

HANDICAP TOURNAMENT

HOW THE HANDICAP WORKS

1. A handicap of +15 means that the player starts at 15 in each game. Similarly -30 means that the player starts each game owing 30 and in order to get to love has to win two points.

A handicap of +15.3 means that in addition to receiving 15 in every game (the 15 before the decimal point), the player receives an additional 15 (i.e. a total of +30) in alternate games.

Similarly -15.3 means that in addition to owing 15 in every game, the player owes an additional 15 (i.e. a total of -30) in alternate games.

A handicap of scratch means that the player neither owes nor receives points and starts each game at love.

2. When a handicap involves receiving or owing in alternate games (i.e. when .3 is involved) the rule is:-
 - a) If it is received (i.e. +) the extra point is applied in the even numbered games (2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 10th etc.) in each set.
 - b) If it is owed (i.e. -) the extra point is applied in the odd numbered games (1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th etc.) in each set.

This rule applies irrespective of who serves first and starts afresh at the beginning of each set. It is easiest to remember by 'owe early and receive late'.

3. Where both opponents have either a minus handicap (-) or a plus handicap (+), then the match is played at the difference between the two handicaps, with the person with the smaller handicap starting at scratch.

For example, if A's handicap is -15.3 and B's handicap is -.3, then the match is played with B at scratch (love) and A at -15.

Similarly if A is +15 and B is +.3, then the match is played with A at +.3 and B at love.

If both competitors have the same handicap, whether minus or plus, they both play from scratch.

4. Whatever the handicap, all games must start with a service from the side of the court that is appropriate to the score. For example, if the difference in the handicap is -30 or -50 then the server starts the game serving from the right hand side of the court into the deuce court. If the difference in the handicap is -15 or -40 then the server starts the game serving from the left hand side of the court into the Advantage court.

5. From 2021, at deciding point deuce (receiver's choice) should be played to decide the game at deuce.

There are no tie-breaks in handicap matches, and a player or team must win a set by 2 games in order to win the set.

6. All queries or disputes should be referred, as soon as possible, to any member of the Tournament Committee.