

## Ties in Handicap Matches

How to play off a tie in a handicap match has been, apparently, a puzzler ever since the idea of granting an artificial advantage to a weaker player was introduced.

It is the custom of the game, when no handicap strokes are involved, to settle a match play tie by a hole-by-hole, or "sudden death," play-off and to resolve a stroke play tie by an 18-hole play-off.

If time does not permit an 18-hole play-off at stroke play, it can be shortened to nine holes or less.

### New Recommendations

The use of handicaps in play-offs injects an element which can upset the equity of these customs. The USGA, which receives numerous requests for advice on this subject, has given the matter considerable thought. It has evolved the following recommendations which it endorses from the viewpoints of equity and practicability:

**MATCH PLAY:** A handicap match which ends all even should be played off hole by hole until one side wins a hole. The play-off should start on the hole where the match began. Strokes should be allowed as in the prescribed round.

**STROKE PLAY:** A handicap stroke competition which ends in a tie should be played off at 18 holes with handicaps. If that be inexpedient, the play-off should permit the competitors to use an equitable percentage of their handicaps. For example, if in an individual competition A's handicap is 10 and B's is 8, it would be equitable to conduct a nine-hole play-off with A receiving 5 strokes and B 4 strokes. Rule 3(2) empowers the Committee to determine how and when a tie shall be decided.

Methods of deciding halved matches and stroke play ties should be published in advance.

These supersede all previous recommendations on this subject.

### Stroke Allowances

Handicaps produced under the USGA Golf Handicap System are individual

stroke play handicaps. In other types of competitions a lesser number of strokes is allowed, the players receiving the strokes to use them as allocated on the club's score card. The recommended allowances are:

**SINGLES MATCH PLAY:** Allow 85% of the full difference between stroke play handicaps.

**FOUR-BALL STROKE PLAY** (better-ball basis): Allow each player 75% of his individual stroke play handicap, the strokes to be taken as they come on the card.

**FOUR-BALL MATCH PLAY:** Reduce the stroke play handicaps of all four players by the handicap of the low handicap player, the low handicap player then to play from scratch. Allow each of the three other players two-thirds (66⅔%) of the resulting difference, strokes to be taken by each player as they come on the card.

**FOURSOMES** (not four-ball) **STROKE PLAY:** Allow one-half of the partners' combined stroke play handicaps. (When selected drives are permitted, allow 35% only.)

**FOURSOMES MATCH PLAY:** Allow 40% of the full difference between the combined stroke play handicaps of each side. (When selected drives are permitted, allow 30% only.)

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### Oak Hill's Memorial Trees

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of friendship and international good will.

The progress of the growth of these acorns is to be reported to Commander Carson and at some time in the future, when they have reached a size suitable for permanent location and planting, it shall be done with a ceremony at which it is hoped United States golfers will be present.

At Oak Hill, this has been a work of supreme satisfaction and pride to the members. In a succeeding article the utilitarian value of trees to a golf course will be discussed. This phase of the subject is of the highest importance.