



### Handicap Reduction Policy for SCGA Team Play

The SCGA, as the Committee in Charge of the Competition, has the authority to establish the conditions under which the competition is played. The following describes the SCGA's Handicap Reduction Policy and the automated process that reviews all scores posted during SCGA Team Play.

#### Exceptional Net Scores

The SCGA Rules and Competitions Department considers an exceptional net score to have been posted when a player registers a **-3.0 Net Handicap Differential**. For SCGA Team Play a Handicap Differential and Net Handicap Differential are calculated as follows:

- **Handicap Differential:**  $(\text{Adjusted Gross Score} - \text{Course Rating}) \times 113 / \text{Slope Rating}$
- **Net Handicap Differential:**  $\text{Handicap Differential} - \text{Handicap Index Used in Event}$

#### Procedure

In order for a potential Handicap reduction to take place, a player must have two Net Handicap Differentials of at least -3.0 in the current calendar year. The determination of whether a differential meets the -3.0 threshold is based on the Handicap Index (H.I.) used in the event.

Exception: If a player had two or more Net Handicap Differentials of at least -3.0 in the previous year, the player would only need to register one Net Handicap Differential of at least -3.0 in the current year to potentially be reduced.

#### Example – Rd. 1

Player A's H.I. is 12.5, resulting in a Course Handicap of 14. He competes on a golf course with a Course Rating of 70.7 and Slope Rating of 124 and shoots an Adjusted Gross Score of 78.

- **Handicap Differential:**  $(78 - 70.7) \times 113 / 124 = 6.7$
- **Net Handicap Differential:**  $6.7 - 12.5 = -5.8$

Player A's Net Handicap Differential is at least -3.0, so Player A is added to the SCGA Exceptional Net Score File.

If the same player shoots another round during SCGA Team Play with a Net Handicap Differential of at least -3.0 (or if the player registered two or more Net Handicap Differentials of at least -3.0 the previous year), the player's handicap may potentially be reduced. The example continues:

#### Example – Rd. 2

Player A's H.I. is now 12.3, resulting in a Course Handicap of 13. He competes on a golf course with a Course Rating of 68.0 and Slope Rating of 119 and shoots an Adjusted Gross Score of 76:

- **Handicap Differential:**  $(76 - 68.0) \times 113 / 119 = 7.6$
- **Net Handicap Differential:**  $7.6 - 12.3 = -4.7$

After two rounds with Net Handicap Differentials of at least -3.0, the SCGA focuses on the Handicap Differentials themselves. The formula also takes into account the volume of scores being analyzed, recognizing that the greater the number of scores analyzed, the greater likelihood of having two Net Handicap Differentials of at least -3.0.

- Player A's Rd. 1 Handicap Differential: **6.7**
- Player A's Rd. 2 Handicap Differential: **7.6**
- Average: **7.15** rounded to **7.2**
  
- Average plus 1.0 if 9 or fewer scores available for analysis: **8.2**
- (Average plus 2.0 if 10 or more scores available for analysis)
  
- SCGA Team Play Handicap: **8.2**

The automatic process compares the SCGA Team Play Handicap to the player's Low Handicap Index (LHI) that would otherwise be used for each future match this season. If the SCGA Team Play Handicap is at least two (2) strokes lower than the LHI that would otherwise be used for a particular match, the player would be reduced to the SCGA Team Play Handicap for that particular match. This procedure and comparison will take place continually, until the player's LHI falls to a number equal or less than the SCGA Team Play Handicap.

If the player shoots a subsequent round(s) with a Net Handicap Differential of at least -3.0, the procedure will continue to focus on the two lowest Handicap Differentials.

If a player's handicap is reduced for SCGA Team Play, the player and his/her club's Handicap Chair will be notified via e-mail.