

Bash Tournament Team Handicapping and Flighting

A lot of work goes into making sure each handicap is as accurate as it can be for our tournaments. The team handicapping calculations for Bash to the Beach are done in accordance with the USGA recommendation for this type of tournament format. As described on the DWGA website for the Bash it is:

Flights: Flights are determined by combined team handicap:

95% of course handicap for each player

An additional 10% reduction for teams with greater than an 8 stroke difference in handicap

But what does that mean in English?

First some general terms you should know without getting into the weeds.

Handicap Index

Twice per month, most players receive notice of their *Handicap Index* from the handicapping system they use to record their scores each time they play a round. This could be Golfnet, GHIN, GSG, etc.

Course and Slope Rating

Periodically golf courses are evaluated for their level of difficulty for all players. This evaluation is conducted by a special USGA trained group of people. The important product of this evaluation for amateur golfers is the course Slope Rating, the level of difficulty for one course as compared to other courses for amateur players. The Slope Rating ranges from 55 to 155.

Course Handicap

Your Course Handicap is determined by using the USGA Course Handicap™ Calculator (<http://www.usga.org/course-handicap-calculator.html>) which uses your Handicap Index and the Slope Rating for the course you are playing. Yes, there is an app for that.

So how do we figure all this out for the Bash Tournament?

1. Each player Handicap Index as of the Handicap Revision Date closest to the tournament play date is identified.
2. Using the USGA Course Handicap™ Calculator, each player Course Handicap is then calculated using their latest Handicap Index and the most current Slope Rating for the tournament host course. Note that a player's Course Handicap can change from day one to day two if the tournament moves from one course to another as we usually do with the Bash to the Beach.
3. Then 95% of each player Course Handicap is calculated and compared to their playing partner's Course Handicap. Rounding to a whole number is used.
4. Course Handicaps above 36 are adjusted down to 36 for further calculations in accordance with DWGA Tournament Policy regarding handicaps.
5. If the difference between the team player Course Handicaps is 8 strokes or less, the two Course Handicaps are added to determine the Team Course Handicap that will be used for play on that course.
6. If the delta between the team player Course Handicaps is greater than 8 strokes, an additional 10% is deducted from each team member and the resulting Course Handicaps are added to determine their team Course Handicap that will be used for play on that course.

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Examples of Team Handicap calculations for the Bash

Team 1

Joan's current Handicap Index is 15.9
Barb's current Handicap Index is 8.8
Tournament Course Slope Rating is 127

Joan's Course Handicap is calculated at 18
Barb's Course Handicap is calculated at 10

Joan's Course Handicap is reduced to 95% and becomes 17
Barb's Course Handicap is reduced to 95% and stays at 10

Since the difference between 17 and 10 is not greater than 8

Team 1 tournament handicap used will be 27.

Team 2

Mary's current Handicap Index is 24.2
Ann's current Handicap Index is 11.2
Tournament Course Slope Rating is 127

Mary's Course Handicap is calculated at 27
Ann's Course Handicap is calculated at 13

Mary's Course Handicap is reduced to 95% and becomes 26
Ann's Course Handicap is reduced to 95% and becomes 12

Since the difference between 26 and 12 is greater than 8, an additional 10% reduction must be calculated. The rounding rule comes into play here.

Mary's Course handicap will be $26 \times 90\%$ or 23
Ann's Course handicap will be $12 \times 90\%$ or 11

Team 2 tournament handicap used will be 34.

Team 3

Kay's current Handicap Index is 40.3
Linda's current Handicap Index is 27.8
Tournament Course Slope Rating is 127

Kay's Course Handicap is calculated at 45 but exceeds the maximum of 36 so her Course Handicap is adjusted down to 36.
Linda's Course Handicap is calculated at 31.

Kay Course Handicap is reduced to 95% and becomes 34
Ann's Course Handicap is reduced to 95% and becomes 29

Team 3 tournament handicap used will be 63.

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FLIGHTING

The USGA provides no guidance on tournament flights. Flights are determined by some generally accepted guidelines which consider field demographics such as age, sex or size of field for that tournament. The most used rule of thumb is to pay out a third of the players. The actual award values are determined by the overall tournament budget.

Flighting for Bash to the Beach is determined as follows

- Team Course Handicaps are listed in ascending order.
- Based on field size, teams are divided evenly between flights as much as possible. Example: 52 teams divided into 4 flights would be 13 teams per flight.
- The first 13 teams listed become Flight 1, the next Flight 2 and so on.
- In the event team handicaps are identical, those teams are kept together within the same flight. Example: Team 13 has a Team Handicap of 38 and is placed in Flight 1. Team 14 also has a Team Handicap of 38 and so is also placed in Flight 1. This might mean that Flight 2 would then only contain 12 team rather than 13. If duplicate Team Handicaps are found in other flights, some adjustment may be made to redistribute the teams as evenly as possible. Example: Teams 13 and 14 may be moved from Flight 1 to Flight 2 but would be moved together.

The DWGA strives to create a level playing field for all competitors.