

RULE 2. MATCH PLAY

2-1. General

Players must play the stipulated round until a winner is determined. Scoring is by holes. Terms are “holes up”, “all square”, “halved” and “dormie”.

If the players in a match agreed to omit two holes, i.e. agree to settle the match over 16 holes, the players are disqualified under Rule 1-3 for excluding the operation of Rule 2-1 by failing to play the stipulated round... provided the players knew that this was a breach of the Rules. If they did not know that their action was a breach of the Rules, the match stands as played.

2-2. Halved Hole

Each side has the same score for a hole; hole is halved. Players may agree to halve a hole once play has begun for the hole.

Except when competition is [Four-Ball Match Play](#), if a player has a stroke for a half and the opponent incurs a penalty, the hole is halved.

However, if the players agree to consider a hole halved without either player making a stroke, they should be disqualified under Rule 1-3 for agreeing to exclude the operation of Rule 2-1 by failing to play the stipulated round, provided the players knew that this was a breach of the Rules.

2-3. Winner of Match

One side leads by more holes than the number of holes remaining. Committee may extend a match to resolve a tie.

2-4. Concession of Match, Hole or Next Stroke

A match or a hole may be conceded at any time. When an opponent's ball is at rest, a player may concede the opponent's next stroke. A concession is binding on both/all players in the match.

(For scoring on a hole, see [handshake Decision 2-3/2](#))

2-5. Doubt as to Procedure; Disputes and Claims

A specified process requires that the player making the claim has notified his opponent at the time

- (i) that he is making a claim or wants a ruling and
- (ii) the facts upon which the claim or ruling is to be based.

The claim must be made prior to start of next hole or in the case of the last hole of the match, before all players in the match leave the putting green, or when the circumstances giving rise to the claim are discovered after all the players in the match have left the putting green of the final hole but before the result of the match has been officially announced unless claim is based on facts previously unknown or player had been given wrong information.

Notes clarify that a player may disregard a breach by an opponent as long as they do not agree to waive a Rule and that a player in doubt of his rights or the correct procedure may not complete play of the hole with two balls.

2-6. General Penalty

Breach of a Rule in match play is loss of hole unless otherwise specified.