

HANDICAP INFORMATION:

This page is designed to provide both old and new members information about posting scores and our system for possible modification of handicaps for tournament play. Lots more information about handicaps can be found on the NCGA or USGA websites.

Posting Scores:

- When posting scores, you should use Equitable Stroke Control (ESC), which is discussed in more detail below
- Tournament scores – it is your responsibility to post your score for tournament rounds, you should post in the pro shop after your round. If you post on the internet or the NCGA app, please post your score no later than the next day. We will review all tournament scores posted and will make any necessary adjustments. Don't forget to apply ESC (Equitable Stroke Control) as outlined below.

Equitable Stroke Control (ESC): ESC is a procedure used by the USGA in the calculation of handicaps that eliminates very bad holes from impacting handicaps to a disproportionate degree. ESC sets the maximum number that a player can post for any hole, based on the player's COURSE HANDICAP, **not** their INDEX. That table is shown below. A word of advice: if your index is around one of the break points, such as 9.5, 10.1, 19.8, 20.2, etc., you should be very careful to check your course handicap before applying ESC. A 19.8 index may be a 19 handicap at one course (with a maximum ESC score of 7 per hole) and a 21 at another (with a maximum per hole score of 8), depending on the Slope rating of the course. Most courses should have the Slope table with index ranges and course handicaps for the tees you are playing, so be sure to check. Please note that if your handicap is being reduced due to our club's T-index process (see below), you should use your original course handicap to determine your maximum per hole score. Your original course handicap will be on the Handicap Adjustment report found on our website.

An example of applying ESC:

You are a 16 handicap and playing with your regular group or in a tournament. Playing #9, your tee shot is a little short, you lay up, chunk one in the water, hit your next one in the trap right of the green, barely get your next shot on the green, and three-putt for a smooth 9. Including the 9, you shoot a 90 for your round. For purposes of the tournament, or any bets you have with your buddies, the 9 and the 90 count. However, when you post your score on the computer, you need to apply ESC. That 9 becomes a 7 (the most you can take with a 16 handicap, per the table below), and you should post an 88.

Course Handicap	Maximum Per Hole Score
9 or less	Double Bogey
10 to 19	7
20 to 29	8
30 to 39	9
40 or more	10

Tournament Handicap Adjustments:

Background: There have been several USGA and NCGA articles and write-ups regarding the possibilities of shooting your handicap. Per both of these folks, a handicap should reflect your **lowest potential scoring ability**, not your average score, and therefore shooting your handicap shouldn't be a common occurrence. The USGA has developed a table showing the odds of various handicap ranges shooting various amounts under their handicap, and that table can be found on their website (as well as the NCGA's).

The NCGA and USGA have encouraged local clubs to use this information and table in monitoring and reviewing member handicaps. The USGA uses the USGA Handicap Manual Section "10-3" rule, where they do a computer calculation comparing exceptional tournament scores to your monthly index, and where there is a significant gap, indexes are reduced "to better reflect your lowest potential scoring ability". The NCGA uses a database of NCGA tournament scores, and calculates a "tournament" handicap for use in their tournaments. However, per the NCGA, local clubs are free to develop their own methodologies using this information, and if applied consistently, adjust members' handicaps to a local index for use only in the club's tournaments or events, or to make modifications to NCGA indexes where warranted.

Our T-Index System (2014) : We will maintain a rolling record of the last 10 tournament scores for each player. Once a player has at least 2 scores, will calculate a tournament index ("T-Index") based on those tournament scores. With more than 2 scores, we will use 50% of the scores (rounded up – 3 out of 5, 4 out of 7, etc.) to calculate an index. We will then compare the T-Index to each player's NCGA index for each tournament. If a player has a T-Index lower than the NCGA index, we will use the T-Index for that tournament. Reports showing both adjusted players, as well as everyone's calculation will be posted on the LPMGC website. Please note that we will only go back as far as January 2012 for scores, as these are the earliest tournament scores that we have in our scoring database.

Items to note:

- Tournament scores used are unadjusted, vs. your NCGA index, which should have adjusted scores. If you **still** have a lower T-Index, clearly that is a better reflection of your lowest potential scoring ability when participating in our tournaments.
- Effective June 27, 2015, when a player is disqualified from a tournament but completes at least 13 holes, the score used for posting the round will be used in the T-index calculation. Normal NCGA guidelines for posting scores will apply including ESC adjustments.
- Finally, be aware that there is no judgment or stigma associated with having a local index based on this method – IT'S JUST MATH. This is not some magic formula designed to catch "sandbaggers". It is simply meant to be recognition of members' potential scoring ability, using tournament scores as a major indicator.