

Match Play

Singles Match Play

In singles match play, the match is won by the player who is leading by a number of holes greater than the number of holes remaining to be played. After handicap allowances are determined, Section 9-3c of the Handicap Manual should be applied in competitions from different tees, or in competitions between men and women from the same tees.

Allowance: The higher-handicapped player receives the full difference between the Course Handicaps of the two players; the lower-handicapped player shall play from scratch.

Example: A player with a Course Handicap of 17 shall receive four strokes from a player with a Course Handicap of 13. The player receives them on the holes allocated as the first four handicap-stroke holes.

Four-Ball Match Play

In four-ball match play, two play their better ball against the better ball of two other players (Rules of Golf, Rule 30 and Definitions). After handicap allowances are determined, Section 9-3c of the Handicap Manual should be applied in competitions from different tees, or in competitions between men and women from the same tees.

Allowance: The Course Handicaps of all four players are reduced by the Course Handicap of the player with the lowest handicap, who shall then play from scratch. Each of the three other players is allowed 100 % of the difference.

In mixed four-ball match play, strokes are taken as assigned on the players' respective stroke allocation tables. The committee in charge of the competition designates the tees to be played.

Foursome Match Play (Scotch)

In a foursome match, two play against two and each side plays one ball. In a foursome during any stipulated round (playing the holes of the course in their correct sequence), the partners play alternately from the teeing grounds and alternately during the play of each hole (Rules of Golf, Rules 29, 29-1 and Definitions). After handicap allowances are determined, Section 9-3c(iii) of the Handicap Manual should be applied in competitions from different tees, or in competitions between men and women from the same tees.

Allowance: The allowance for the higher-handicapped side is 50% of the difference between the combined Course Handicaps of the members of each side. (When selected drives are permitted, the allowance is 40%.)

Chapman or Pinehurst Match Play

In a Chapman or Pinehurst match, two play against two. Each partner plays from the teeing ground and each plays his partner's ball for the second shot. After the second shot, partners select the ball with which they wish to score, and play that ball alternately to complete the hole. After handicap allowances are determined, Section 9-3c(iii) of the Handicap Manual should be applied in competitions from different tees, or in competitions between men and women from the same tees.

Allowance: The partner with the lower Course Handicap receives 60% of his Course Handicap. The partner with the higher Course Handicap receives 40% of his Course Handicap. The percentage allowances are added together before rounding, and the total is rounded off with .5 or more rounded upward. The side with the higher Course Handicap receives the difference between the Course Handicaps of the sides. The lower-handicapped side shall play from scratch.

Stroke Play

Individual Stroke Play

Allowance: *Each competitor receives his full Course Handicap. (A plus Course Handicap shall be added to the gross score to determine the net score.)*

Four-Ball Stroke Play

In four-ball stroke play, two competitors play as partners, each playing his own ball. The lower of the partners' scores is the score for the hole (Rules of Golf, Rule 31 and Definitions). After handicap allowances are determined, Section 9-3c of the Handicap Manual should be applied in competitions from different tees, or in competitions between men and women from the same tees.

Allowance: *Men receive 90% of Course Handicap; Women receive 95% of Course Handicap.*

In mixed four-ball stroke play, strokes are taken as assigned on the players' respective stroke allocation tables, and players shall play from the sets of tees designated by the committee in charge of the competition.

Example: If men are playing the middle tees and women are playing the forward tees, strokes shall be taken by men as they are allocated from the middle tees, and by women as they are allocated from the forward tees.

Note: It is recommended that committees consider it a condition of four-ball stroke play competitions that the Course Handicaps of the members of a side may not differ by more than eight strokes. A side with a large difference between Course Handicaps has an advantage over a side with a small Course Handicap difference. If a difference of more than eight strokes cannot be avoided, it is suggested that an additional 10% reduction be applied to the Course Handicaps of the members of each side with a Course Handicap difference exceeding eight strokes

Foursome Stroke Play (Scotch)

In foursome stroke play, partners play one ball. The partners play alternately from the teeing grounds and alternately during the play of each hole (Rules of Golf, 29-1). After handicap allowances are determined, Section 9-3c(iii) of the Handicap Manual should be applied in competitions from different tees, or in competitions between men and women from the same tees.

Allowance: *The allowance is 50% of the partners' combined Course Handicaps. When selected drives are permitted, the allowance is 40%. A plus combined Course Handicap shall be added to the gross score to determine the net score.*

Scotch – Format Definition

Threesome is a match in which one plays against two, and each side plays one ball. Foursome is a match in which two play against two, and each side plays one ball. In a threesome or a foursome during any stipulated round the partners shall play alternately from the teeing grounds and during the play of each hole. Penalty strokes do not affect the order of play, this form of play can be used in either a stroke play or match play format.

