



## The Red Hoffman Cup's New Point System

With the first tee shots of the 2018 Hoffman Cup season, the calculus that determines how a club makes it to the semifinals will change slightly – for the better.

Until this year, the one team that captured the most points in its group-of-four matches advanced to the playoffs. This system was simple and generally fair. But, in just the last five years, four teams won each of their three intragroup matches without accumulating the most points in their group. This meant that, on rare occasions (i.e., four times out of 40 possibilities), a team with an inferior won-loss record advanced to the playoffs.

This year, the Hoffman Cup will take an additional step to ensure that the most deserving team tees off in the semis. The results of each club-vs-club match will continue to be reported by points, identifying the winning and losing clubs, as well as ties.

Starting this year in the intragroup matches, the club that wins an intragroup match will receive 2 points; the losing team will receive 0 points. In case of a tie, both teams will receive 1 point. These points will be added up at the completion of the three group matches to identify the group winner / semifinalist.

Intragroup match points will continue to be important: the total points a club accrues will continue to form the basis for the following year's seedings. A good points performance moves the club up the seedings and into a more favorable position the next year.

This approach should reduce any incentive to run up points, and should make for more enjoyable matches. Who knows . . . upsets may become even more common!

