

Applying NGS grades to the Prize Handicap.

After the Prize Handicap event an adjustment is made to the score which reflects each pairs NGS grade and this new result determines the winners of the Prize. The adjustment is simply done by adding each pairs NGS grades together dividing by 2 and then subtracting each pairs average grade from their score. The result posted to the EBU has the handicap adjustment removed.

The NGS grades used for the April Prize Handicap can be found in Members Only. Using the scoring program Scorebridge these grades are downloaded each month and applied to the event.

As can be seen in the above document grades are based on the mean of 50%. A grade of +3 reflects a 53% grade and -3 is a 47% grade.

On the NBC website these grades are displayed in grade bands in the members area and individuals are classified as a "Jack" or "Ten" etc. Each grade band covers a 2% range with an "Eight" being in the range of 49-51%.

For club members who are too new to have an NGS grade the committee decided they should be awarded a grade of -8 so that they can be entered into the competition. It takes 10 to 12 events to get a published NGS grade.

The following gives further background to the process.

When an event's score is posted on the NBC website there is a 48 hour correction period. This means that if on checking anyone notices an error it can be raised within this period and any corrections implemented. Implementation of a correction only happens once the Director of the event or the Chief Director has approved it. Normally mistakes are highlighted within the first 24 hours.

After the correction period expires the results of the event are posted to the EBU. This only applies for Tuesday and Thursday evening events which are the main club events. Both Tuesdays and Thursdays events are currently posted at the weekend.

When an event is posted to the EBU a new NGS grade is automatically calculated for each player in the event. Once an event is posted the new grades are available at the latest the following day.

Each member can log into the EBU website and they will be able to see their grade evolve as each event is processed by the EBU website.

So why isn't the handicap immediately applied to the Prize Handicap and there is a small delay?

The NGS grades used for the Prize Handicap are the very latest and include all events up to but not including the Prize Handicap event itself. The Prize Handicap is on a Thursday and in order to allow for the correction period for the previous Tuesday's event and for the Tuesday event to be processed by the EBU the latest handicaps are not normally available until the weekend.

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