

MIXED TEE COMPETITIONS

Whilst the majority of qualifying competitions are run for a specific group of players e.g. men, ladies or seniors, using a single specific set of tees, clubs are now increasingly running competitions for single and mixed genders using different sets of tees.

Examples of such competitions include:

- Junior competitions in which both boys and girls compete, with the boys playing off a set of tees rated for men and the girls competing from tees having a women's rating.
- Competitions open to men, women and juniors.
- Single gender competitions in which some players may elect to play from different sets of tees e.g. seniors in which players have a choice of traditional medal tees or forward tees (particularly useful at relatively long and difficult courses) or ladies with silver division playing from the traditional tees and bronze playing from the forward tees.

In all cases, the tees used must have been rated for the genders that will play from them.

In virtually all cases, the different sets of tees will have been allocated different *Standard Scratch Scores* by the Wales Golf. Two issues arise; how to determine the competition winner and how to adjust handicaps in an equitable manner.

A: HOW TO DETERMINE THE COMPETITION WINNER

In order to maintain equity, the *Playing Handicaps* of some of the competitors may require to be adjusted. In *Qualifying Competitions* any adjustments are applied for competition result purposes only. The adjusted *Competition Handicap Allowance* must not be used to establish the CSS or for the purpose of handicap alteration.

Competitions in which competitors play from different sets of tees may be in three formats - medal strokeplay, stableford and par/bogey.

1. Medal Strokeplay

This is the format most easily understood and the simplest to administer. Each player playing the course with the higher SSS must be awarded a *Competition Handicap Allowance* equivalent to their *Playing Handicap* + the difference in the two *Standard Scratch Scores*.

Example - Men's White Tees, SSS 70: Ladies' Red Tees, SSS 72: Ladies' SSS - Men's SSS = 2 therefore all Ladies handicaps should be increased by 2 strokes.

2. Stableford Competitions

In Stableford competitions it is the relationship between the Par and SSS that determines player scoring and the score that represents '*playing to handicap*'.

When players play from different tees the Par / SSS relationship may well be different for each

set of tees e.g. White tees of Par 72 / SSS 70 (Par - SSS = 2) Red tees of Par 70 / SSS 70 (Par - SSS = 0).

In this scenario, a woman playing to her handicap off the red tees would return 36 points, whilst a man playing to his handicap off the white tees would return 38 points, therefore, the women's *Competition Handicap Allowance* must be increased by two.

In the following example, the men playing from White tees with a Par of 69 / SSS 72 require 33 points to 'play to handicap'. The ladies playing from Red tees with a Par of 74 / SSS 74 require 36 points. The men now require an additional 3 scores to equate the two scores to 'play to handicap'. The men receive a *Competition Handicap Allowance* of +3.

In all cases where the Par and SSS relationship is different, **for competition result purposes only**, the *Competition Handicap Allowances* will differ dependent upon which set of tees the players play from.

Players playing from the set of tees with the higher target (SSS) to 'play to handicap' will receive the same *Competition Handicap Allowance* as their *Playing Handicap*, but others will receive additional strokes.

In all cases the players receiving the extra shots have to 'earn' the points by recording a score on the additional holes at which they receive the allowance.

3. Par/Bogey Competitions

Similar principles apply as to those for Stableford. The players having the 'harder' target to 'play to handicap' require a higher *Competition Stroke Allowance*.

For example, men playing from White tees Par 69/SSS 72 require 3 down to 'play to handicap'. Women playing from Red tees Par 71/SSS 73, 2 down to 'play to handicap', therefore the men receive a *Competition Handicap Allowance* of +1.

B: ADJUSTING HANDICAPS & CALCULATING THE CSS

If separate CSS calculations are made for each set of tees used it is often the case that the resulting adjustments are different, and this can be difficult to explain or justify. The difference is more pronounced when a larger field of the opposite gender dominates a small field of one gender.

A more equitable solution is to use the performance relative to the SSS of the tees used for all the competitors in the field to calculate one adjustment. The details of the calculations are given in Appendix B Clause 2.1 to 2.4 of the CONGU Manual. Examples 4 & 5 in Appendix B demonstrate how this can be applied in practice.

The use of the *Single CSS Adjustment* is recommended for all situations in which players play in a Qualifying *Competition* from different sets of tees.

CONGU are currently reviewing Appendix O (*Events in which Competitors Play from Different Sets of Tees*) with a view to expanding the guidance and providing additional examples to cover more situations.





EVERYONE'S GAME,
ANYWHERE

