

# TOMGC HANDICAP HAPPENINGS - Winter 2016

Your TOMGC Handicap Committee, Brian Bender, Mike Giulianotti and I, hope you are having a great start to 2016, especially your GOLF! Thanks to Cruise Adventures (CST2089319-40) Owner/Operators Paul & Sandy Halem for sponsoring this newsletter. I have been booking cruises with them for 5+ years and can personally recommend them.



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## SPECIAL TOMGC PERK

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As you know, we have been scoring Wed. golf for some time using the Tournament Pairings Program (TPP). We are now also scoring Sat. events using TPP. TPP does everything including posting your ESC adjusted scores. So, please DO NOT POST after any TOMGC events unless instructed to do so by the Tournament Committee. If you have posted by mistake, please let me know and I will delete the double posting.

We will continue to audit postings and pay particular attention to double posting of TOMGC events and your posts for other golf at TOGC and other venues.

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Your BoD has approved some changes for 2016.

**Reminder** - Par 3 pops for Net Skins competitions are now based on players' Course Handicap for Tees played on all holes. This eliminates the previous 1 pop maximum for Par 3 Holes.

**New** -We have reduced the number of Wed. and Sat. events that are classified and posted as Tournaments. This was motivated by SCGA advice that excessive (12 or more) T postings can cause our handicaps to be artificially lower. Our decision to reduce T's is reinforced by "Definition of T Scores" published on page 68 of the Winter 2016 FORE magazine. With less T's, our Handicaps will more properly reflect our true scoring potential. This change will not only improve fair competition at TOMGC events but substantially improve our competitive chances at other courses. Mitch Anderson is including this topic in his Feb. Newsletter with a different slant. It is important to note, as mentioned by Mitch, that Prize money will not be impacted by this change. We will subsidize the same number of events as last year but not call them a T's.

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Among the reasons that Handicap Indexes may be lower when playing and posting excessive Tournaments is the impact of Exceptional **(T)ournament Scores**. All scores posted as T remain in your record for 1 year. Your 2 best T scores within the last year are listed as a separate item in your GHIN history

even when they are no longer part of your 20 recent scores.

Exceptional T Scores impact your index more than normal scores. The purpose is to reduce "sandbagging". Exceptional T scores are established by comparing your 2 best T scores in the last year to your current index with consideration given to how many total T scores you have posted in the last year. If your 2 best T scores posted in the last year is 3.0 or more strokes lower than your current index, you have "Exceptional" T scores and will be issued a (R)evised index. The GHIN software computes a reduction to your Index using math and a lookup Table.

If a Revision is imposed, an R will appear after your index until the next twice monthly index update. The R will be retained until the twice monthly GHIN update when your 2 best T scores are no longer considered "Exceptional". If a reduction is still appropriate, the R will be retained but your index may be more (or less) depending on your recent scores. If you do get an R, you may appeal to the Handicap Committee with your rationale as to why we should rule that the R is unfair and should temporarily modify your Index. If that happens, the R will change to M.

Clear as Mud? I hope not but the idea is that playing and posting less T's will result in more accurate Handicap Indexes.

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Changing gears, I have also been questioned on whether it is required to post scores at Par 3 and (Exec)utive courses. The answer is NO POST for any Par 3 course or any Exec course of less than 3000 yards from the Tees played. Scores at Exec courses with Tees of over 3,000 yards and have been rated by USGA must be posted. You will know if a course is rated if it has a Course Rating and Slope on the score card. Obviously, scoring on these Exec courses will be lower than at TOGC. However, Course Rating and Slope account for these lower scores. Course Rating for Tees played is normally different than Par and is used along with Slope to calculate Handicap Index. USGA defines Slope 113 an average course. TOGC White Tee Course Rating of 70.0 and Slope 126 is typical for a moderately difficult Regulation Length course. Normal Exec Course Rating is about 58 and Slope less than 90 with a Par of 60-62. Since one would expect to score closer to Par on an Exec course vs a Regulation course like TOGC, your score on either type course will have a similar impact on your Handicap Index.

SO, PLEASE POST ON ALL RATED EXEC COURSES.

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Please advise me or any BoD member if you have issues or concerns that you would like addressed in future Handicap Happenings. Please continue to let us know if you have any questions or concerns about handicap issues, including if you need a score added, deleted or modified. Please remember how important posting properly is to fair play.

Finally, my rehab after right shoulder replacement surgery on 9/28 is tough but going well. I have started chipping and putting and will be on the practice range soon.  
Enjoy your golf and the rest of the year.

Jim Valenti – Handicap Chair - February 2016