

2025 Senior Match Play Rules and Format

General Match Play Rules

Match Play Golf Rules

A round in match play golf will see two golfers competing head to head against each other and not against the rest of the field. Rather than trying to post the lowest score for the round golfers are here trying to win (or not lose) more holes than their opponent.

How to Play Match Play

Each golfer hits his own ball throughout the round and after each hole, scores of both golfers for the hole are compared. The golfer with the lowest score is said to have won that hole. If both scores are identical then no points (or holes won) are awarded for that hole.

How to Win in Match Play

A winner is declared during the round when his lead is such that his opponent can no longer close the gap mathematically. Or in other words, a winner is declared when his opponent can no longer tie or win the match even if he were to win all of the remaining holes.

Net Format

When match play matches are played in the NET format, each golfer's score is adjusted after each hole according to handicap and the net scores are compared to determine a winner for a hole.

We will play handicaps of 100% off the low handicapper. For the two man match play we will play handicaps of 90% off the low handicapper. Normal rounding rules apply (0.5 and higher rounded up). In the qualifying rounds there is no tie breaker (a tie is one point). For the 8 player or 4 team finals, tie breakers will be by extra holes and handicap allowances will apply. In agreement between the two players they may decide which extra holes to play. The final events will be played in early time slots to allow for OT.

Remember the player(team) farthest from the hole must play next. If you miss a putt, you must mark and wait for your opponent (who is farther) to putt. If you play out of turn, your opponent may choose to ask you to replay your shot (no penalty).

We will also have a local rule exception for deuce pot. A putt from less than 5 feet for deuce can not be conceded on hole #4 and hole #13. You can concede a putt over 5 feet but must add two strokes to score or your opponent has the option to attempt the putt for deuce.

Round Robin and Knock out Round Format

There will be a qualifying process prior to the knock out phase, so each player(team) will participate in minimum of 2 matches. How the qualifying round will look depends on the number of players who signup. It will be a type of limited round robin. There will be a maximum of 64 for match play signup.

During the match play season, I will also allow each player (or team) to reschedule a match once. If they require a second rescheduling then they will lose the match with a score of 10 and 8. There will be 2 points for win and 1 point for tie awarded in the first qualifying game. There will be 3 points for win and 1 point for tie awarded for your second qualifying game. This is to minimize tie breakers. Tie breaker will be awarded on holes remaining during your

matches. So if you win 3 and 2 you are awarded 3 points etc. The second tie breaker will be on aggregate net score for 2 match play rounds (so complete your 18 holes). Based on qualifying round there will be a final 8 selected.

There will be the usual \$9 entry fee for each qualifying match. That is \$6 for match and \$3 for deuce pot. So a winner in a qualifying match will receive \$12 the loser will lose \$6. If a tie then both players will net \$0. There will be a \$10 entry fee if you make the final 8 (or 4 final teams) knockout round. Those monies will be awarded to the final 4(or 2 final teams). This pricing takes away from the 'one and done' scenario and hopefully makes it more interesting for all to participate.

Not much money to be won, but there is a trophy and further prize at banquet for winner. Divisions for the qualifying round will be sorted by handicaps flights. For the two man team match play it will be divisions sorted by average handicap of the team, So you will be playing against players with similar handicaps.