Golf Formats Explained: What to Expect on the Course

Key Concepts Covered

- Stroke Play: Most common format-every stroke counts, and the lowest score after 18 holes wins.
- Match Play: Players compete hole-by-hole-win a hole, earn a point. Most points wins the match.
- Best Ball: Played in teams-each player plays their own ball, and the lowest score on the hole counts for the team.
- Scramble: All players tee off, the team selects the best shot, and everyone hits from that spot-repeat until holed.
- Stableford: Players earn points based on performance-2 for par, 3 for birdie, 1 for bogey. Encourages faster play.
- Modified Stableford: A more aggressive version-bigger rewards for birdies/eagles and penalties for bad holes.
- Alternate Shot: Teammates take turns hitting the same ball-one tees off, the other hits the next shot, alternating through the hole.

Pro Tips

- For business golf, expect scrambles-relaxed, social, and team-oriented.
- Best ball is great for beginners-contribute when you can, and let your partner cover rough holes.
- Understanding formats helps you blend in confidently and avoid confusion on the first tee.

Next Step: Watch the 'Golf Formats' video in your Golf4Biz Learning Center