Chapman or Pinehurst Stroke Play

In Chapman or Pinehurst stroke play, two players play as partners, each playing from the teeing ground and each playing his partner's ball for the second shot. After the second shot, partners select the ball with which they wish to score, and play that ball alternately to complete the hole. After handicap allowances are determined, Section 9-3c(iii) of the Handicap Manual should be applied in competitions from different tees, or in competitions between men and women from the same tees.

Allowance: *The player with the lower Course Handicap is allowed 60% of his Course Handicap. The player with the higher Course Handicap is allowed 40% of his Course Handicap. The total is rounded off with fractions of .5 or more rounded upward.*

Pinehurst or Chapman – Format Definition

A team consists of two players. On each hole, a player and his/her partner drive from the teeing ground. On the second stroke, player A will play player B's ball while player B will play player A's ball. Prior to the third stroke, the partners must make a choice which ball they will play. There will be only one ball played by each team after the second stroke. Penalty strokes do not affect order of play. If the players choose the ball played on B's second stroke, player A will play the third stroke and they will play alternate strokes until the ball is holed. At no time will a player strike the same ball twice in succession.

Stableford Competition

The reckoning in Stableford competitions is made by points awarded in relation to a fixed score (usually par or net par) at each hole as shown below:

Hole Played In	Points
More than one over fixed score or no score returned	0
One over fixed score	1
Fixed score	2
One under fixed score	3
Two under fixed score	4
Three under fixed score	5
Four under fixed score	6

The winner is the competitor who scores the highest number of points (Rules of Golf, 32-1b). After handicap allowances are determined, Section 9-3c of the Handicap Manual should be applied in competitions from different tees, or in competitions between men and women from the same tees.

Allowance: Players use full Course Handicaps and strokes as they are allocated on the scorecard.

SCGA Recommended Procedure for Scramble Tournaments

Scramble

A team consists of four players paired in the same group. On each hole, each player drives and the best tee shot is selected by the team. Each team member then plays a second shot from the spot where the selected tee shot lay and the best second shot is then selected in a similar manner. This process is repeated until the hole is completed.

A tournament committee may wish to include additional requirements for a scramble tournament. The most common addition is requiring each team member to use his/her drive a minimum number of times during the stipulated round, generally 2-3 times.

The preferred method of pairing for such an event is to balance each team with a composition of players of similar handicaps.

Four-Man Scramble

Break field into A, B, C, D players using the following percentages and tees:

A	Player uses 20% of handicap and plays from the back tees
B	Player uses 15% of handicap and plays from the middle tees
C	Player uses 10% of handicap and plays from the middle tees
D	Player uses 5% of handicap and plays from the forward tees

- After individual handicap percentages have been calculated, round each to a whole number and add all numbers together to determine the team handicap.
- No one person can hit two shots in a row except on the putting green.
- Committee will require each player's drive to be used 3 times.

Two-Man Scramble

Break field into A and B players using the following percentages:

A	Player uses 35% of handicap
B	Player uses 15% of handicap

- After the individual handicap percentages have been calculated, round each to a whole number and add all numbers together to determine the team handicap.
- Committee will require each player's drive to be used 6 times

Handicapping The Unhandicapped

Will It Occur, And If So, How Much?

The USGA Handicap System is well recognized and widely accepted by golf clubs throughout the country. However, this Handicap System is based on a player's most recent series of scores, and therein lies a problem that besets many tournament committees, particularly those who organize convention and resort events. Not everyone who wants to play golf has a USGA handicap.

How should a committee determine a fair handicap or allowance for novice or occasional player who does not have a USGA Handicap Index?

How can a committee give everyone a chance to win net prizes at the annual company tournament?

The questions are good ones because the concept of a one-round handicap is deceptive. Why? Because the information gained from a single round of golf is not sufficient to evaluate any player. Any one score can be as much as 10 strokes different from a player's true golf handicap. When a player who has no score history shoots 100 there is no way to determine whether that score was a poor round of a good player or a good round of a weak player.

That's why there is no substitute for score history, which is the basis of the USGA Handicap System. It's based on the best 10 differentials from a player's last 20 scores.

A differential is determined by subtracting the USGA Course Rating from the adjusted gross score, then multiplying the resulting value by 113, then dividing this result by the corresponding USGA Slope Rating and rounding off to the nearest tenth.

When not everyone has a USGA handicap, here are four ideas to help handicap the unhandicapped:

Second Best Score System

The USGA has developed a simple estimator of a player's ability called "Second Best Score System" or "Second Best Handicap" for short. Second Best Handicap is not a substitute for the USGA Handicap System, but it can produce acceptable results and is a reasonable system for handicapping the otherwise "unhandicapped."

To create a player's Second Best Handicap, the tournament committee simply asks each unhandicapped player to submit his three best scores made on a regulation course (with par of 68 or more) in the last 12 months. Combine these scores with any previous scores that the player has made in your tournament in the past two years.

The player's Second Best Handicap is the second best score he or she has given you minus 70 for men or 73 for women.

