

### 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 for an exception.)

*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 *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 *Course Handicap*.

#### b. Same Tees: Men vs. Women

Men and women playing from the same set of tees will have different Ratings. Since 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 *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. (See Decision 3-5/1 for an exception.)