

COMPETING FROM DIFFERENT TEES

When you are playing a match or a stroke play event from different sets of tees, the golfer playing from the tees with the higher Course Rating receives extra strokes which are added to the golfer's Course Handicap. The strokes are determined by taking the difference between the two Course Ratings. The rounding must be completed with any difference of .5 or greater rounded upward.

Let's take for example, Mary and Sue whose Handicap Factors are 10.4 and 15.3 respectively. Mary and Sue decide to have a Match. Mary will play the White Tees which have a Course Rating of 72.7 and Slope Rating of 128 while Sue prefers to play the Red Tees where the Course Rating is 70.6 and Slope Rating of 124.

After looking up her Handicap Factor on the Course Handicap Table for the White Tees, Mary's Course Handicap is 12 and Sue's Course Handicap is 17 off the Red Tees.

Since the White Tees have a higher Course Rating, Mary will get two strokes added to her Course Handicap. Let's do the Math:

$$72.7 - 70.6 = 2.1 \text{ rounded to } 2$$

Mary will play to a 14 handicap and Sue will receive 3 strokes in their match. The adjustments in the Course Rating and Course Handicap results in the same Net Score for both players.

	Sue	Mary
Tees	Red	White
Slope Rating	124	128
Course Rating	70.6	72.7
Course Handicap	17	12
Target Score	88	85
Adjustment between Course Ratings		2
Net Score	71	71

We have to equalize the Course Ratings in order for the two players to compete equitably.

The same standards apply when men and women compete from different tees or the same set of tees.

Remember to first check the women's Course Rating for the set of tees she will use. Compare it to the men's Course Rating for the set of tees he will use.

For example, the women's Course Rating is 71.6 from the forward tees, and the men's Course Rating is 70.0 from the Blue tees, she'll get an extra two strokes ($71.6 - 70.0 = 1.6$ rounded to 2).

For a more detailed explanation on how to adjust the handicaps for players competing from different tees, or for men and women competing from the same tees, you can read Section 3-5 in the Golf Canada Handicap System manual. It is recommended that everyone should have a copy of the manual at their golf club.

Course Par Rating - indicates the evaluation of the playing difficulty of a course for a scratch golfer under normal course conditions.

Slope Rating - indicates the measurement of the relative difficulty of a course for players who are not scratch golfers compared to the Course Rating. The lowest Slope rating is 55 and the highest is 155. The higher the slope rating, the greater the gap between the scores of a scratch player and a bogey player.

Course Handicap indicates the number of handicap strokes a player receives from a specific set of tees at the course being played to adjust the player's scoring ability to the level of a scratch player.

Target Score - is your Course Handicap plus the Course Rating of the tees played. This is the score you would shoot if you play to your Handicap.

Net Score - is a player's score after handicap strokes have been subtracted from the player's gross score.