



Tournament Players Golf Club Rule and Play Information (AKA - The Rules By Ben)

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The Rules By Ben Course vs. Tournament Handicap

You've gotten out of your car, shuffled the paraphernalia in your pockets, carried your clubs to the clubhouse and gone inside to check your course handicap on the computer for the upcoming round. Upon checking in and receiving your scorecard or at some point out on the course you notice that the course handicap that we have given you is higher than what you saw on the computer. We appreciate your honesty in bringing it to our attention. But no, the program has not gone wacky the index we have given you is correct (in most circumstances a little on that later).

What people tend to forget is that we are a diverse group. We have women playing from the red tees and sometimes from the white tees. The women are also playing in the same flight as the men. We have men playing from the white tees and sometimes the low handicappers playing from the blue tees. In each of these circumstances the golf course becomes a different challenge to each group depending on which tee box they are playing. When the flights are separated by tee box and/or sex the difficulty within the flight is the same. But, when trying to determine overall low net and skins or the women are included in the same flight as the men and/or the men are on different tee boxes one group or the other will have an advantage or disadvantage.

Our goal has been to level the playing field. For the majority of our tournaments it has been the women being given the difference between the men and women's course rating. When the low handicap golfer plays from the blue tees he will also receive extra index points. The difference is the lowest rating being played subtracted from the ratings of the other tee boxes being played. This difference is then added to your index and then the handicap is calculated. Hence a higher course handicap than you saw on the computer. Some have requested that the difference be only added for calculation of overall low net and skins. This becomes a monumental management issue because the program is not designed to do it at this time. It would also provide a large opportunity for error anytime human intervention is involved. If everyone in the flight has the same difference then the handicaps would again all be the same less the difference providing the same result. Why add human intervention/error to the same result? The only time this would make a difference is for posting purposes and your course handicap would have been a 9 and because of the difference your course handicap is now a 10+, likewise 19 to 20+, 29 to 30+, and 39

to 40+. Equitable Stroke Control (ESC) is reviewed after the round for posting purposes verifying your actual course handicap. But as you can see, it is a narrow range that is affected.

In some circumstances the golf course has changed slope or rating recently and these new slopes and ratings are not in our database. In these circumstances the printing has been done and the corrections to the rating and slope will be done at the end of the round for scoring, skins and posting purposes.