

HANDICAP RULES

The whole concept of handicapping revolves around a series of 6 games, and each consecutive series of 6 games will be treated the same. Each competitor will either be on scratch, which means that they will treat their score as if there was no handicap; on receive (R), which means that will start on 15 or 30, on all or some of each series of 6 games; or on owe (O), which means they will start on minus 15, 30 or 40 on all or some of each series of 6 games.

People whose handicaps are owing will use the following table.

- .1 an extra point is deducted in game 5
- .2 an extra point is deducted in games 3 and 5
- .3 an extra point is deducted in games 1, 3 and 5
- .4 an extra point is deducted in games 1,3,5 and 6
- .5 an extra point is deducted in games 1,3,4,5 and 6

As an example, a player on O.2 would start on minus 15 in games 3 and 5, and on 'love' in the rest.

And a player on O30.4 would start on minus 40 in games 1,3,5 and 6, and minus 30 in games 2 and 4.

People whose handicaps are receiving will use the following table.

- .1 an extra point is received in game 2
- .2 an extra point is received in games 2 and 4
- .3 an extra point is received in games 2,4 and 6
- .4 an extra point is received in game 1,2 4 and 6
- .5 an extra point is received in games 1,2,3,4 and 6

As an example, a player on R.3 would start on 15 in games 2,4 and 6, and on 'love' in the rest.

And a player on R15.2 would start on 30 in games 2 and 4, and on 15 in games 1,3,5 and 6.

Please note that although some players have a handicap which is receiving higher than R30, they cannot start any game at R40. The extra bit of their handicap over R30 is added onto that of their opponent. For instance, a player on R30.2 will start all their games at 30. The additional .2 will go onto their opponent's handicap. If that opponent was on SCR they would then become O.2; if they were on R15.1, they would become R.5.

It is also possible to have a player owing more than O40. For instance, a player on O40.3 will start one further point behind in games 1,3 and 5 of each series of 6 games. This is called O50 and that player will need to win 1 point to get back to O40.

There is a very good handicap calculator on the MLTC website www.mltc.co.uk. Click on 'tennis' at the top of the main page, then go to 'tournament', then 'summer tournament' then click on 'handicap calculator'. Simply enter your, and your opponent's handicap into the table, and print off the result. This will tell you each player's score in each game of the series of 6. After 6 games, the next series of 6 games starts, so the handicap for game 1 will apply for game 7, game 13, etc.

There are no tie-breaks in handicap matches. Each set is a long set, to be won by 2 clear games. At the start of a new set, it is of course back to game 1 again for handicapping purposes.