

BASIC FOURSOMES MATCH PLAY FORMAT AND KEY RULES

CALCULATION OF HANDICAP STROKES - after calculating the "Course Handicaps" by referring to the Course Ratings for Tees to be used, Handicap strokes to be given will be calculated by firstly adding together the two Course Handicaps calculated from the venue's WHS Handicap Conversion Tables for the pair of Players in each Game. The pair with the higher of the combined Course Handicaps will receive strokes amounting to 50% of the difference between the combined Course Handicaps of the two sides. Any calculation ending with a result which contains a 0.5 figure, will be rounded up.

Max number of shots per hole any team should be given should be rounded down to 1 if required

Boys: play from yellow tees and get shots based on yellow Stroke Index

Girls: play from red tees and get shots based on red Stroke Index

Foursomes is also known as Alternate Shot and is a form of play involving partners where two partners compete as a side by playing one ball in alternating order on each hole. Rules 1-20 apply to this form of play (with the side playing one ball being treated in the same way as the individual player is treated).

Match Play is form of play where a player or **side** plays directly against an **opponent** or opposing **side** in a head-to-head match.

A player or **side** wins a hole in the match by completing the hole in fewer strokes (including **strokes** made and penalty strokes), and the match is won when a player or **side** leads the **opponent** or opposing **side** by more holes than remain to be played. If a match is tied after the 18th hole the match should continue one hole at a time until there is a winner i.e. play the 1st again (19th hole) and if still tied then play the 2nd again (20th hole) etc.

Order of Play

The Challenging/Home team has the honour on the first tee and after that is based on the ball that is furthest from the hole. In match play if a player plays out of turn the opponent may cancel that stroke and make the player play again – no penalty.

Starting at all other holes

The player who wins a hole has the honour at the next teeing area.

If the hole was tied, the player with the honour at the previous teeing area keeps it.

Playing Order within your pair

- You must alternate shots using one ball and also alternate drives i.e. one partner tees off at all the odd holes (1,3,5 etc) and the other all the even holes (2, 4, 6 etc)
- If Player A tees off and it was Player B's turn to tee off = loss of hole in match play
- If Player A take a shot and then takes the next shot by mistake = loss of hole in match play
- If a stroke is cancelled, replayed or otherwise does not count under any Rule (except when a stroke is made in the wrong order in breach of this Rule), **the same partner who made the stroke must make the next stroke** for the side.
- If the side decides to play a provisional ball, it must be played by **the partner whose turn it is to play the side's next stroke that plays the provisional**
- Any penalty strokes for the side do not affect the partners' alternating order of play
- Player may not purposely miss ball so their partner can play, if a player has intentionally missed the ball, they have not made a stroke and it is still their turn to play

Conceding/Gimmes: a player may concede the opponents next stroke, hole or the match i.e if you don't think you can beat your opponent on a hole as you've hit too many shots you can tell them you give them that hole or that putt etc. You must be clear that you are conceding by saying for example that's fine you can take that putt away or you can take that hole.

How to Proceed When Provisional Ball Played by Wrong Partner

If a side decides to play a provisional ball, it must be played by the partner whose turn it is to make the side's next stroke. For example, Player A and Player B are partners of the side A-B. Player A plays their ball and there is doubt whether the ball is out of bounds or lost outside a penalty area. If the side decides to play a provisional ball, Player B must play the provisional ball. If, by mistake, Player A plays the provisional ball, there is no penalty if the original ball is found and the provisional ball does not become the ball in play. However, if the original ball is lost and the provisional ball becomes the ball in play, since Player A played the provisional ball in this example, the side loses the hole in match play for playing in the wrong order.

Adults/Spectators: Junior Convenors, other Team Members or Reserves, Parents or Relatives or any other Club representatives, are not allowed to offer "Advice" to players in either Team during any Match. The definition of "Advice" is: - "Any counsel or suggestion that could influence a player in determining his play, the choice of a club, or the method of making a stroke." BUT: - Information or interpretation of the Rules or on matters of Public Information, such as the position of hazards, or the flagstick on the putting green, or the shape of dog-leg hole, yardage from sprinklers, and encouragement etc IS NOT advice. In addition, Parents and Relatives are expected to keep a discreet distance from any Matches so as not to influence any Players in any way.

RULES - The Rules of Golf as approved by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, together with any Local Rules, will apply to the Matches.

Distance measuring devices (DMD's) which comply with the Rules of Golf are allowed in this Competition.

REFEREE - The Referee will not be present but players can contact the below representatives re any rules issues which cannot be resolved by the players

- Junior Convenor
- Club Match Secretary
- Club PGA Pro
- Kate Green