THE USGA HANDICAP SYSTEM
REDUCTION "R" OF HANDICAP INDEX® BASED ON EXCEPTIONAL TOURNAMENT SCORES: SECTION 10-3 EXPLAINED

At each handicap revision, a player's most recent scores, as calculated under Section 10-2, are compared to that player's best two tournament score differentials. If the disparity between the two numbers is 3.0 or greater, a reduction in Handicap Index may be necessary.

Player A with a Handicap Index of 17.3 has three eligible tournament scores, an 82T, 83T, and 85T. Two of these eligible tournament scores, an 82T and 83T, produce the lowest tournament score differentials. They were made on a course with a USGA Course Rating™ of 70.6 and a Slope Rating® of 130.
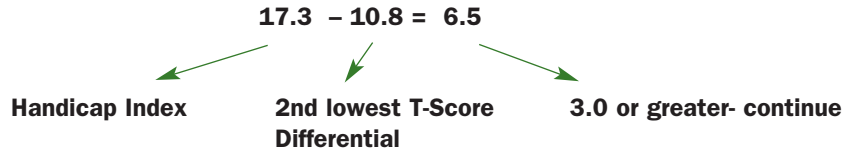
Step 1 — Calculate tournament score differentials.

$$82T - (82 - 70.6) \times 113 / 130 = 9.9$$
$$83T - (83 - 70.6) \times 113 / 130 = 10.8 \checkmark$$
$$85T - (85 - 70.6) \times 113 / 130 = 12.5$$

Step 2 — Subtract 2nd lowest differential (10.8) from the Handicap Index as calculated under Section 10-2. Continue with next step if result is 3.0 or greater.

$$17.3 - 10.8 = 6.5$$

Handicap Index   2nd lowest T-Score Differential   3.0 or greater- continue

Step 3 — Average two lowest tournament score differentials.

$$(9.9 + 10.8) / 2 = 10.35$$

Step 4 — Subtract average of two lowest tournament score differentials from the player's Handicap Index.

$$17.3 - 10.35 = 6.95 \text{ rounded to } 7.0$$

Step 5 — Using the answer from Step 4 (7.0), and number of eligible tournament scores (3), enter the Handicap Reduction Table in Section 10-3 to determine the amount of reduction for the player's Handicap Index.

Step 6 — Subtract the reduction table value from the player's Handicap Index. The reduced Handicap Index is to be identified with the letter "R" when displayed in reports or on a computer screen, e.g. 12.3R. This now becomes Player A's Handicap Index.

$$17.3 - 5.0 = 12.3R$$

Handicap Index   Handicap Reduction Table amount   New reduced Handicap Index

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