

Changes to the NZ Golf handicapping system and its implications for Motueka Golf Club

Members will probably be aware that, as a result of the national survey and review conducted by NZ Golf, there have been a number of refinements to the handicapping system. A full description of these changes can be found on www.dotgolf.co.nz at the bottom of the page in the section titled 'About the Game' under the 'handicapping' tab.

The primary outcomes for clubs and members are;

- All clubs need to appoint a handicap committee that is charged with ensuring the appropriate and fair application of the NZ handicap system for all members. At Motueka this committee is made up of Kevin Armstrong (chair), Penny Vincent and Alan Dannefaerd.
- Not all match play cards now need to be entered for handicapping purposes. Match play events that are played off the stick, eg. Club champs or Tasman Cup, are exempt, however, match play events where handicap strokes are given, eg Haig Cup or Sloan, cards should still be entered.
- All golfers will now hold 18 hole handicaps.
- Significant competitions will be identified as 'Tournaments' and outstanding scores recorded in these events have the potential to exert a meaningful impact upon a player's handicap.

Tournament Scores

Tournament scores will be identified in a player's dot golf record with a T next to the score. Unlike regular scores that remain in a player's handicap calculation for twenty rounds T scores last twelve months. If a player has at least two outstanding T scores (determined as scores that are three or more strokes better than their current handicap index) in the last twelve months then those scores can have a significant influence upon a player's handicap. Just how significant the change will be is determined by how good the two best T scores in the last twelve months were and how many T scores the player has in their record over the last year.

As an example, if a player had two T scores in the last year that were both six strokes better than their current handicap then an immediate reduction of 4.1 would be made to the players index. Their new handicap index would be followed by an R to indicate that T scores had affected the handicap calculation. If, however, the player had entered ten T scores over the prior year, and the average of the best two was still six under their current handicap, then the reduction to their index would only be 1.

The full details of the calculation as to how T scores will influence handicaps can be found on the dotgolf website.

The events that have been determined to qualify as Tournaments at Motueka for both men and women are: The **McCarthy Goodman**, The **Motueka Open**, The **Total Golf Open**, The **Whitwells** tournament, the Qualifying rounds for the **Club Champs** and the final single medal round of the **Super Liquor** event. In addition the Ladies **District Open Day** and the Ladies **Combined Open Stableford** will also quality as T events for women. Members should recognise that it is highly likely that any 'Open' or significant events they play at other courses will almost certainly be entered as Tournaments.

Finally, it is also clear from NZ Golf that every effort should be made to ensure that the difficulty of a course remains consistent throughout the year. As such, in winter conditions when the course plays substantially longer latitude in the course rating system allows for tees to be positioned up to twenty yards ahead of the blocks, the reverse is also true in the summer. As a result of this, particularly given the very heavy playing conditions that we have endured for some time, Nick will be aiming to utilise this latitude in his course set up and may mow out some 'winter tees' on selected holes.

Kevin Armstrong 10th July 2014