For example, if a male player submits scores of 92, 96 and 98 and he had scored 90 in your tournament last, his Second Best Handicap would be 92 (second best score) minus 70 (for men).

There is a special qualification for beginners or players who can submit only one score. Subtract 74 from that score for a man's Second Best Handicap, or subtract 77 for a woman's Second Best Handicap.

If necessary, nine-hole scores can be combined to produce an 18-hole scoring history.

If a player has never played, the Second Best Handicap is not appropriate. The committee should assign a maximum of 36 strokes for men, or 40 for women. Some allow a maximum of 50 strokes, which generally gives three strokes on each hole except for par-3 holes.

Modified Peoria System

Another alternative is to use a hole score selection system, often called the "Peoria System." Under this system, a player learns his handicap after the round is completed. The committee secretly selects a par-3 hole, a par-5 hole and four par-4 holes from an 18-hole course. The par-4s should be representative in length and difficulty with two chosen from the front nine and two from the back nine.

A modified Peoria handicap then is calculated by adding the player's strokes over par on the six selected holes, and multiplying that number by 2.8. This will be the player's allowance to be deducted from his gross score. The maximum hole score for allowance purposes is three over par on par-3s and 4s, and four over par on par-5s.

Example: A player scores 98 for a round. She is 11 over par on the six selected holes.

$11 \times 2.8 = 30.8 = 31$ allowance

Net score is $98 - 31 = 67$

Scheid System

The Scheid System is computed like the Callaway System, with "worst holes" subtracted from the total score. The scores subtracted, again, are on holes 1-16 only. The Scheid System is a better system than the Callaway System when you have players with a wider range of scores, up to 151.

Score							Deduct
--	--	72	73	--	--	--	No holes and adjustment
--	74	75	76	--	--	--	½ worst hole and adjustment
--	77	78	79	--	--	--	1 worst hole and adjustment
--	80	81	82	83	--	--	1 ½ worst holes and adjustment
--	84	85	86	87	--	--	2 worst holes and adjustment
--	88	89	90	91	--	--	2 ½ worst holes and adjustment
--	92	93	94	95	--	--	3 worst holes and adjustment
--	96	97	98	99	--	--	3 ½ worst holes and adjustment
100	101	102	103	104	--	--	4 worst holes and adjustment
105	103	107	108	109	--	--	4 ½ worst holes and adjustment
110	111	112	113	114	--	--	5 worst holes and adjustment
115	116	117	118	119	120	--	5 ½ worst holes and adjustment
121	122	123	124	125	126	--	6 worst holes and adjustment
127	128	129	130	131	135	--	6 ½ worst holes and adjustment
133	134	135	136	137	138	--	7 worst holes and adjustment
139	140	141	142	143	144	--	7 ½ worst holes and adjustment
145	146	147	148	149	150	151	8 worst holes and adjustment
Adjustment to Deduction							
-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	

The "Official Callaway System"

The Callaway System is a so-called "one-round" system or "worst-holes system" that compresses the spread of gross scores when converted to net scores. It produces a result such that the player with the lowest gross score almost always becomes the low net score winner. Most players with higher gross scores end up with net scores within a few strokes of the winner so that most players can feel competitive.

By the Callaway System, a player's allowance is determined after each round by deducting the scores of the worst individual holes during the first 16 holes. The table shows the number of "worst hole" scores he may deduct and the adjustment to be made, based on his gross score.

For example, if his gross score for 18 holes is 96, he turns to the table and opposite that score finds that he may deduct the total for his three worst holes scored on holes 1 through 16 inclusive. Thus, if he has one 9, one 8, and a 7, his deduction totals 24. Further adjustment is then made according to the table below each column. For the sample score of 96, the deduction is reduced by 2 strokes, resulting in a final allowance of 22. Thus 96 minus an allowance of 22 equals a net score of 74.

The "Official Callaway System"

Score					Deduct
--	--	70	71	72	No holes and adjustment
73	74	75	--	--	½ worst hole and adjustment
76	77	78	79	80	1 worst hole and adjustment
81	82	83	84	85	1 ½ worst holes and adjustment
86	87	88	89	90	2 worst holes and adjustment
91	92	93	94	95	2 ½ worst holes and adjustment
96	97	98	99	100	3 worst holes and adjustment
101	102	103	104	105	3 ½ worst holes and adjustment
106	107	108	109	110	4 worst holes and adjustment
111	112	113	114	115	4 ½ worst holes and adjustment
116	117	118	119	120	5 worst holes and adjustment
121	122	123	124	125	5 ½ worst holes and adjustment
126	127	128	129	130	6 worst holes and adjustment
Adjustment to Deduction					Maximum Handicap - 50
-2	-1	0	+1	+2	

Notes:

1. No hole may be scored at more than twice its par.
2. Half strokes count as whole.
3. The 17th and 18th holes are never deducted.
4. In case of ties, lowest handicap takes preference.