

Golf Tournament Flighting Guide

How to Create Fair & Fun Flights for Your Event

Why Flights Matter

Organizing a golf tournament is no small feat! From recruiting sponsors to managing logistics, it's easy to get overwhelmed. This guide features ready-to-use AI prompts designed to help golf event planners like you save hours and wow your stakeholders.

Step 1: Choose Your Format

Before you even think about flights, decide how your tournament is structured:

- **Individual Flights** - Best for stroke play or match play. Players compete based on their own handicap index.
- **Team Flights** - Common for scrambles, best-ball, or shambles. Teams compete based on a group handicap calculation.

Your format determines whether you'll be dividing players or teams into flights.

Step 2: Define Your Flights

Flights are brackets that group players/teams by skill. You'll need to set rules upfront:

- **By Handicap Ranges**
 - For example:
 - Flight A: +4 - 5.9
 - Flight B: 6.0 - 11.9
 - Flight C: 12.0-17.9
- **Even Splits** - Divide the field into equal-sized flights, regardless of handicap. Works well when the field is balanced.
- **Hybrid** - Blend equal splits with rough handicap boundaries to balance both fairness and numbers.

Step 3: Assign Players to Flights

Now place players or teams into the right bracket:

- Pull player or team handicaps (from GHIN, spreadsheets, or your event software).
- Apply the method you chose in Step 2.
- Review to ensure flights feel fair and competitive.

Step 4: Decide How Many Flights to Create

Use your field size as a guideline:

- Fewer than 40 players → 1–2 flights
- 40 to 80 players → 3–4 flights
- 80 to 120 players → 4–6 flights
- 120+ players → 6+ flights

Aim for **10–20 players (or teams) per flight** to keep competition balanced.

Step 5: Calculate Team Handicaps (if applicable)

For team formats, you'll need a method to calculate each team's handicap:

- **Average Method:** Add all handicaps, divide by team size.
- **Percentage Method** (Scramble Standard)
 - 90% of lowest handicap
 - 10% of second lowest
 - Others excluded
- **Sum Method** - Add all player handicaps for one total. Often used in net formats.

Pro Tips

- ✓ **Communicate flight rules early** so players know what to expect.
- ✓ **Keep it transparent** – share brackets before the event.
- ✓ **Use tools** like Partaake to automate flight creation and handicap math.

Find more checklists, templates, and planning tools at partaake.com/blog.

Ready to save even more time? Create your first event with Partaake today.