

## Adjustment of Exceptional Tournament Scores

The Sandia Golf Association (SGA) Board, with significant input from the membership, has been reviewing exceptional tournament scores and has developed criteria for adjusting member handicap indexes for SGA tournament play in accordance with the USGA handicap system and our own bylaws. The intent is to adjust handicaps for players whose handicap has not caught up to their demonstrated ability.

The Board has decided to implement the criteria immediately, and reserves the right to refine the criteria as needed. The adjustment will be made to the player's local handicap index and will be used for both tournament scoring and the calculation of low net for SGA purposes. At this time, the board has chosen not to change the USGA handicap index for events other than SGA tournaments, or to carry over the adjustment between seasons, but reserves the right to do that.

The criteria include handicap index reduction for single exceptional scores, as well as multiple scores over the SGA tournament season. The essence of the criteria is to adjust handicap indices based on single exceptional scores where, using USGA statistics, the odds against that score are about 50 to 1 and on multiple scores where the odds against are about 100 to 1 or greater.

The calculations are not complicated and are based on the "net difference," which is a calculation based on the gross score, the slope and the rating of the course, and the player's handicap index. For example, a player with a handicap index of 5, scoring a 77 on a course with a slope of 113 and a rating of 72, would have a "net difference" of "0". The odds of scoring a net difference of "0" are about 5 to 1. The lower the "net difference," the better the round.

**For any single event:** For a good golfer (index < 13), the odds of beating a -3 are about 50 to 1. For those players scoring better than a -3, for the next SGA tournament subtract from the player's index the amount below a net difference of -3 rounded up the next full integer. Example, a -3.01 net difference would be an adjustment of -1; a net difference of -5.2 would be an adjustment of -3.

**For multiple events:** For a good golfer, the odds of beating a -1 are about 10 to 1. So for doing it twice, it's about 100 to 1, etc. Subtract from the player's index the amount below a net difference of -1 rounded up the next full integer, after the first occurrence. (Everyone gets a free ride for net difference of -1 to -3.0 one time...). However, the multiple events carry forward and accumulate during the season.

### **Some examples:**

**Single event adjustment only.** A player scoring a net difference of -4 would be adjusted 1 stroke on the next tournament.

**Multiple event adjustment only, first time free.** A player scoring net differences of -2 three times, would be adjusted 1 stroke after the second occurrence for the remainder of the season, and an additional 1 stroke after the third for a total of 2 strokes for the remainder of the season.

**Combined multiple and single event adjustments.** A player with net differences of -4, -2, -4 would be adjusted 1 stroke after the first occurrence (one time – single event), 1 stroke after the second occurrence (multiple - for the rest of the season), and an additional 3 strokes (4 total) after the third occurrence (multiple - for the rest of the season).