

Adopted Procedures for Score Posting in Partner Tournaments

It is necessary for the ADOGA, for handicap purposes, to post any and all scores from tournaments where players play their own ball throughout the entire round. This would be all individual tournament rounds and all team tournament rounds using the better ball format. The nature of better ball formats allows that it is sometimes unnecessary for both partners to hole out on a given hole. Because of this the ADOGA has adopted the USGA rule 4.1 for the accounting of unfinished holes. The rule is stated below:

Rule: 4-1. Unfinished Holes and Conceded Strokes

A player who starts, but does not complete a hole or is conceded a stroke must record for handicap purposes the most likely score. The most likely score may not exceed the player's Equitable Stroke Control limit, defined in Section 4-3. This most likely score should be preceded by an "X." (See Decision 4-1/1.)

There is no limit to the number of unfinished holes a player may have in a round, provided that failure to finish is not for the purpose of handicap manipulation.

Example: Player A and Player B are partners in a four-ball stroke play competition. On a hole on which neither player receives a handicap stroke, Player A lies two, 18 feet from the hole. Player B lies two, 25 feet from the hole. Player B holes the putt for a 3. Player A then picks up on the hole, because he cannot better player B's score. Player A records 4X on the scorecard for that hole because 4 is player A's most likely score.

Definition: Most Likely Score

A "most likely score" is the score a player must post for handicap purposes if a hole is started but not completed or if the player is conceded a stroke. The most likely score consists of the number of strokes already taken plus, in the player's best judgment, the number of strokes the player would take to complete the hole from that position more than half the time. This number may not exceed the player's Equitable Stroke Control limit. (See Section 4-3.)

Rule: 5-2a/5. Assigning Scores in Four-Ball (Better-Ball) When the Hole Scores are Left Blank

Q: During a golf club's four-ball (better-ball) tournament, a player leaves two individual hole scores blank on the scorecard because the partner's scores were used on those holes, as allowed under "The Rules of Golf," Rule 31-4. For handicap purposes only, what scores may the committee enter for the player on those two holes?

A: If the player can be contacted and recall the strokes played on these two holes, the player must record the actual score for each hole, not to exceed the player's Equitable Stroke Control limit. If the player picked up on those holes, the committee must record the most likely score, had the player completed the holes. (See Section 4-1.) However, if that information is not available, the committee must record a score of par plus any handicap strokes to which the player was entitled based on the player's Course Handicap. (See Handicap Decision-4-111.)