

Rules for the EPO Pairs Competition.

The tournament is a team competition for teams of two, played as a four-ball best-ball match competition, like they use for example in the Ryder Cup.

Match play scoring consists of individual holes won, halved or lost. On each hole, the most that can be gained is one point. Golfers play as normal, counting the strokes taken on a given hole (with handicap, see below). On each hole, the best score of each pair is compared with the best score of the other pair. If the golfers tie, then the hole is halved.

Example : Let's say that (after deducting handicaps, i.e. net scores) you shot 4 strokes, your partner 5 and your opponents 5 and 6 respectively, your score of 4 is the lowest and your team therefore wins the hole. If your team has won 5 holes and your opponents have won 4. The score is not shown as 5 to 4; rather, it's rendered as 1-up for your team, or 1-down for your opponents. If you have won 6 holes and your opponents 3, then you are leading 3-up, and your opponents are trailing 3-down.

When one team is leading the match with more holes than there are holes left to play, that team has won the match.

Example: Say you reach a score of 3-up with 2 holes to play - you've clinched the victory, and the match is over.

For determining the handicaps for each match, the "Spielvorgabe" for each player is noted. Then the player with the lowest "Spielvorgabe" is set at scratch and the other three players will receive $\frac{3}{4}$ of the difference to their respective "Spielvorgabe" as their handicap for the match. For example, players A, B, C & D have "Spielvorgabe" of 9, 13, 17 & 21 respectively. Player A is set at scratch and players B, C & D with the difference 4, 8 & 12 receive $\frac{3}{4}$ of this which is 3, 6 & 9 strokes respectively. The strokes are given according to the handicap index on the scorecard. The number of given strokes is limited to a maximum of 18.

If the score is all square after the last hole the players will play on until a team wins a hole (sudden death). Should the match have to be decided through sudden death, handicap shots are given on the same holes as in the original round.

The contenders will have to agree amongst themselves when and where the match will be played. If no agreement can be reached, the Match Secretary should be consulted.

The competition Committee reserve the right to decide a match by closed lot in the case where a match is not played within the given timeframe and an agreement could not be found.

It is of the greatest importance that the matches are played on time!

A tip is to schedule the matches as early as possible in the given timeframe.

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