

## Knuth Tournament Point System™ Explanation

In January, 1992, Section 10-3 of the USGA Handicap System manual, Reduction of USGA Handicap Index Based on Exceptional Tournament Scores, was put 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.

In reviewing net tournament results and addressing concerns from our member clubs, the indication is that Section 10-3 may not be doing enough to insure that all competitors are competing on any equal basis. 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 of 100 players, each of you should win but once.

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 they never seem to play well enough to have their handicap reduced under Section 10-3.

Many clubs are beginning or have used a portion of the USGA Handicap System to calculate their own Indexes from Tournament scores only. That Tindex system penalizes the entire club, especially the innocent members. This proposed system below penalizes only the offenders. The Knuth (pronounced k' nuth) Tournament Point System (so named for Dean Knuth the founder of the current Handicap System) may aid a club or Tournament Committee using or thinking of using a Tournament Index or Tindex which goes against the USGA rules of handicapping.

It is based upon awarding points to NET finishers in a club's competitions. Players or teams that finish in the top 5 places NET in the tournament will be awarded the appropriate number of points as listed on the table below. When an individual reaches 7 points his handicap for the next tournament will be reduced by 2 strokes. It may also include a person or team that collects a gross division prize. The Knuth Point System, or KPS, above is designed for tournaments of 50-100 players over a two year period.

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

*\*USGA Definition of a Tournament Score is a score made in a competition organized and conducted by a committee in charge of the competition. The competition must identify a winner(s) based on a stipulated round(s), and must be played under the principles of the Rules of Golf. Using the above definition as a guideline, the committee in charge of the competition shall determine in advance if these conditions are met, and announce in advance whether the score shall be identified by the letter "T" when posted. Routine events, such as regular play days, normally are not to be designated as T-scores because they are not significant in the traditions, schedules, formats and membership of the club. Examples of inter-club competition scores that should be posted as tournament scores when they meet the above conditions are team matches, competitions restricted by age, member-guest competitions, qualifying rounds for city, state and national competitions, and competitions conducted by golf associations. Examples of intra-club competition scores that should be posted as tournament scores when they meet the above conditions are low gross-low net competitions, four-ball match-or stroke-play competitions, Stableford competitions, and club championships which are stroke or match play, scratch or with handicap.*

As an alternate form to the table above, the tables below were developed for flighted or smaller fields. The tables are expanded to have columns for determining point distributions designed especially for clubs that flight their tournaments.

POINT ASSIGNMENT TABLE				
	Total Players in the Flight or Field			
Finish	Up to 20	21-49	50-99	100+
First Place	3pts	4	5	6
Second Place	2	3	4	4
Third Place	1	2	3	3
Fourth Place	0	1	2	2
Fifth Place	0	0	1	1

Then, depending on the number of events entered, the reduction should vary:

NET TOURNAMENTS PLAYED IN TWO YEARS				
# of Events →	8 or less	9-15	16-22	23+
Reduction	Total Points Earned			
Reduce by two	7	10	13	15
Reduce by three	9	12	15	17
Reduce by four	11	14	17	19
Reduce by five	13	16	19	21
Reduce by six	15	18	21	23
Reduce by seven	17	20	23	25
Reduce by eight	18	21	24	26

If a player accumulates 7 points over a two-year period, their handicap for a tournament held at your club may be reduced by two shots. Each two additional points earned by the player in this two-year period would result in an additional strokes being subtracted from their handicap for tournaments. Note that the USGA Handicap Index is not reduced, only the handicap that is assigned to the player for that event.

A sample situation is a golfer that placed 1st net in a club event last summer was awarded 5 points for that event. In September, the same golfer wins third place net, and is awarded 3 additional points. The golfer has just turned in an entry for an event in July of this year. The Committee can reduce this golfer's course handicap by 2 strokes since the golfer has accumulated a total of 8 points.

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 tie for 2nd place. Each individual 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 that tied would earn 2 points for the 4th place. No fractions of points are awarded.

In team competitions, all members of the team should receive the same number of points. Any member of a winning team is sharing in the winning experience, and Point System is designed to spread the "wealth" (winning) around to other teams over time. If a clever sandbagger is hiding his individual scores inside the team scores, he and his partner should be assigned points. Scores don't matter. The only thing that matters is the finishing position. If there is an innocent partner who also gets the points, nothing happens to his handicap until he has two or more high finishes. Remember, to accumulate seven points, one must either have a win and a

fourth, or a second and a third--Two very strong finishes. It is in keeping with the USGA's longtime philosophy that everyone can have one great round--you just can't have two great rounds without consequences. An "innocent" partner isn't so innocent if he repeatedly teams with a bagger who gives him a high finish. Let someone else win for a while.

The Committee may also collect results from outside events and use points earned in these events to further adjust the competitor's handicaps.

This is a fair system for helping to give everyone a chance to win.