

2012 Men's Match Play Competition

Congratulation on qualifying for this year's Men's Match Play Championship. Attached is this year's bracket which will help you identify who you will be playing in the first round and when the match should be played by. Below you will find a few tips and reminders regarding match play.

As a reminder to all of the competitors, all matches must be scheduled and played by the date posted on the attached bracket. If Player A makes a good attempt at scheduling and playing a match within the allotted time and Player B is unresponsive, player A will advance to the next round. If it is determined by the Tournament Committee that both players attempted to setup a match but a compromise could not be reached by the deadline, the match will be decided by a coin flip. Please refer to the "Contact List" tab on the bracket spreadsheet as it contains contact information for all of the members in this year's competition.

Please remember that each match will be played at 80% of handicap. Matches can also be played from any set of tees, even having competitors playing from two different sets. When playing from different tees please refer to the rule 3-5 of the USGA Handicap Manual. This rule is further explained at the bottom of this email.

Please contact a member of the Professional Staff with any questions.

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Golfers playing match play need to be aware of the differences in the rules between match play and stroke play. Some of the differences are major, some are minor and some involve a different type of penalty when rules are broken.

Here is a rundown of some of the most important differences in the [Rules of Golf](#) for match play:

The Way It's Played

In this sense, match play is a whole different game than stroke play. In stroke play, golfers accumulate strokes over the course of 18 holes. The golfer with the fewest strokes at the completion of the round wins.

In match play, each [hole](#) is a separate competition. The player with the fewest strokes on an individual hole wins that hole; the player winning the most holes wins the match.

The stroke total for 18 holes simply doesn't matter in match play. Stroke play is more a player vs. the course approach; match play is directly player vs. player, or side vs. side. There is one opponent you must beat, and that's the opponent you're facing in the match you're playing right now.

- [More on Scorekeeping in Match Play](#)

Conceded Putts

In friendly rounds of golf, golfers often ask for and give "[gimmies](#)," very short putts that one simply picks up rather than holing out. Gimmies, needless to say, are illegal under the Rules of Golf, but many recreational golfers use them anyway.

In match play, however, [conceded putts](#) are perfectly legal. Your opponent can concede a putt to you at any point, whether it's six inches from the cup or 60 feet. But conceded putts almost always come, of course, on very short putts.

Conceded putts should only be offered, they should never be requested. That's why in some match play matches you'll notice a golfer lingering over a very short putt - the golfer is hoping his opponent will tell him to just pick it up.

Fellow-Competitor vs. Opponent

This is a semantic difference. In stroke play, the golfers you are playing against are your "fellow-competitors." In match play, the golfer you are playing against is your "opponent."

Hit That One Again

There are several scenarios in match play where a transgression might result in your opponent canceling your shot and requiring you to replay it; whereas in stroke play, the same transgression would result in a 2-stroke penalty or no penalty at all.

A few examples:

- **Playing out of turn:** In stroke play, order of play is a matter of [etiquette](#). If you hit out of turn, it's a breach of etiquette, but there is no penalty. In match play, if you hit out of turn your opponent can require you to replay the shot in the proper order. And if your first shot was a great one, you can bet that you'll be replaying.
- **Hitting from outside the teeing ground:** In stroke play, teeing off from outside the [teeing ground](#) (the teeing ground is between the tee markers and up to two club lengths behind the tee markers) results in a 2-stroke penalty. In match play, there is no stroke penalty, but your opponent can cancel your shot and require you to replay it.
- **Hitting an opponent:** In stroke play, if your ball hits a fellow-competitor or his equipment (if it is accidentally stopped or deflected by same), it's [rub of the green](#). In match play, you have the option to replay the shot.
- **Hitting a ball at rest on the green:** In stroke play, if your putt strikes another ball on the [green](#), you get a 2-stroke penalty. In match play, there is no penalty.

The Big Penalty

In the rule book, just about every section concludes with a warning: "Penalty for Breach of Rule." If a golfer fails to follow the proper procedures set forth in the rules, he will incur a penalty in addition to any penalties set forth in that rule.

That penalty in stroke play is usually 2 strokes, and in match play is usually loss of hole.

