**Major Differences in the Rules between**

**Match Play and Stroke Play Competitions**

| Match Play – General Penalty is Loss of Hole | Stroke Play – General Penalty is a 2 stroke penalty |
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| Player and opponent | Player and Fellow Player |
| No scorecards issued – score is kept by number of holes up, holes down, All Square, dormie. Keep separate score card to post for handicap. | Rule 3.3b: Scorecards are issued and marker records individual hole scores and signs scorecard at end of round. Player countersigns. |
| Rule 3.2b: May concede a hole or a match at any time; concession of the opponent’s next stroke provided the ball is at rest. No need to finish a hole in all cases. (For handicap, record most likely score on conceded holes.) | Rule 3.3c: Failure to hole out will result in a requirement to rectify before making a stroke from the next teeing ground, otherwise he is disqualified. |
| Rule 20.1b (2) (3.2d): Asking for a ruling – must be settled between players without undue delay otherwise make a claim and seek ruling later | Rule 20.1c(3): Playing 2 balls when uncertain what to do – may play a second ball, following certain procedures and seek answers later. |
| Rule 5.6: Referee/Committee allowed to assess Slow Play penalties under guidelines | Rule 5.6: Slow Play penalties assigned in stages based on guidelines issued by Committee. |
| Rule 5.7a: Players may discontinue play without informing Committee unless it delays competition. | Rule 5.7a: Specific circumstances when play may be discontinued – generally only when suspended by Committee |
| Rule 5.2a: May practice on the course on any day of a match-play competition, before a round. | Rule 5.2b: May not practice on the course on any day of a stroke play competition. |
| Rule 3.2d : not informing opponent of a penalty stroke in a timely manner, loss of hole. Information as to strokes taken must be given as soon as possible when asked by opponent. Knowingly giving wrong information could result in disqualification. | Rule 3.3b (1): Only need to inform marker if you have a penalty and may do it before signing your score card.  Would not be asked how many strokes you have taken. Again only need to inform marker. |
| Rule 6.4a: Order of play is determined on the tee by draw/honour and when not on the tee, it is determined by who is farthest from the hole. If a player plays out of turn, the opponent may recall the stroke, but there is no penalty | Rule 6.4b: Order of play is determined on the tee by draw/honour and when not on the tee, it is determined by who is farthest from the hole. There is no penalty for playing out of turn. |
| Rule 6.1b(1): If a ball is played from outside teeing ground or from a wrong teeing ground, there is no penalty and the opponent may recall the stroke. | Rule 6.1: If a ball is played from outside teeing ground or from a wrong teeing ground, there is a General Penalty and must rectify, otherwise player is disqualified. |
| Rule 7.4: If searching for your opponent’s ball and it is accidentally moved, no penalty. Rule 9.5b: If you touch or move opponent’s ball when not searching, you receive 1 penalty stroke and ball must be replaced. | Rule 9.6: Moving a fellow-competitor’s ball, during a search or otherwise, there is no penalty. Ball must be replaced. |
| Rule 6.3c (1): If you play a wrong ball, you lose hole but not the entire match; you may continue the match | Rule 6.3c (1): If you play a wrong ball, you receive General Penalty and must rectify, otherwise be disqualified |
| On the putting green – if you putt and your ball strikes opponent’s ball, also on green, there is no penalty. | Rule 11.1a Exception: On the putting green – if you putt and your ball strikes your fellow-competitor’s ball, also on green, there is a General Penalty. |
| Rule 14.7a: If a player makes a stroke from the wrong place, they receive a General Penalty (loss of hole) | 14.7a: Playing from a wrong place has two stages General Penalty (2-strokes) for doing it and if it is a serious breach, must rectify, otherwise the player is disqualified. |
| Rule 22.3 (3-somes & 4-somes also known as alternate shot) – If a player plays out of turn in any match, the penalty for making a Stroke in the Wrong Order is a General Penalty | Rule 22.3: Playing in incorrect order, (General Penalty 2-strokes) side must correct the mistake. Strokes made in the wrong order do not count. If not corrected the side is disqualified. |