

**Liberty Lake/MeadowWood Men's Golf Club**  
**PO Box**  
**Liberty Lake, WA. 99019**

4/1/2016

To all LLMW Men's Golf Club Members regarding Section 3-5 (**competing from different tees**).

This letter is in regard to recent questions regarding what procedure to follow when players are competing against each other and are playing from a different USGA Course Rating

The USGA Handicap System is set up so each player converts a Handicap Index to a Course Handicap and plays with the Course Handicap as calculated. However, if players are competing against each other and a difference in the USGA Course Rating exists, an additional adjustment must be made to the Course Handicap of the player playing from the higher-rated set of tees.

**When a difference in USGA Course Rating exists among competitors, their benchmark has changed and the difference must be accounted for in order for the completion to be equitable.**

There are two options when applying this adjustment. The rounded difference in USGA Course Rating can be either added to the higher-rated tee players, or subtracted from the lower rated tee players (LLMW Men's golf club subtracts from the lower rated tee players).

Please keep in mind that this adjustment is only applied when players are competing against each other. A Handicap Index is a number based on a standard calculation and not specific to any set of tees. A Course Handicap only gives a player the number of strokes needed to play down to the USGA Course Rating for a particular set of tees.

It is important to remember that a Handicap Index is just a mathematical representation of potential ability, and we need to make a conversion to the set of tees we play, and then an additional adjustment if we are competing against a player who is playing from a different set of tees, so that an equitable completion can be played. (In effect you are playing from two different golf courses of varying difficulty).

Also, not applying Section 3-5 of "The USGA Handicap System" when players are competing from different tees would be waiving a Rule of Golf. The Committee in charge of competition does not have the authority to waive a Rule of Golf (see Decision 3-5/2)

For more information, please refer to the brochure on players competing from a different USGA Course Rating and the USGA position paper on this topic located on the USGA's website at [www.usga.org](http://www.usga.org).

Sincerely,

Mike Steffy  
Handicap Chairman  
LLMW Men's Golf Club