

Recommended Handicap Allowances

In individual events, full Course Handicap™ is recommended. In some team events, using a full Course Handicap would favour higher-handicapped sides. Therefore, we recommend using a percentage of Course Handicap in some team events to make competition equitable. See Section 9-4 of “The Golf Canada Handicap Manual” for more information.

Common Match Play Allowances

Four-Ball

The player with the lowest Course Handicap plays at scratch. The other three players receive 100 percent of the difference between their Course Handicap, respectfully.

Example: Players A, B, C, and D have a Course Handicap of 5, 10, 15 and 20, respectively. Player A plays at scratch, B receives 5 strokes, C receives 10 strokes, and D receives 15 strokes.

Chapman or Pinehurst

The partner with the lower Course Handicap receives 60 percent of Course Handicap. The partner with the higher Course Handicap receives 40 percent of Course Handicap. Add the percentage allowance together. The side with the higher Course Handicap receives the difference between the Course Handicap of each side. The lower-handicapped side plays at scratch.

Example: Side A-B with player A ($5 \times 60\% = 3$) and player B ($10 \times 40\% = 4$), compete against side C-D with player C ($14 \times 60\% = 8.4$ rounds to 8) and D ($17 \times 40\% = 6.8$ rounds to 7). Side A-B's Course Handicap is 7 (A, 3 + B, 4) and side C-D's Course Handicap is 15 (C, 8 + D, 7). Side A-B plays at scratch and side C-D receives 8 strokes.

Common Stroke Play Allowances

Four-Ball

Men receive 90 percent of Course Handicap and women receive 95 percent of Course Handicap.

Example: On men's side A-B, Player A has a Course Handicap of 11 and Player B has a Course Handicap of 20. At 90 percent of Course Handicap, Player A receives 10 strokes ($11 \times 90\% = 9.9$, rounded to 10) and Player B receives 18 strokes ($20 \times 90\% = 18$).

Note: It is recommended that Committees consider it a condition of four-ball stroke-play competitions that the Course Handicap (after allowance) of the members of a side may not differ by more than eight strokes. A side with a large difference 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 percent reduction be applied to the Course Handicap of each member of the advantaged side.

Foursome (Alternate Shot)

The allowance is 50 percent of the partners' combined Course Handicap. When selected drives are permitted, the allowance is 40 percent. A plus combined Course Handicap side must be added to the gross score to determine the net score. (See Decision 9-4b/1.)

Example: On side A-B, Player A has a Course Handicap of 5 and Player B has a Course Handicap of 12. Side AB's combined Course Handicap is 17. Side A-B will receive 9 strokes ($17 \times 50\% = 8.5$, rounded to 9).