

Ryder Cup matchplay format explained

The Ryder Cup is a three-day tournament in which 12-member teams representing Europe and the United States compete in 28 matches featuring three different types of matchplay

DAYS 1 AND 2: 16 matches



Four-ball: Each match has two teams of two players, with everyone playing their own ball
8 matches (four per day)



Foursomes: Two teams of two, but each pair uses one ball and players hit alternate shots
8 matches (four per day)

DAY 3: 12 matches



Singles: One player per team. Team captains list their players from 1-12 and each then plays against his opposite number

Scoring: Match winner after 18 holes is awarded one point for their team. Both teams earn half-point if match is tied

Winner: First team to 14½ points. If scores are level at 14-14, defending team retains cup



All-time wins

26

14

U.S. Europe

RYDER CUP ALL-TIME POINTS

(1927-2018)



United States

Europe*



116½

104½



153

128



272½

209½



Total 542

442

Total

*Europe team known as Great Britain until 1971, and as Great Britain and Ireland from 1973-1977. Team has included players from continental Europe since 1979