



## COMPETITIONS: DECIDING TIES

Ray Burniston gives advice about a tie in a tournament.

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We are often asked at HQ what to do if there is a tie in a tournament and what actually constitutes the last nine holes.

Firstly it is advisable to have clear cut rules for all club competitions and in these state quite clearly how any ties are decided. If there is a play off for the trophy this should clearly state the number of holes to be played and time and place. If it is a sudden death play-off from a particular hole then state quite clearly what holes and in what order you play them. In club open competitions this is often done on the holes adjacent to the clubhouse to avoid the competitors having a long walk back.

In the case of ties decided on the last 9, 6 or 3 holes etc, it is generally accepted that there can only be one last nine ie 10 - 18 regardless of where competitors start from. Match play competitions should state clearly the rules that concern the competition and these should be displayed when you are asking members to enter.

In a medal competition deciding a tie on the last nine, six or three holes the handicap is split accordingly including any fractions. In a Stableford then the strokes will have been given according to the handicap at the required holes.

It is a good policy to annually check through your rules for each competition at your club and update as necessary and if you are starting at a new club then make sure you have rules and publish them along with the notice inviting entries.

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