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Golf Basics



Golf Terminology & Explanation





Golf Explained - Overview Slide

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Flight	Handicap
Greensome	Shotgun
Par	Stable ford scoring



Golf Purpose:



To reach every hole with the *least* amount of strokes from the start (=tee off).

3 Types of holes:

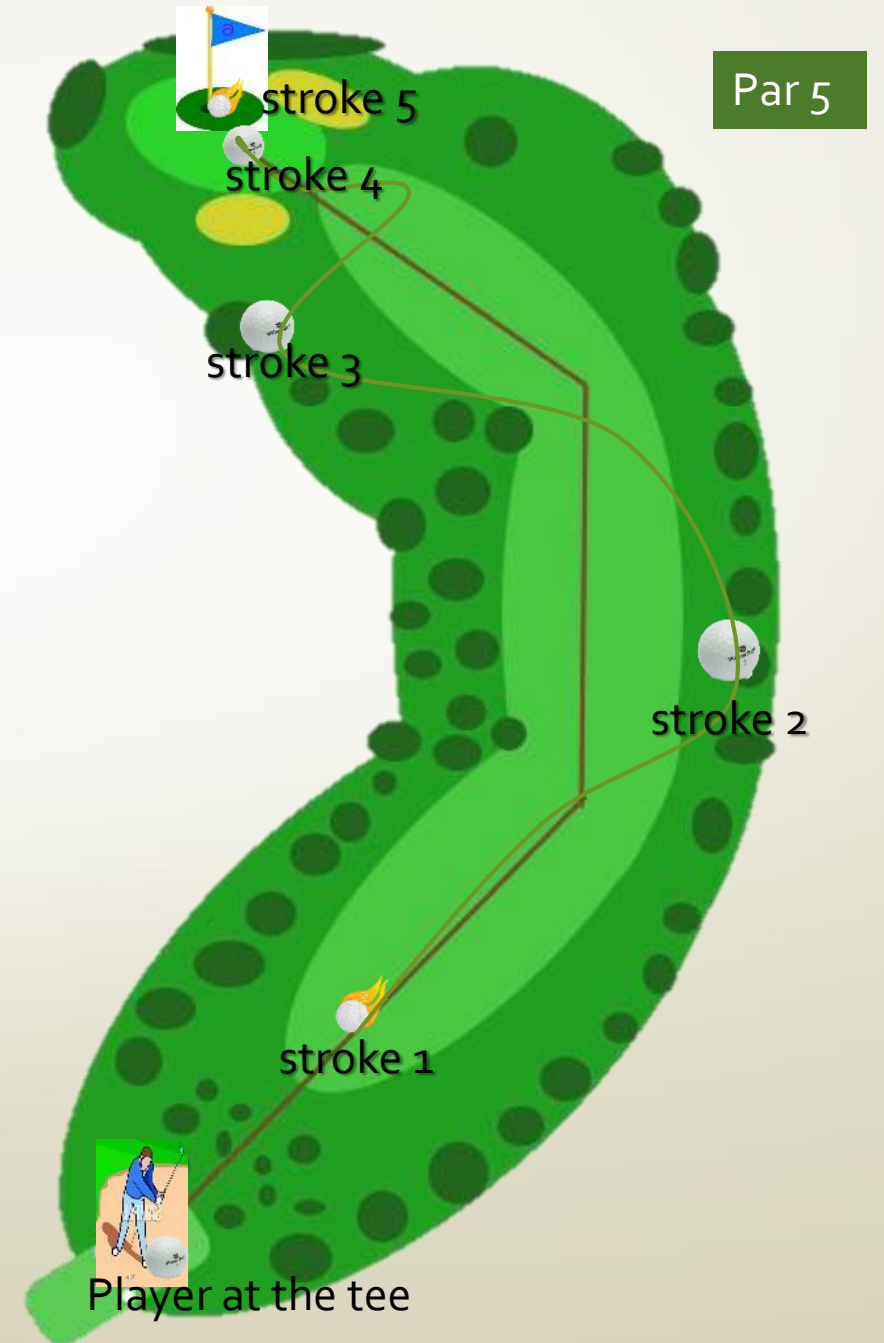
- Par 3 (=3 strokes 'allowed': 3 strokes = "par" = 2 points)
- Par 4 (=4 strokes 'allowed': 4 strokes = "par" = 2 points)
- Par 5 (=5 strokes 'allowed': 5 strokes = "par" = 2 points)

The distance between the *tee* & *hole* determines par 3, 4 or 5

Golf Course: (Often) total of 18 holes to play:

Holes 1-9 = front holes

Holes 10-18 = back holes



Golf Course



Golf course with 18 holes:

- Holes 1-9: front holes;
- Holes 10-18: back holes



Hole	Par	Hole	Par
1	4	10	4
2	4	11	5
3	3	12	4
4	4	13	3
5	5	14	4
6	4	15	4
7	3	16	3
8	4	17	4
9	5	18	5
<i>Total</i>	36	+	36

**= 72
strokes**

Golf Scoring:



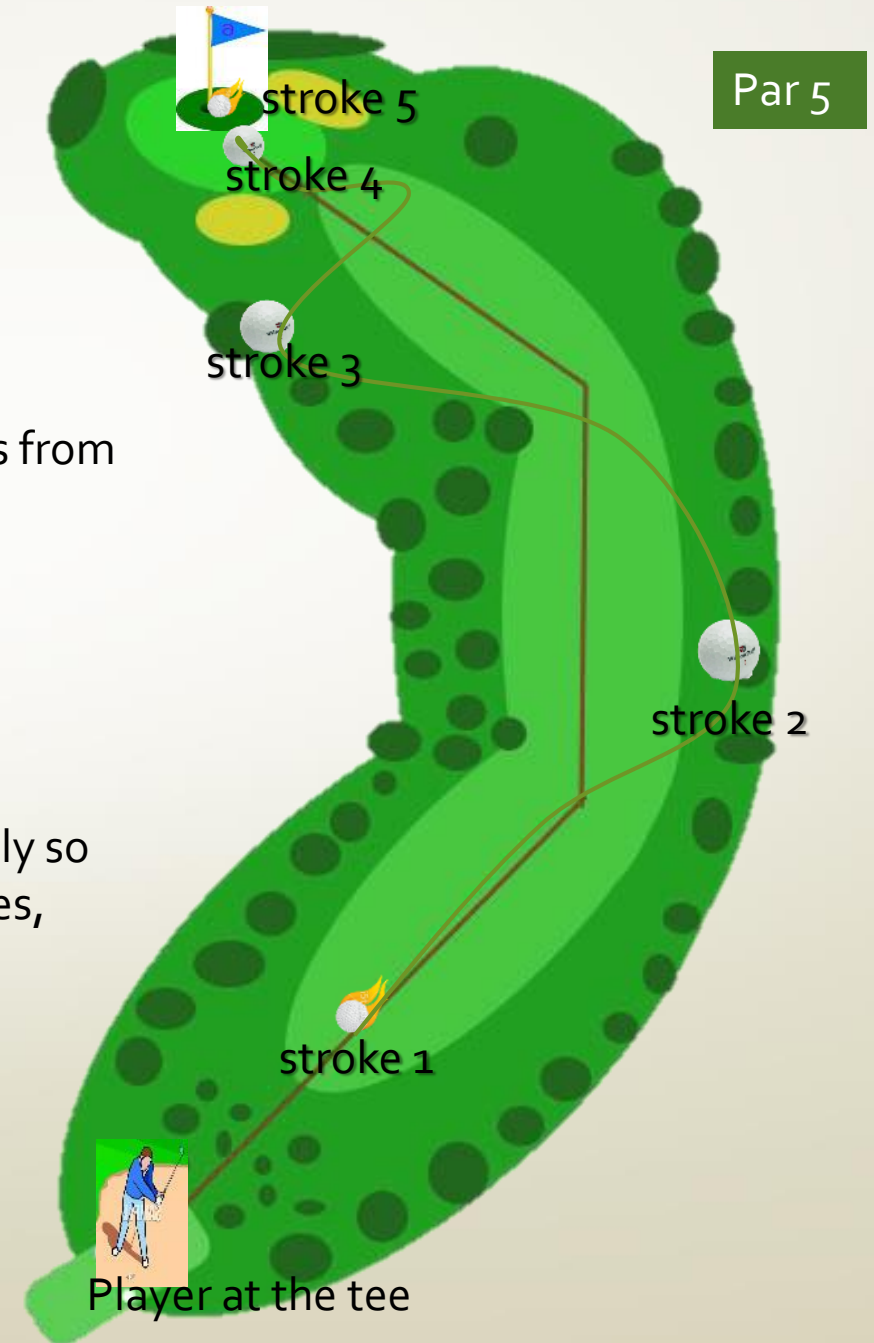
A Professional Player:

is expected to play 'par' or lower;
= to reach the hole within respectively 3, 4 or 5 strokes or less from the tee in order to score points.

- Par 3 in 3 strokes or less
- Par 4 in 4 strokes or less
- Par 5 in 5 strokes or less

Most amateur golfers are not able to reach the holes with only so few strokes allowed. Therefore they are allowed more strokes, depending on their '*handicap*'.

A professional golfer has a zero *handicap*.





Handicap (above zero)

Allows a golfer extra strokes to reach the hole (play 'par') and score points. How many strokes depends on the expertise (or lack thereof 😊) of the golfer

Amateur Golfers

Most amateur players play with a *handicap*: A weaker player has a higher handicap and is allowed more strokes than a stronger player with a lower handicap.

Example

Player 1 is a beginner and has a handicap of 54: Player 1 gets 3 extra strokes on this **par 5** hole:

$5 + 3 = 8$: so **8** strokes = his "par" on this **par 5** hole and he scores 2 points on this hole.



Another Example:



Player 2 has more golf experience and his handicap is 36:

- Player 2 gets **2** extra strokes on this **par 5** hole:

5 + 2 = 7: player 2's par is **7**. He only used **6** strokes so he plays *below* his par and he scores an extra point: **3** points instead of **2** on this hole.



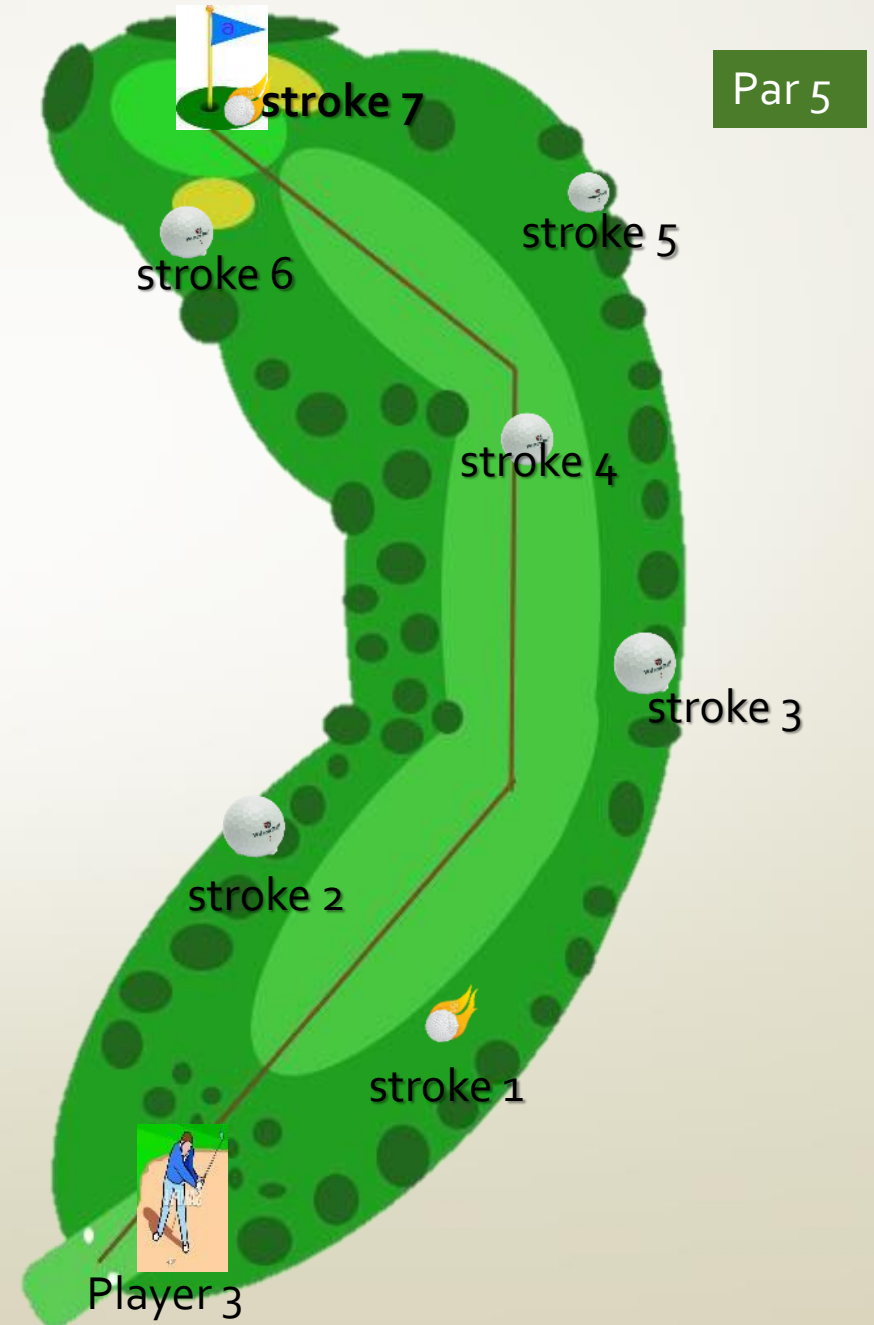
One more Example:



Player 3 is a good amateur golfer and his handicap is 18:

Player 3 gets **1** extra stroke on this **par 5** hole:

5 + 1 = 6: player 3's par is **6**. He did not play well today: he needed **7** strokes so he played *above* his par and he scores only **1** point instead of **2** on this hole.









More information: click:

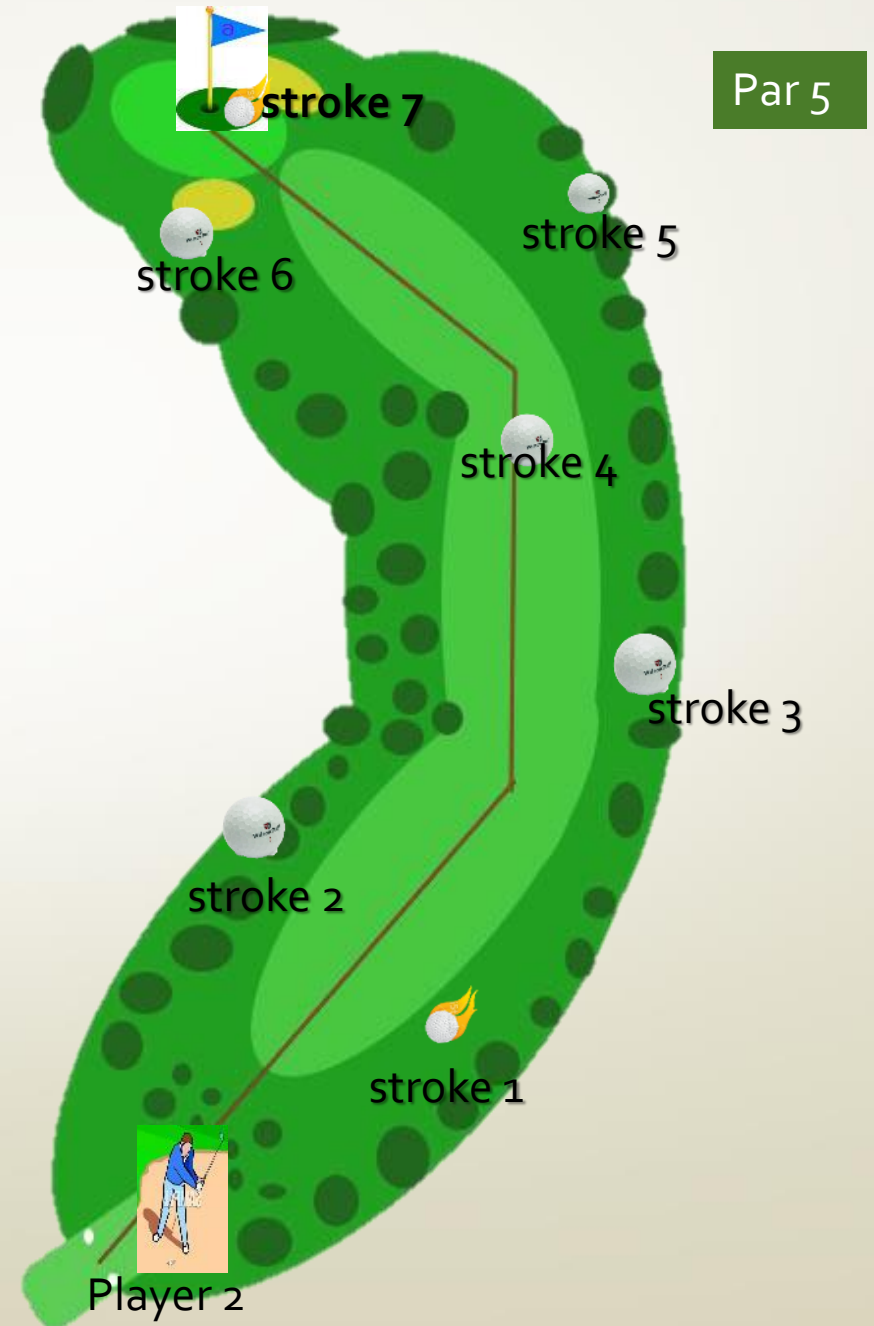


Defined terms: Above and Below Par:

The exact "par" depends on the golfer's handicap:

Example: On a **par 5** hole with *zero* handicap:

- Par = 5 strokes = 2 points 
- Birdie = one under par = 4 strokes = 3 points 
- Eagle = 2 under par = 3 strokes = 4 points 
- Albatross = 3 under par 
- Bogey = one over par = 6 strokes = 1 point 
- Double-bogey = two above par = 7 strokes = no points 





Handicap & *Playing* Handicap



Playing Handicap

The playing handicap is based on the exact handicap, but corrected with the degree of difficulty of the particular golf course being played.

The playing handicap can be found in the club house of the golf course or at the first hole.

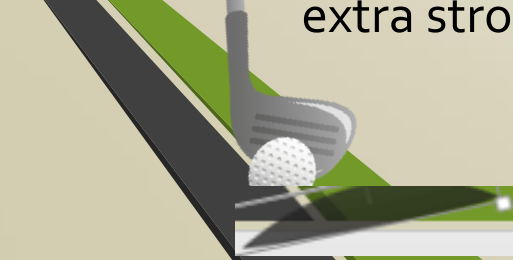
The **playing handicap** is equal to the handicap strokes. Which is the amount of extra strokes above PAR a player receives for a round of golf.

For example: a female golfer has a handicap of **36**.

On this golf course she has a *playing* handicap of **23**; so she receives **23** extra strokes when she plays the first 9 holes.

In my Excel spreadsheet I need to calculate the playing handicap of the players and my formulas are based on it.

Red Women 1-9	
Exact HCP	PL HCP
11,5	7
11,6	8
13,2	9
14,8	10
16,5	11
18,1	12
19,7	13
21,3	14
23	15
24,6	16
26,2	17
27,9	18
29,5	19
31,1	20
32,7	21
34,4	22
36	23
38	24
40	25
42	26
44	27
46	28
48	29
50	30
52	31
54	32



Golf Terminology

As used in my spreadsheet



Use of term	Explanation
Flight	A team of golfers player together. A flight consists of at least 1 to maximum 4 players.
Greensome	Match in which both golfers in a team play their own ball from the tee; the best ball is chosen and alternate strokes are played to complete the hole. Both players tee off separately on every hole and chose best ball.
Handicap	A numeric measure of a golfer's potential playing ability based on the tees (holes) played for a given course. A handicap is calculated with a specific formula that approximates how many strokes above or below par (3, 4 or 5) a player might be able to play
Par	The expected score (3, 4 or 5) that a professional golfer can get on a hole or course
Shotgun	A golf tournament format in which all flights tee off (start) simultaneously from different holes. Each hole on the course become a tee-off hole for each foursome. Group 1 starts from hole 1, group 2 from hole 2, etc.
Stable ford scoring	A scoring system used to calculate points. Instead of counting the total amount of strokes taken over the course (=stroke play), it involves scoring points based on the number of strokes taken per hole. (Mostly used in amateur golf). My spreadsheet calculations are based on Stable ford scoring.