

Knuth Tournament Points System

In January, 1992, Section 10-3 of the USGA Handicap System, Reduction of USGA Handicap Index Based on Exceptional Tournament Scores, went into effect. Section 10-3 is designed to reduce the Handicap Index of a player who scores much better in tournaments than in casual play.

While it is true that some competitors do play better in competition than they do in everyday casual play, it is the opinion of many that most competitors seem to not score as well in competition as they do in their casual rounds. There are competitors that finish near the top quite often, yet never seem to play well enough to have their handicap reduced under Section 10-3. If we assume that all golfers are abiding by the score posting guidelines established by the USGA Handicap System, then each competitor should have the same chance as the next to win in tournaments. For example, if you played in 100 tournaments with the same 99 players, each of you should win but once.

In reviewing net tournament results from Association Championships, the Championship Committees of the Washington State and Pacific Northwest Golf Association's decided to implement the Knuth Tournament Points System for the Net portion of any PNGA or WSGA Championship awarding Net Prizes. The Knuth Tournament Points System is designed to spread the "wealth" (Winning) around to other teams or individuals over time.

The system is based upon awarding points to the 5 best **NET** scores in the field. It is quite possible that a team that finishes at or near the top of your Gross payout may also have one of the 5 best net scores in the field, thus they will also be awarded points under this system. Players or teams that finish in the top 5 places NET in the tournament will be awarded the appropriate number of points as listed in the table below.

1st Place=5 Points 2nd Place=4 Points 3rd Place=3 Points 4th Place=2 Points 5th Place=1 Point

In the case of a tie for one of the first 5 places, each of the individuals or teams would earn the full number of points for that placing. For example: Two individuals/teams tie for 2nd place. Each individual on each team would earn 4 points under this system. You would not give out 3rd place points (or add 2nd & 3rd place points together and divide by 2) under this scenario. The next finisher in line after the two individuals/teams that tied would earn 2 points for the 4th place finish. No fractions of points are ever awarded.

If a player accumulates 7 points over a two year period, their handicap will be reduced by two shots. Every additional two points earned by the player in a two year period would result in an additional stroke being subtracted from their Course Handicap for the tournament. Note that the USGA Handicap Index is not reduced, only the handicap that is assigned to the player for that event.

It is recommended that a player only be awarded a maximum of 5 points per event. If a player is on one team that finishes first and another that finishes third, the individual would be awarded the higher of the two point values, 5 points. There should be no "double-dipping" when using this program.

Should the Tacoma Golf Association decide to implement the Knuth Tournament Points System, it is recommended that each delegate post a notice of the implementation of the program at their home course so that the system comes as no surprise to entrants in future sweeps or tournaments. Another way of informing individuals of the implementation of the program would be to have it included with any newsletter that the club may publish. In addition, a notice should be handed out to all competitors as they sign-up on-site for each sweeps. A disclaimer allows the Tournament Committee, among other things, to adjust a golfer's Handicap Index based on prior history or to reject an applicant's entry at any time.

A sample disclaimer is "The Committee reserves the right to alter any of the conditions and schedules herein. The Committee reserves the right to reject the entry of any applicant, at any time, for any reason. Any decision by the Committee, in any matter, shall be final."

It is our hope that no person will ever accumulate enough points to have their Course Handicap reduced through this system.