

Tournament Formats

Alternate-Shot:

Alternate Shot is a format in which 2-person teams alternate hitting the same ball. The first player tees off, the second player hits the second shot, the first player hits the third shot, and so on until the ball is holed. Tee balls are alternated so that the same player doesn't hit every drive.

Better-Ball:

In a Better-Ball tournament, all members of each team play their own ball on each hole. At the completion of the hole, the lowest score among all team members serves as the team score. Example: if there are two members on a team, and on the first hole those two golfers score 4 and 5, the team score is 4, because that is the Best Ball among the two players.

Lone Ranger:

The Lone Ranger tournament format is a fun game that is played with foursomes. Every hole, one player in that foursome is assigned to be the Lone Ranger. On the 1st hole, player in position 1 in the pairings will act as the Lone Ranger. On the 2nd hole, player in position 2 in the pairings will act as the Lone Ranger. On the 3rd, player in position 3. On the 4th, player in position 4. The cycle then repeats throughout the rest of the round. When playing this format, the Team counts the Lone Ranger's ball as well as the best ball of the other 3 players. So, two balls will be counted on each hole.

Scramble:

The Scramble is probably the most common format for team tournaments. It can be played by 2-, 3- or 4-person teams, and involves choosing the one best shot following every stroke, with each team member then playing again from that one spot.

Stableford:

In the Stableford scoring system, points are earned on a hole-by-hole basis. On each hole a player scores points: 1 for a bogey, 2 for par, 3 for birdie, 4 for eagle, etc. Any score higher than a bogey gets 0 points so any very high score on a hole does not wreck the whole round. Also as soon as a player can no longer score a point he can pick up his ball to speed-up play. The highest 18-hole point total wins.

Pinehurst:

The Pinehurst System is a format for 2-person teams. Pinehurst is really a melding of several formats into one. In a Pinehurst event, both teammates hit tee-shots. They then switch balls after their tee shots and both hit a second shot. They then select the best ball after their second shots, and then play alternate shot until the ball is holed. The player whose second ball was not chosen plays the third shot (so teams might sometimes choose the best ball after two shots based on who will get to hit the third).