

Data Golf Matchups

3-Balls: In all the books we include, ties in 3-balls are settled by dead heats. There are two ways you can simulate these matches: either with ties or without. The way the math works behind dead heat payouts is such that it will not matter which method you choose. Therefore we do the easier one and simulate with no ties. The listed “Data Golf” probability is the player’s win probability with no ties in the simulations. The expected value calculation is straightforward.

“Separate bet offered for tie”: In some books, 2-balls have a bet for the tie offered and in others they don’t. The same goes for 72-hole matchups. Therefore for bet types other than 3-balls it’s best to just look at the tie rules we’ve listed. In cases where there is a separate bet offered for the tie you lose the bet if the golfers tie. These bets do need to be simulated with ties; we provide the outright win probability for each golfer as well as the tie probability. The expected value calculation is again standard.

“Bets void in event of tie:” These are the only tricky bets to display. For these bets, you get your bet back if the golfers tie. Again, we simulate these matches with ties allowed. The “Data Golf” probabilities listed here are the win probabilities excluding ties. For example: suppose we simulate a match to be 45%, 45%, 10% for golfer 1 winning, golfer 2 winning, and a tie, respectively. Then, our listed probability for golfer 1 will be $0.45/0.90 = 50\%$ (we do this so it’s easy to compare to the implied odds of the bookmaker). If golfer 1 has European odds of 2.0, our expected profit on a 1 unit bet is: $0.45 * (2-1) - 0.45 = 0$.