



Probability of Two Best Scores Beating Handicap

The values in this table only include pairs of the best negative differentials and determines how many strokes a golfer's handicap should be reduced to allow his best two differential likelihood to be an acceptable "rarity."

As an example, consider the golfer who's best two differentials of his last 20 scores were -6 and -8 and the player has a handicap of 15. This event would have a 1 in 7,249 chance. If a threshold of 1 in 258 was established as the limit of reasonability, this player should have his handicap lowered three strokes (three diagonal steps to the left in the following table).

	0	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8	-9	-10
0	27	46	92	199	408	869	1,808	2,480	3,871	9,180	85,779
-1	46	13	26	58	118	253	526	722	1,126	2,672	24,967
-2	92	26	20	43	89	191	398	546	853	2,023	18,907
-3	199	58	43	59	121	258	537	737	1,150	2,728	25,492
-4	408	118	89	121	200	427	888	1,219	1,903	4,512	42,163
-5	869	253	191	258	427	821	1,708	2,343	3,657	8,672	81,030
-6	1,808	526	398	537	888	1,708	3,385	4,644	7,249	17,189	****
-7	2,480	722	546	737	1,219	2,343	4,644	6,225	9,716	23,041	****
-8	3,871	1,126	853	1,150	1,903	3,657	7,249	9,716	14,912	35,361	****
-9	9,180	2,672	2,023	2,728	4,512	8,672	17,109	23,041	35,361	82,951	****
-10	85,779	24,967	18,907	25,492	42,163	81,030	****	****	****	****	****

*data provided by USGA Handicap Research Team



Odds of Shooting an Exceptional Tournament Score

	0 - 5	6 - 12	13 - 21	22 - 30	Greater Than 30
Net Differentials	odds	odds	odds	odds	odds
0	5:1	5:1	6:1	5:1	5:1
-1	10:1	10:1	10:1	8:1	7:1
-2	23:1	22:1	21:1	13:1	10:1
-3	57:1	51:1	43:1	23:1	15:1
-4	151:1	121:1	87:1	40:1	22:1
-5	379:1	276:1	174:1	72:1	35:1
-6	790:1	536:1	323:1	130:1	60:1
-7	2,349:1	1,200:1	552:1	229:1	101:1
-8	20,111:1	4,467:1	1,138:1	382:1	185:1
-9	48,219:1	27,877:1	3,577:1	695:1	359:1
-10	125,000:1	84,300:1	37,000:1	1,650:1	874:1

The values in the table are the odds of shooting a net differential* EQUAL TO OR BETTER THAN the number in the left column.

*A net differential is the subtraction of a player's Handicap Index from the Handicap Differential for a particular tournament score. This becomes a negative value when the player scores much better than the player's Handicap Index.

Example: A player with a Handicap Index of 10.5 shoots a 74 from a set of tees with a USGA Course Rating of 71.2 and a Slope Rating of 126.

$$(74 - 71.2) = 2.8 \times 113 / 126 = 2.5 \text{ Handicap Differential}$$

$$2.5 - 10.5 = -8.0 \text{ Net Differential}$$

From the chart, the odds are 4,467 to 1 of this occurring.

*data provided by USGA Handicap Research Team