

Effects of 2016 Change to 4 BBB Stroke Allowance

CONGU[®] Handicap Research Committee



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The Council of National Golf Unions

BACKGROUND

- The purpose of the stroke allowance in competitions is to provide 'equity' i.e. to provide equal likelihood of winning to players & teams of different levels of ability
- Analysis of which players dominated 4 BBB competition leader boards showed the 3/4ths (75%) stroke allowance was unreasonably biased in favour of lower handicap
- Further research and analysis using both mathematical modelling and live scores data indicated that 7/8ths or 90% would be more equitable – with change to 90% implemented
- This current research and analysis was initiated by CONGU Board to determine if the change to 90% allowance had achieved the desired improvement in 'equity'



THE ANALYSIS PROCESS

- Used actual 2016 4 BBB scores data supplied by one of the Independent Software Vendors (scores from 7528 teams from 154 clubs participating in 289 separate competitions)
- Inappropriate data discarded – e.g. from competitions run over less than 18 holes and competitions with low numbers of competing teams
- Priority given to competitions with larger numbers of competing
- Scores data plus the actual Stroke Indices from the competition venues were used to :
 - Verify the original competition results at 90% stroke allowance
 - Calculate the results as if the stroke allowance had been 75%
 - Compare and contrast the results to determine the level of change achieved



CHALLENGES WITH THE DATA

- Only 1 score recorded on each hole so no information about the partner
- Reducing the allowance to 75% is not an issue where the counting score was from the higher handicap player or where both players had the same handicap
- Potentially an issue where the lower handicap player counted on the basis of receiving a stroke at 90% allowance – but doesn't have a stroke at 75% allowance
- Two possibilities for higher handicapper's score:
 - HIGHER score or SAME score - but also NO stroke at 75% – no benefit **Scenario 1**
 - SAME score – but WOULD HAVE a stroke at 75% - potential benefit **Scenario 2**
- Essential to evaluate both scenarios in the analysis



THE CALCULATIONS

- Use the GROSS score on each hole - by player - and the stroke indices of the venue - to confirm the competition leader board sequence and presence on leader board by handicap category at 90% allowance
- Perform the same calculation using 75% allowance using Scenario 1 to determine the leader board sequence and the level of presence on leader board by handicap
- Perform the same calculation using 75% allowance using Scenario 2 to determine the leader board sequence and the level of presence on leader board by handicap
- Compare and contrast the leaderboard sequence and level of presence on the leaderboard for each of the above
 - and for an average of Scenarios 1 and 2



THE ANALYSIS RESULTS - Leaderboards

- **Winning Team:**
 - in 70% of competitions the same team would win with either 75% or 90% allowance
 - in a further 14% the winner at 90% allowance would tie the winner at 75% allowance but lose on count-back
 - in a further 9% the winner at 90% would be 2nd at 75%
- **Top 4 Teams on Leader Board:**
 - on average 3 of the same teams were present in the top 4 with both 75% and 90 %
 - the final sequence within the Top 4 was often determined by count-back
- **Top 10 Teams on Leader Board:**
 - on average 8 of the same teams were present in the top 10 with both 75% and 90%
 - on average the 'scores spread' across the top 10 is only 6 strokes and final sequence is often determined by count-back



THE ANALYSIS RESULTS - Participation and Presence

Low Handicap Presence	75 % Scenario 1	75 % Scenario 2	75% Average	90%
In Competition field	47%			
In Top 4 Teams	65%	64%	65%	58%
In Top 10 teams	65%	62%	63%	56%



CONCLUSION

The change to 90% Stroke Allowance

HAS improved the chances for the higher handicapper

to appear on leader boards

- WITHOUT being unfairly detrimental

to the lower handicapper