

1.1 Tournament Formats

Stroke play: In stroke play, every player (or team) completes all 18 holes and counts the total number of strokes and the player/team with the lower total net score (gross score minus handicap) wins.

Match play: In match play, two players (or two teams) play every hole as a separate contest against each other. The player/team with the lower score wins that hole, regardless of how many shots he won the hole by. If the scores of both players or teams are equal the hole is “halved” (drawn). The game is won by the player/team that wins more holes than the other.

The following is explanation of various formats played in BAGG tournaments.

1.1.1 **Scramble Format:**

Scramble is a common format played in team tournaments in BAGG. It is generally played in teams of twosome. For each twosome, both players tee off on each hole. Each two some will decide which of the two shots to play. Following shall take place before playing the next shot: The ball should be marked. In case the original ball is played first and there is no marker for the second player to play his shot, the second person loses the ability to play that shot. Original ball can be lifted and cleaned before playing the next shot. They must do so without changing the lie and ball cannot be placed closer to the hole. At the option of the player, a ball can be dropped or placed, but it cannot be played from a place which is more than a club length away from the mark of the original ball. A lie cannot be changed by using the club length relief. If the original ball is in the rough, the next shot must be played from the rough, even if the fairway is within a club length. Same rule applies for hazards, etc. Players continue the same process for subsequent shots until reaching the Putting Green.

Putting Green ONLY: Mark the spot of the original ball. Original ball may be lifted and cleaned. A player should place his ball within 3 inches or less of the mark no closer to the pin. Players in a twosome can play in any sequence. Once the first putt is made, unless the ball is holed out, the player should mark the ball, lift it and let the other player putt. If a player putts out (i.e. puts his ball in the hole) the hole is considered over for that twosome, and then his partner’s putt will not be counted. Where the tournament course has drop zones on some of the holes, if a twosome intends to utilize the drop zone, they will need to add a penalty stroke to their score and both players to play from the drop zone. The ball must be dropped in the drop zone. This rule does not apply to a lost ball. If there’s standing water or soggy area on course, a twosome can take a relief per USGA as nearest point of relief. Make sure the other twosome agrees with the drop and relief.

Both twosomes will record the gross and net scores on the scorecard. The tournament organizers will provide official scorecards, with strokes assigned to each twosome on specified holes. In match play, the twosome with the lowest net score wins the hole. The hole is considered tied (or halved) if the net scores are equal. A match will be finished when a team has won enough holes that the other team cannot catch up for a tie or a win.

Handicaps in Scramble Tournaments: For a 2-person scramble: Take 35% of the lower handicap player's course handicap and add it to 15% of the higher handicap player's course handicap.

1.1.2 Alternate Shot or Foursome:

Alternate shot is a golf competition format in which two golfers play as partners, playing only one golf ball, taking turns playing the strokes. In other words, the two golfers alternate taking shots. Alternate shot is commonly known as foursomes and can be played as stroke play or match play. Penalty strokes do not affect the order of play in alternate shot. If a player hits a shot out of bounds on the tee box, the partner hits next from the tee box. If a player hits a shot into a water hazard, the partner will take a drop (if necessary) and hits. In fact, if a player hits a drive and thinks it might be lost, the partner would hit the provisional. The only time a player would hit twice in a row is if he had to replay a stroke for a rules violation, i.e. playing out of order or if the player is required to hit again without penalty (for example, if course's local rules require the player to replay the shot if the ball hits overhead wires). In match play, the partners on a side lose the hole if they play out of order. In stroke play, playing out of order results in the cancellation of the stroke and a penalty of two strokes, with the golfers required to replay the stroke. Failure to correct the error results in disqualification.

Example of Alternate Shot Play

Players A and B partner one another on an alternate shot team, or side. They decide among themselves who tees off first on the first hole. Let's say they decide on Player A to hit the opening tee ball. So, on the first hole, A hits the tee shot. They walk to the ball, and Player B hits the second shot. The third stroke is played by Player A. Then Player B hits the fourth. They alternate hitting shots until the ball is in the hole.

They also alternate hitting tee shots, so since in our example Player A hits the drive on the first hole, on the second hole Player B tees off; and so on throughout the round. The golfer who tees off on No. 1 is also going to tee off on Nos. 3, 5, 7 and so on - all the odd-numbered holes; and the golfer who tees off on No. 2 will also tee off on Nos. 4, 6 and so on - all the even-numbered holes.

Handicaps in Alternate Shot: Per section 9-4 USGA Handicap Manual, in match play, the four golfers involved in the match determine their course handicaps. The partners on each side combine those course handicaps. The higher-handicapped side gets 50-percent of the difference between the combined Course Handicap of each side, and the lower handicapped side plays off scratch.

Side A-B with a combined Course Handicap of 15 competes against side C-D with a combined Course Handicap of 36. The higher handicapped side, C-D, receives 11 strokes ($36 - 15 = 21 \times 50\% = 10.5$ rounded to 11). Strokes are taken as assigned on the players' respective stroke allocation table.

In stroke play, an alternate-shot side combines its two players' course handicaps and divides by two. On side A-B, Player A has a Course Handicap of 5 and Player B has a Course Handicap of 12. Side AB's combined Course Handicap is 17. Side A-B will receive 9 strokes ($17 \times 50\% = 8.5$, rounded to 9).

1.1.3 Best Ball:

Best Ball formats require at least two players on a team. During a Best Ball stroke-play format, each player on the team plays their own ball. The lowest score at the conclusion of the hole counts as the team score.

Handicap in Best Ball: Per section 9-4 USGA Handicap Manual, men play with 90% of their course adjusted handicap.

1.1.4 Stableford:

Per USGA Rule 32-1b, Stableford format is defined as:

The scoring in Stableford competitions is made by points awarded in relation to a fixed score at each hole as follows:

Hole Played In	Points
More than one over fixed score or no score returned	0
One over fixed score	1
Fixed score	2
One under fixed score	3
Two under fixed score	4
Three under fixed score	5
Four under fixed score	6

The winner is the competitor who scores the highest number of points.

For Modified Stableford, point allocations for each tournament will be announced before the tournament.