Example: Let's say a player violates one of the tenets of [Rule 19](#). There will likely be a penalty spelled out for that violation. But the golfer compounds his error by failing to follow the proper procedure for continuing play (maybe he doesn't assess himself the proper penalty; maybe he drops incorrectly; etc.) spelled out in that rule. The big penalty kicks in: 2 strokes in stroke play, loss of hole in match play.

Disputes and claims

In match play, if a doubt or dispute arises between the players, a player may make a claim. If no duly authorized representative of the Committee is available within a reasonable time, the players must continue the match without delay. The Committee may consider a claim only if the player making the claim notifies his opponent (i) that he is making a claim, (ii) of the facts of the situation and (iii) that he wants a ruling. The claim must be made before any player in the match plays from the next teeing ground or, in the case of the last hole of the match, before all players in the match leave the putting green.

A later claim may not be considered by the Committee unless it is based on facts previously unknown to the player making the claim and he had been given wrong information by an opponent. Once the result of the match has been officially announced, a later claim may not be considered by the Committee unless it is satisfied that the opponent knew he was giving wrong information.

3-5. Players Competing from Different Tees or Men and Women from Same Tees

a. Different Tees: Men 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.)

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 their Course Handicap.

How to Properly Apply Section 3-5:

Step 1: Calculate Course Handicap from tees played per Section 3-3.

Look up each player's Course Handicap on the appropriate gender-based Course Handicap Table for the tees played or use the Course Handicap formula:

Handicap Index x Slope Rating of tees played, and then divided by 113.

A man with a Handicap Index of 26.5 who is playing from tees with a Slope Rating of 115 has a Course Handicap of 27. (See Section 3-3 to compute a Course Handicap.)

Step 2: Apply any handicap allowance per Section 9-4 (if applicable).

Example: Suppose the committee in charge of a four-ball stroke play competition determines that men compete at 90 percent of Course Handicap.

The Course Handicap of 27 for the man in step 1 would be reduced to 24 handicap strokes ($27 \times .90 = 24.3$, with the difference of .4 or less rounded downward to 24 strokes).

Step 3: Calculate the difference in USGA Course Rating from tees played, with any difference of .5 or greater rounded upward.

Example: Suppose Player A in step 2 is playing from the middle tees from which the USGA Course Rating is 73.7 and Player B is playing from the front tees from which the USGA Course Rating is 69.8.

USGA Course Rating 73.7 - USGA Course Rating 69.8 = 3.9, with the difference of .5 or greater rounded upward to 4 strokes.

Add the extra handicap strokes from step 3 to the Course Handicap of the player playing from the tees with the higher USGA Course Rating. Alternatively, it is permissible to subtract the extra handicap strokes from the Course Handicap of the player playing from the tees with the lower USGA Course Rating. (See Decision 3-5/1.)

Example: A man playing the tees with the higher USGA Course Rating (73.7), adds 4 strokes to his Course Handicap and competes off 28 strokes ($24 + 4 = 28$ strokes), while the woman in steps 2 and 3 competes off 27 strokes.

Alternatively, the woman could be reduced to a Course Handicap of 23 strokes ($27 - 4 = 23$ strokes), while the man in steps 2 and 3 competes off 24 strokes.

Note: *Strokes given or received under the procedures in steps 2 and 3 above are to be disregarded when applying ESC for handicap purposes. (See Section 4-3, Examples 2 and 3.) Example: After a Section 3-5 adjustment, a player has added three strokes to a Course Handicap of 25. The Course Handicap when applying Equitable Stroke Control is 25. The correct handicap for competition is 28. (See Section 3-6.)*

**EXAMPLE: SECTION 3-5
PROMOTING EQUITABLE COMPETITION**

Gary Gold Tees	vs.	Bob Blue Tees
<div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">10.4</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">130</div> 12 <u>+71.1</u> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">83</div>	Handicap Index Slope Rating Course Handicap USGA Course Rating Target Score	<div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">10.4</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">140</div> 13 <u>+73.2</u> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">86</div>
83	Target Score (minus)	86
-12 <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">=71</div>	<u>Course Handicap (adjusted for Section 3-5)</u> =Net Score	-15 <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">=71</div>