

NOTES ABOUT MATCH PLAY RULES

- In match play, the game is played by holes. The player that scores the lowest on each hole wins that hole. A hole is halved if each player has the same number of strokes on that hole.
- In general, the penalty for breach of a Rule in Match Play is Loss of Hole.
- **Order of Play** – Anywhere on the course, the ball farthest from the hole is to be played first. There is no penalty for playing out of turn, but the player has the option to recall the opponent's shot if she plays out of turn. Under the 2019 Rules, players may agree to play out of turn to save time; in that instance, the option to recall the stroke is forfeited. [R. 5.6b(2)]
- **Concessions** – A player may concede the opponent's next stroke at any time before that stroke is made. A hole may be conceded at any time prior to the start or conclusion of that hole; a match may be conceded at any time prior to the start or conclusion of that match. [R. 3.2b]
- **A concession is made only when clearly communicated & is final & cannot be declined or withdrawn.** [R.3.2b(2)] If a player has been conceded a putt, then proceeds to putt & misses, it does not affect the outcome or her score; the hole was completed when the concession was given. *(It is considered good sportsmanship to concede putts of a reasonable length for a half.)*
- **Doubt as to Procedure or Dispute** – If a doubt or dispute arises, one of the players may request a ruling. Simply state that a request for a ruling is being made & why. It need not be confrontational – just a polite way of leaving the outcome open until a decision can be obtained from the Rules Committee. **Playing a second ball is not permitted in Match Play.**
- If the players in a match are unsure about a procedure or a Rule, they may decide between themselves how to proceed. Whether that decision turns out to be in accordance with the Rules or not, it stands, as long as both players have agreed.
- In match play, a player may disregard a breach of the Rules by an opponent, provided there is no deliberate agreement between the players to ignore a breach or penalty that they **know** applies. [R. 3.2d (4)] There is a difference between overlooking an opponent's breach & agreement to waive a penalty.

FOUR-BALL MATCHES [Rule 23]:

- Two partners compete together as a side, with each player playing her own ball & a side's score for a hole is the lower score of the two partners on that hole.
- Scorecard: For each hole, the gross score of at least one partner must be entered on the scorecard. There is no penalty for entering more than one partner's score on the scorecard. **EACH SCORE ON THE SCORECARD MUST BE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED AS THE SCORE OF THE INDIVIDUAL PARTNER WHO MADE IT. IF THIS IS NOT DONE, THE SIDE IS DISQUALIFIED. IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO IDENTIFY A SCORE AS THE SCORE OF THE SIDE IN GENERAL.**
- A player may take any action concerning the partner's ball that the partner is allowed to take before making a stroke.
- Any action taken by the player concerning the partner's ball or equipment is treated as having been taken by the partner. If the player's action would breach a Rule if taken by the partner, the partner is in breach of the Rule & gets the resulting penalty.
- Partners may play in the order the side considers best; except a player must not continue play of a hole after the player's next stroke has been conceded if this would help her partner.
- When a player gets a penalty other than disqualification, it normally applies only to the player & not to the partner. In match play, a player who gets the general penalty (loss of hole) has no score that can count for the hole, but the penalty has no effect on the partner.
- Three exceptions where player's penalty also applies to partner: (1) a breach of the limit of 14 clubs; shared, added or replaced clubs;(2) player's breach helps partner's play; (3) in Match Play, when a player's breach hurts the opponent's play.

- **If you cannot improve on the score of your partner on a hole, please pick up to facilitate pace of play.**

FOURSOMES MATCHES (ALTERNATE SHOT) [Rule 22]:

- Two partners compete as a side by playing one ball in alternating order on each hole.
- One partner must play first for the side on all ODD holes, while the other partner must play first by teeing off on all EVEN holes. After the stroke from the teeing area, the partners must alternate shots for the rest of the hole.
- If a player plays when her partner should have played, the side loses the hole.
- If a stroke is cancelled or otherwise does not count, 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.
- Any penalty strokes for the side do not affect the partner's alternating order of play.
- Either partner may take any allowed action for the side before the stroke is made, no matter which partner's turn it is to play next.
- Any action taken or breach of the Rules by either partner applies to the side.