

HANDICAPPING CHAPMAN FOURSOMES

LAST JULY the USGA JOURNAL published a description of the increasingly popular Chapman-style of foursome play, developed by Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Chapman, of Pinehurst, N. C. In this style of play, both partners drive and then each plays a second stroke with the other's ball. After the second strokes have been played, one ball is selected to be continued in play by alternate strokes.

At the time that article appeared, however, experience with the system had been too brief to provide a solid basis for determining a fair handicap allowance. Chapman has been studying this problem for

some time but has been perplexed because a fixed percentage appeared to work a hardship on higher-handicapped players. Now he believes he has hit upon an improved formula for stroke play.

In foursome stroke play (not four-ball) the USGA recommends that 50 per cent of partners' combined handicaps be allowed; when selected drives are permitted, 40 per cent. In the Chapman system, where selected seconds are the order of play, it is Chapman's recommendation that the following sliding scale of percentages be used for combined handicaps:

Combined Hdcp		Per cent		Combined Hdcp		Per cent		Combined Hdcp		Per cent	
10 (and under)	35.	28	36.8	46	38.6	64	40.4				
11	35.1	29	36.9	47	38.7	65	40.5				
12	35.2	30	37.	48	38.8	66	40.6				
13	35.3	31	37.1	49	38.9	67	40.7				
14	35.4	32	37.2	50	39.	68	40.8				
15	35.5	33	37.3	51	39.1	69	40.9				
16	35.6	34	37.4	52	39.2	70	41.				
17	35.7	35	37.5	53	39.3	71	41.1				
18	35.8	36	37.6	54	39.4	72	41.2				
19	35.9	37	37.7	55	39.5	73	41.3				
20	36.	38	37.8	56	39.6	74	41.4				
21	36.1	39	37.9	57	39.7	75	41.5				
22	36.2	40	38.	58	39.8	76	41.6				
23	36.3	41	38.1	59	39.9	77	41.7				
24	36.4	42	38.2	60	40.	78	41.8				
25	36.5	43	38.3	61	40.1	79	41.9				
26	36.6	44	38.4	62	40.2	80	42.				
27	36.7	45	38.5	63	40.3						

The recommended maximum handicap for any one player is 40 and the minimum scratch, under this system. Fractions of .5 and more are computed as 1.

These allowances were employed for the first time this spring in the John D. Chapman Memorial Mixed Foursomes, which the Silver Foils and Tin Whistles conduct at Pinehurst for a trophy honoring Chapman's late father, and the results were very satisfactory to Chapman. Mrs. F. S. Dick-

inson and H. B. Smith won with a gross score of 82 and a net score of .66. Of the seventy-one teams in the competition, only four had net scores under 70. The competition is at stroke play and Chapman has no basis for a recommendation for a match-play allowance.

The USGA itself has had no experience with the Chapman system of foursome play and therefore has no official recommendation for handicapping it.