



## How is Handicap Match Play Played?

Handicap Match Play is a format in golf that allows players of different skill levels to compete fairly. Here's a simplified guide on how it works, including how to calculate and allocate strokes.

### 1. Understanding Handicaps.

A handicap is a measure of a golfer's ability, used to adjust scores for fair competition.

### 2. Calculating Shots to be Given.

**Daily Handicaps:** Use each player's daily handicap.

**Handicap Difference:** Subtract the lower handicap from the higher handicap. This difference is the number of strokes given. For example, if Player A's handicap is 10 and Player B's is 18, Player B receives 8 strokes.

### 3. Allocating Strokes Using the Match Play Index. Strokes are allocated based on the Match Play Index on the scorecard, NOT the Stroke Index:

Player A to give strokes to Player B on the holes numbered 1 to 8 on the Match Play Index as per the above example.

### 4. Playing the Match

#### **Winning Holes:**

The player with the lowest nett score (actual score minus handicap strokes) wins the hole.

#### **Match Outcome:**

The match is over when one player leads by more holes than there are still to play. A 4&3 victory is when one side is four holes up with only three holes to play.

If a match is "all square" after 18 holes, the match shall continue from the first hole played until a decision has been reached.