



10-3. Reduction of USGA Handicap Index Based on Exceptional Tournament Scores

Using the definition of a *tournament score* (see *tournament score* and Decisions 10-3/1 through 10-3/6), the committee (preferably the *Handicap Committee* in consultation with the committee in charge of the competition) must determine in advance whether a score is to be designated as a *tournament score* that is to be identified by the letter "T" when posted (e.g. 82T). These scores are often referred to as "T-Scores" as in Section 10-3c.

a. Purpose

The following procedure must be used as an alternate calculation of a *Handicap Index* for players with two or more *eligible tournament scores*. A player's *Handicap Index* may be reduced under this procedure when a player has a minimum of two *eligible tournament score* differentials that are at least 3.0 better than the player's *Handicap Index* calculated under Section 10-2.

b. Determination of Handicap Index Based on Tournament Scores

The *Handicap Committee* or handicap computation service must apply the following steps to determine if there is a reduction in *Handicap Index* calculated under Section 10-2.

Example: A player with a *Handicap Index* of 17.3 has three *eligible tournament scores*, an 82T, 83T and 85T. Two of 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.

Step 1:

Calculate *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.

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

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

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

Step 2:

Subtract the second lowest differential from the *Handicap Index* under Section 10-2. Continue with the next step if the result is 3.0 or greater.

$$17.3 \text{ (Handicap Index)} - 10.8 \text{ (2nd lowest T-score differential)} = 6.5 \text{ (3.0 or greater eligible for 10.3 review)}$$

Handicap 2nd lowest t-score 3.0 or greater Index differential eligible for 10-3 review

Step 3:

Average the two lowest *tournament score* differentials.

$$\frac{(9.9 + 10.8)}{2} = 10.35$$

(2 best T-score differentials) Differential average of 2 lowest T-scores

Step 4:

Subtract that average from the player's *Handicap Index*.

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

Handicap Use this value and the number of

Step 5:
 Using the number (rounded to the nearest tenths place (7.0)) from step 4 and the total number of *tournament scores* in the player's record (3), use the Handicap Reduction Table to determine the amount the player's *Handicap Index* is to be reduced.

Step 6:
 Subtract the table value from the player's *Handicap Index*. The result of that subtraction will be the player's reduced *Handicap Index*, provided that it is at least one less than the *Handicap Index* based on the Formula in Section 10-2. The reduced *Handicap Index* is to be identified with the letter R when displayed in handicap reports or on the computer screen, e.g. 12.3R.

17.3 - 5.0 = 12.3R (New Reduced Handicap)

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Handicap Amount the Handicap Reduction Table
 Index reduces the handicap by.

Handicap Amount the Handicap New Reduced Index Reduction table states to Handicap Index reduce the handicap by

	Number of Eligible Tournament Scores							
	2	3	4	5-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	≥ 40
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

Example:
 Value from Handicap Reduction Table 5.0

c. Counting Tournament Scores

- i. T-Score Counter -- The number of *eligible tournament scores* will be counted on a revolving twelve-month basis. In order to keep track of the counter, but not save every T-Score, a counter for each month is needed. The T-Score counter will be the sum of the latest twelve monthly counters plus any T-Scores older than one year that are a part of the twenty score history. The monthly counter will increase based on the date a score is processed, not the date of the score.
- ii. Best T-Score File -- Up to the best six *eligible tournament scores* are saved in a "Best T-Score File," separate from the player's handicap record of the latest 20 scores.
- iii. Adding T-Scores -- When a new *tournament score* is posted, it becomes part of the player's normal handicap record as a score and *Handicap Differential*. If the "Best T-Score File" has fewer than six *eligible tournament scores*, the new T-Score is added to that file. If the file already has six T-Scores, the new T-Score, if better than any T-Score in the file, is added to the file and the worst T-Score in the file is deleted from the file, regardless of the date of the T-Score.
- iv. Discarding Old T-Scores -- At each handicap revision, each T-Score in the "Best T-Score File" is checked to see if the score is older than one year and no longer part of the player's current twenty score history. If so, the score is deleted from the file. Deleted T-Scores are replaced by the best *eligible tournament scores* (if any) in the player's handicap record that are not already in the "Best T-Score File."

d. Duration and Variation of Reduction

Handicap Index reduction for exceptional *tournament scores* is calculated at each handicap revision and may vary from revision to revision based on a number of factors. These factors may include the following:

- Additional *tournament scores*;
- Expiration of *eligible tournament scores*;
- Variation in 10-2 calculation;
- Fluctuation of 10-2 calculation in relation to the two lowest T-Scores.

e. Handicap Committee Review of Reduction

The *Handicap Committee* must review all reductions. As a result of review, the *Handicap Committee* may:

- Continue to allow the reduction to run its normal course, as described in Section 10-3d, or
- Further reduce the *Handicap Index*. For example, the committee may conclude that the player's performance continues to be better than the potential ability indicated by the 10-3 reduction. In that case, the committee replaces the reduced *Handicap Index* with an even lower reduced *Handicap Index*, continuing to review the education after each revision period (see Section 8-4c), or
- *Override* the reduction. For example, the committee may cancel the reduction to a *Handicap Index* for a player who has been injured, and whose reduction was based on early *tournament scores* prior to the injury. In that case, the reduction was inconsistent with the player's *scoring record*. The committee replaces the reduced *Handicap Index* with the *Handicap Index* calculated under 10-2 and ceases designating it with an R. The committee will have the option to continue to *override* after each revision period, for as long as at least two exceptional *tournament scores* continue to trigger a 10-3 reduction. Once the player's *scoring record* comes to contain fewer than two exceptional *tournament scores*, the committee must cease overriding and rely on the normal calculation under 10-2.

f. Reporting Requirement

Authorized golf associations and handicap computation services must report any *Handicap Index* reductions under this procedure (Section 10-3b) to the *golf club* and, if computational reports are provided to the *authorized golf association*, the handicap computation service must also report any *Handicap Index* reductions to the *authorized golf association*. When a *Handicap Index* is reduced under this section, it must be identified with the letter R (e.g., 12.3R).