



CALL TO ORDER

Depending on the format, it's important for all players to know whose turn it is to play

When you get to the tee, have you ever wondered who is supposed to play in what order? Can your opponent or fellow competitors choose to play ready golf or do golfers have to play the honor? Are players penalized for playing out of turn?

In stroke play, the order of play generally is not a critical issue because one plays against the field and a player gains or loses no advantage as a result of playing out of turn. In match play, however, the order of play could have a significant effect on how an opponent chooses to play his next stroke. There is no penalty for playing out of turn in stroke play, and while there is similarly no penalty in match play, the opponent *may* recall

the stroke — in other words, choose to have the player replay the shot in the correct order. Rule 10 of *The Rules of Golf* provides a precise structure for the order in which the ball is played from the teeing ground and during the play of the hole.

In match play, Rule 10-1a provides that the start of play is determined by the order of the draw, or if there is no draw, the order of play is decided by lot. The side that wins the hole has the honor at the next teeing ground and if the hole is halved, the side that had the honor at the previous tee retains it for the next hole. When in the fairway or on the putting green, Rule 10-1b governs the order of play. The ball farther from the hole is played first and if it can't be determined which is farther from the hole, the order of play is determined by lot.

There is no penalty for playing out of order in match play, whether on the teeing ground, through the green or on the putting green, but the opponent has the right to immediately require the player to cancel the stroke and replay it in the correct order. The opponent invoking this right may *not* wait until after he takes a stroke before the decision to recall is made; if he makes a stroke, he has waived his right to recall the stroke.

In stroke play, Rule 10-2a provides that the start of play is identical to the start in match play. Thereafter, the competitor with the lowest gross score takes the honor at the next tee and the competitor with the next lowest gross score plays next, and so on. If two or more competitors have the same score, the honor is determined

by the order of play from the previous tee.

There is no penalty for playing out of turn in stroke play anywhere on the course and the ball is played as it lies; however, if it is determined that the players have agreed to play out of turn to give one of them an advantage, both are disqualified.

Since everyone seems to be cognizant of pace of play these days, it is important to remember that Order of Play, Rule 10, is still a rule. A player who allows someone to play out of turn in match play has waived his right to recall the stroke.

It also is important to know that in Four-Ball, partners may decide their order of play as long as the side with a ball farthest from the hole plays first.

The rules of golf are intricate. If you have a good understanding of Rule 10, it may help make better strategic decisions, especially in match play. 🌟

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