

Ryder Cup matchplay explained

The Ryder Cup, held every other year between 12-member teams of professional golfers from Europe and the United States, consists of 28 matches played across three days in five matchplay sessions

MATCHPLAY FORMAT

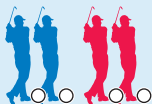


Total matches



Foursomes: Each team has two players and uses one ball – players take alternate shots, taking turns to tee-off
Four-match session played on each of first two days

8



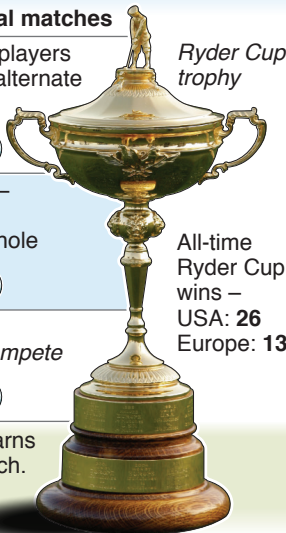
Four-ball: Two players per team – each player uses his own ball, so four balls are in play on every hole
Four-match session played on each of first two days

8



Singles: One player per team
All 12 players from both teams compete head-to-head in final session on third day

12



Ryder Cup trophy

All-time Ryder Cup wins –
USA: **26**
Europe: **13**

SCORING: Team with best score after 18 holes earns one point. Both teams earn half-point for tied match.
Team needs minimum of 14½ points to win*

RYDER CUP POINTS RECORD

Team USA

All-time (1927-2016)

Team Europe†



531½

424½



Since Team Europe debut (1979-2016)



72½

79½



70

83



120½

107½



Total 263

269 Total

*If matches end in 14-14 draw, team holding Ryder Cup retains it.

†Team referred to as “Great Britain” until 1971, and “Great Britain and Ireland” from 1973-1977. Team has included players from continental Europe since 1979