reduction be applied to the Course Handicap of each member of the advantaged side.

#### Foursome (Alternate Shot)

The allowance is 50 percent of the partners’ combined Course Handicap. When selected drives are permitted, the allowance is 40 percent. A plus combined Course Handicap side must be added to the gross score to determine the net score. (See Decision 9-4b/1.)

*Example:* On side A-B, Player A has a Course Handicap of 5 and Player B has a Course Handicap of 12. Side AB’s combined Course Handicap is 17. Side A-B will receive 9 strokes ( $17 \times 50\% = 8.5$ , rounded to 9).

The Golf Canada Handicap Manual

Reduction “R” of Handicap Factor® based on exceptional Tournament Scores: Section 10-3 Explained

At each handicap revision, a player’s most recent scores, as calculated under Section 10-2, are compared to that player’s best two tournament score (T-Score) Differentials. If the disparity between the two numbers is 3.0 or greater, a reduction in Handicap Factor may be necessary.

Player A with a Handicap Factor of 17.3 has three eligible T-Scores, an 82T, 83T, and 85T. Two of these eligible T-Scores, an 82T and 83T, produce the lowest T-Score Differentials. They were made on a course with a Golf Canada Course Rating™ of 70.6 and a Slope Rating® of 130.

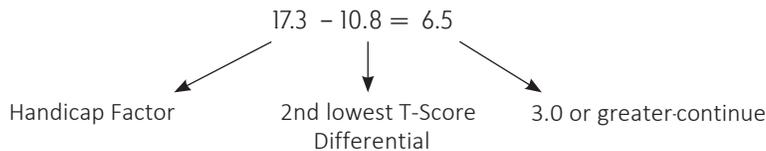
**STEP 1** Calculate T-Score Differentials:

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

$$83T - (83 - 70.6) \times 113 / 130 = 10.8 \quad \checkmark$$

$$85T - (85 - 70.6) \times 113 / 130 = 12.5$$

**STEP 2** Subtract 2nd lowest Differential (10.8) from the Handicap Factor as calculated under Section 10-2. Continue with next step if result is 3.0 or greater:



**STEP 3** Average two lowest T-Score Differentials:

$$(9.9 + 10.8) / 2 = 10.35$$

**STEP 4** Subtract average of two lowest T-Score Differentials from the player’s Handicap Factor:

$$17.3 - 10.35 = 6.95 \text{ rounded to } 7.0$$

**STEP 5** Using the answer from Step 4 (7.0), and number of eligible T-Scores (3), enter the Handicap Reduction Table in Section 10-3 to determine the amount of reduction for the player’s Handicap Factor.

**STEP 6** Subtract the reduction table value from the player’s Handicap Factor. The reduced Handicap Factor is to be identified with the letter “R” when displayed in reports or on a computer screen, e.g. 12.3R. This now becomes Player A’s Handicap Factor:

