

## 21.2 Maximum Score

### A. Overview of Maximum Score

**Maximum Score** is a form of **stroke play** where a player's or side's score for a hole is capped at a maximum number of strokes set by the **Committee**, such as two times par, a fixed number or net double bogey.

The normal Rules for **stroke play** in Rules 1-20 apply, as modified by these specific Rules. [Rule 21.2](#) is written for:

- Scratch competitions, but can be adapted for handicap competitions as well, and
- Individual play, but can be adapted for competitions involving **partners**, as modified by Rules [22](#) (**Foursomes**) and [23](#) (**Four-Ball**), and for team competitions, as modified by [Rule 24](#).

### B. Scoring in Maximum Score

(1) **Player's Score on Hole**. A player's score for a hole is based on the player's number of strokes (including strokes made and penalty strokes), **except** that the player will get only the maximum score even if the actual score exceeds the maximum.

A player who does not **hole out** under the Rules for any reason gets the maximum score for the hole.

To help pace of play, players are encouraged to stop playing a hole when their score has reached the maximum.

The hole is completed when the player **holes out**, chooses not to do so or when his or her score has reached the maximum.

(2) **Score Entered for Each Hole**. To meet the requirements in [Rule 3.3b](#) for entering hole scores on the scorecard:

- **If Hole Is Completed by Holing Out**.
  - **When Score Is Lower Than Maximum**. The scorecard must show the actual score.
  - **When Score Is Same as or Higher Than Maximum**. The scorecard must show either no score or any score at or above the maximum.
- **If Hole Is Completed Without Holing Out**. If the player does not **hole out** under the Rules, the scorecard must show either no score or any score at or above the maximum.

The **Committee** is responsible for adjusting the player's score to the maximum for any hole where the scorecard shows either no score or any score above the maximum and, in a handicap competition, for applying handicap strokes to the score entered for each hole.

### C. Penalties in Maximum Score

All penalties that apply in **stroke play** apply in **Maximum Score**, **except** that a player who breaches any of these four Rules is not disqualified **but** gets the **maximum score** for the hole where the breach happened:

- Failure to hole out under [Rule 3.3c](#),
- Failure to correct mistake of playing from outside the teeing area in starting a hole (see [Rule 6.1b\(2\)](#)),
- Failure to correct mistake of playing a wrong ball (see [Rule 6.3c](#)), or
- Failure to correct mistake of playing from a wrong place when there is a serious breach (see [Rule 14.7b](#)).

If the player breaches any other Rule with a penalty of disqualification, the player is **disqualified**.

After applying any penalty strokes, the player's score for a hole cannot exceed the maximum score set by the Committee.