

### 3-5. Players Competing from Different Tees or Men and Women from Same Tees

#### ■ a. Different Tees: Men vs. Men; Women vs. Women; Women vs. Men

Different tees usually have different Ratings. Because a **USGA Course Rating** reflects the probable score of a **scratch golfer**, the higher-rated course is more difficult, and the player playing from the set of tees with the higher **USGA Course Rating** receives additional stroke(s) equal to the difference between each **USGA Course Rating**, with .5 or greater rounded upward. The additional stroke(s) are added to the **Course Handicap** of the player playing from the higher-rated set of tees. (See Decision **3-5/1**.)

***Example 1*** : If men playing from the middle tees where the men's **USGA Course Rating** is 70.3 compete against men playing from the back tees where the men's **USGA Course Rating** is 72.6, the men playing from the back tees will add two strokes ( $72.6 - 70.3 = 2.3$  rounded to 2 ) to their **Course Handicap**.

***Example 2***: If women playing from the forward tees from which the women's **USGA Course Rating** is 73.4 compete against men playing from the middle tees from which the men's **USGA Course Rating** is 70.9, the women will add three strokes ( $73.4 - 70.9 = 2.5$  rounded to 3) to their **Course Handicap**.

#### ■ b. Same Tees: Men vs. Women

Men and women playing from the same set of tees will have different ratings. Because the women's **USGA Course Rating** usually will be higher, women receive additional stroke(s) equal to the difference between ratings, with .5 or greater rounded upward.

***Example*** : If women playing from the middle tees from which the women's **USGA Course Rating** is 77.3 compete against men playing from the middle tees from which the men's **USGA Course Rating** is 70.9, the women will add six strokes ( $77.3 - 70.9 = 6.4$  rounded to 6) to their **Course Handicap**.

The adjustment must be added to the higher-rated tee players' **Course Handicap** even if it causes a **Course Handicap** to exceed the maximum possible for the **Slope Rating** of the set of tees being played. Alternatively, it is permissible to subtract the extra handicap strokes from the **Course Handicap** of the player playing from the tees with the lower USGA Course Rating.

See the USGA Handicap System Manual to properly apply Section 3-5.