

Pinehurst

Pinehurst (or Pinehurst System) is a 2-person team competition format. The "inventor," Dick Chapman - a great amateur golfer who played The Masters 17 consecutive years - came up with the format at Pinehurst Resort. Hence, the format is Chapman or Pinehurst. And, for good measure, it is less frequently referred to as American Foursomes.

In the Pinehurst System, both players tee off, then they switch balls. Player A plays Player B's drive, and vice-versa. Each player hits the second shot. They then select the best of the second shots, and from that point until the ball is holed they play only one ball in an [alternate shot](#) format. Got it?

Switch balls after the drive, select the one best ball after the second shot, play alternate shot until the ball is holed. The player whose second ball was not chosen gets to play the third shot (so teams might sometimes choose the best ball after two shots based on who will get to hit the third).

Pinehurst (or Chapman, or American Foursomes, or whatever you want to call it) can be played as stroke play or match play.

If playing your team against my team with all four players of equal abilities, play it at scratch. But it's a great game for twosomes of varying abilities, or husbands and wives.

Handicap allowances for Pinehurst competitions can be found in the USGA Handicap Manual, Section 9-4 (www.usga.com).

Modified Pinehurst

Modified Pinehurst is a competition format for 2-person teams. In Modified Pinehurst, both team members tee off. They select the one best drive, then play [alternate shot](#) into the cup. The golfer whose drive was not chosen hits the second shot.