MATCH PLAY GUIDELINES

Significant differences exist between match and stroke play competitions. Each hole in a match play round is essentially a new competition. Since match play is less common in our events, we’ve compiled a few reminders, obviously not all-inclusive. For more details, refer to Rule 2 in your Rules of Golf book or check with one of our Rules Officials.

Those penalties that are two-strokes in stroke play are loss of hole penalties in match play.

Order of play on the first teeing ground is determined by the draw. Thereafter, the player with the lowest score on the previous hole has the honor.

The player farthest from the hole plays first. If which player is away cannot be determined, who plays first is decided by lot.

If a player plays when it’s not his turn or if, when beginning play of a hole, he plays from outside the teeing ground, there’s no penalty, but his opponent may immediately recall the stroke. The player who’s away always putts first. There is no continuous putting as there is in stroke play.

A stroke can be conceded at any time, provided the ball is at rest. A hole can be conceded at any time prior to or during play of that hole. A match can be conceded at any time prior to or during play of that match.

Concessions must be loud and clear for the opponent and, if applicable, the Referee. Concessions cannot be withdrawn or declined.

It’s advisable to confirm the status of the match following play of each hole.

If a doubt or dispute arises between the players, a player may make a claim. The Committee will only consider a claim if the individual making the claim has notified his opponent (i) that he is making a claim or wants a ruling and (ii) of the facts upon which the claim or ruling is to be based. Claims must be made before any player plays from the next teeing ground or, in the case of the last hole of the match, before all players leave the final putting green. The Committee will rule on the claim at its earliest opportunity.

If a referee is assigned to accompany the match, he must act on any breach of the rules. He will make every effort to be in a preventive mode to keep players from incurring penalties.

If a referee is present, but not assigned to accompany the entire match, he is not authorized to issue penalties except for breaches of Rules 1-3 (Agreement to Waive Rules), 6-7 (Undue Delay; Slow Play) or 33-7 (Disqualification Penalty; Committee Discretion). However, he is available to assist the players with rulings.