

# Match Play Basic Rules & Guidelines courtesy of Alberta Golf

**Match Play rules are significantly different from Stroke Play and the two forms can never be combined**

Some match play rules include the following:

The player may concede a match any time prior to start or conclusion of match.

The player may concede a hole at any time prior to start or conclusion of that hole.

The player may concede his opponents next stroke at any time, provided the opponent's ball is at rest.

A concession may not be declined or withdrawn.

There is not a 3-3 rule in Match Play (playing a second ball), but Rule 2-5 allows players to make a claim if there is a dispute between two players. If a committee representative is not available, the players must continue the match without delay.

Three steps are needed to make a claim:

1. notify opponent that you wish to make a claim
2. state the facts
3. state that you want a ruling

The claim must be announced before playing from the next teeing ground or in the case of the last hole; before you leave the putting green (the claim will be resolved by referring the matter to the committee in charge of the competition).

The general penalty in Match Play is loss of hole except when otherwise provided (ie one stroke for ball at rest moved). There is not a 2-stroke penalty in Match Play.

Honour goes to the player who won the last hole.

Players may not add or change clubs after the stipulated round (ie a playoff) but may after 18 holes in a 36 hole match play – i.e. 2- stipulated rounds..

A player can not knowingly give wrong information (ie the opponent is entitled to know the number of strokes you have made when requested). Penalty strokes must be reported to opponent unless it is obvious that you are proceeding under a rule requiring a penalty- i.e. Water or lateral hazard.

Practice on the competitive course is permitted prior to round.

The player whose ball is furthest from the hole should play first or the opposing player may recall the stroke.

Touching or moving the opponent's ball (except in searching) without permission is a 1-stroke penalty.

If your ball strikes the opponent's ball when both players are on the putting green there is no penalty.

A ball in motion if deflected or stopped by opponent or caddie or his equipment there is not a penalty and the stroke may be cancelled and replayed or the ball played as it lies.

## **Four Ball Match Play – Rule 30**

**Representation of Side:** a side may be represented by one partner for all or any part of the match. All partners need not be present. An absent partner may join a match between holes, but not during play of a hole.

**Order of play:** Balls belonging to the same side may be played in the order the side considers best.

**Wrong Ball:** If a player incurs the 'loss of hole' penalty under 15-3a for making a stroke at the wrong ball, he is disqualified for that hole, but his partner incurs no penalty, even if the wrong ball belongs to him.

**Putting out:** Putting out in fourball after a concession is made may result in a loss of hole (if it assists a partner's play of hole).

**Effect of other penalties:** If a player's breach of a rule assists his partner's play or adversely affects an opponent's play, the partner incurs the applicable penalty in addition to any penalty incurred by the players. In all other cases where a player incurs a penalty for breach of a rule the penalty does not apply to his partner. Where the penalty is stated to be 'loss of hole' – the effect is to disqualify the player for that hole.

