

Net Scores and Adjusted Scores

Tracie and Sophie enjoyed this course so much that they played in a tournament the next day. As you can see their games did not improve. Too bad.

This was a handicap tournament for net score. Since the Nothing-But-Blue-Skies Golf Club has a slope rating of 113 from the red tees and this is from where they played, their handicaps remained the same. When you subtract Sophie’s handicap from her total score of 118 her net score becomes 79 and Tracie’s net was 74, just 2 above par. Sophie still lost to Tracie but only by 5 strokes, a much closer score.

HOLE NO.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	IN	TOT	Hdcp	Net	Adj
Sophie	7	4	7	9	6	7	3	11	7	61	8	6	6	5	6	8	4	8	6	57	118	39	79	116
Tracie	5	4	6	6	4	4	4	7	6	46	4	6	5	2	6	6	4	4	6	43	89	15	74	89
GOLD	282	123	299	400	198	348	135	305	390	2480	312	230	309	123	324	455	120	326	356	2555	5035			
RED	282	105	214	386	170	317	129	269	390	2262	277	230	291	99	324	381	100	222	276	2200	4462			
HANDICAP	15	13	3	9	17	7	11	1	5		12	14	10	18	8	6	16	2	4					
PAR	4	3	4	5	4	4	3	4	5	36	4	4	4	3	5	5	3	4	4	36	72			

Women’s Ratings: Gold 70.2/120 Red 66.5/113

Later that day they both put their scores into the GHIN Handicap System as they do with all of their scores. The “adjusted” score at the end of the card is the one they recorded for handicap purposes. So why is Sophie’s different from her total (gross) score? On hole #8 Jen scored an eleven. Ouch! We all have occasional holes like that one. If we regularly recorded them, our handicaps would suffer. Remember, the main idea about handicapping is to make things equitable and to represent your *potential* game. So we have a maximum number of strokes a player can post on any hole to prevent handicaps from being artificially high due to a few holes from H***. Sophie’s handicap for this course is 39 so her maximum number on any hole is 9. She has adjusted her gross score by 2 strokes. Tracie’s maximum is 7 so she does not adjust her score as she did not have any hole higher than a 7.

Course Handicap	Maximum Number On Any Hole
9 or less	Double Bogey
10 – 19	7
20-29	8
30-39	9
40 or more	10

Other Score Adjustments

Sophie and Tracie know to post scores for every round of golf they play – either 9 or 18. But stuff happens as you will see in the following examples. These two educated golfers know that they can post their scores as long as they have completed 7 out of 9 holes or 13 out of 18 holes.

There are *two* other ways in which a player may adjust her score on any given hole. These are situations in which a hole may not be completed, not played at all or not played under the Rules of Golf. A word of caution - these adjustments apply to unusual circumstances and should not be used on a regular basis. If used too often, your handicap will not be true or representative of your potential game. Also, the handicap committee may reject your handicap for competition purposes. Please remember, it is very important to play under the Rules of Golf as often as possible. The following are examples of how to adjust your score if you can not.

USGA Handicap Section 4-1 Unfinished Holes and Conceded Strokes.

Tracie & Sophie are on the 9th hole approaching the green when thunder & lightning strike close by and sends them running back to the club house. Smart ladies! Never play with lightning close by! The rain won't let up so they cannot finish their round. Not to mention, they've put down a few beers and no longer feel like playing. So, to post this nine-hole round they must adjust their scores on #9 by adding what they would normally shoot to finish that hole. Sophie was laying 3 about 30 yards out. She believes she would pitch onto the green and 2-putt. So she will add 3 more strokes to her 3 for an adjusted score of 6. Tracie is laying 3 on the fringe and believes she would 2-putt so her score will be 5. Neither score is more that their Equitable Stroke Maximum.

USGA Handicap Section 4-2 Holes Not Played or Not Played Under The Principles of The Rules of Golf.

The following week during league play thunder strikes again just as they finish #17. So off they scurry back to the club house – rained out again. This is Northeast Ohio after all. This time they post their scores by adding handicap strokes to par for #18 since they did not play it at all. Remember the strokes we applied to each hole in the previous story? Sophie would add 2 to the par 4 for a score of 6 and Tracie would add 1 for a score of 5.

Well the following week, the sun is shining and the birds are singing. The Nothing-But-BS (Blue Skies) Golf Club is living up to its name. On hole #3 Sophie miss-swings her tee shot and the ball dribbles 6 feet in front of the tee box. “That’s no fun.” she says and

declares that she will take a mulligan. Ok. Now mulligans are *soooo* totally not legal under the Rules of Golf! However, this particular league allows an occasional mulligan as a way to raise money (It will cost Sophie a dollar.) and to help new players feel better about their game. Sophie completes this hole with a score of 5 using the mulligan. However, when she posts her score into the handicap system she must adjust it since that hole was not played under the Rules of Golf. She would follow the same procedure as she did with the un-played hole the week before – par plus handicap strokes. So Sophie must record a 4 + 3 for a score of 7 on #3. This score is more true to her game so her handicap will remain more equitable.

If Sophie were to take a mulligan during every round of golf, her handicap would not be representative of her potential game. This would not be fair to herself or those she competed against. **Remember, record all scores and play by the Rules of Golf as often as possible.**

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