

Rules Evening – 15 January 2015

Introduction

Quiz has happened – hope you enjoyed it, now I am going to talk you through some of the basics. Just to confirm my credentials; I passed the EGU County Referees course 3 years ago achieving distinction with an 85% pass rate. It was like going back to school; half of the exam was without books and you had to learn all of the sections and sub-sections off by heart.

Things to Remember

- Always carry the Rules of Golf with you.
- Familiarise yourself with how to find something in the book, including the definitions.
- Familiarise yourself with the definitions in the book, eg Water Hazards (It is the committee's responsibility to mark hazards appropriately but if markers/lines are missing, you should use where the ground drops to mark the margin.
- Check the local rules on the card
- Check on the notice board for any temporary rulings.
- Check each person's handicap before starting the match and ensure you agree the number of shots people get.
- When you are scoring someone's card it is important to apply the penalties – you are scoring on behalf of the rest of the field.

Top Ten Rules Tips

1. Make sure you can clearly identify your ball. If there is any doubt as to whether it is your ball, the ball is deemed lost.
2. Think your ball may be lost and playing a provisional. Clearly state you are playing a provisional – the word **PROVISIONAL MUST** be said. "I'll play another" is not good enough and would amount to playing three off the tee.
3. Not sure it is your ball. Ensure you advise your playing partners that you are going to identify your ball, then mark it before lifting to check it is yours. If you simply touch it/move it to check without doing this – 1 shot penalty!!
4. Any dropped ball, either from penalty or free, can roll up to a further two club lengths.
5. If it is a penalty drop, the reference for the drop is two club lengths – if free then it is one.
6. At any water hazard you have the option to replay from previous spot or drop keeping point of entry and flag in line. A RED lateral water hazard gives you additional options.

7. You do not get relief from immovable obstructions if they are in your line of play with the exception of sprinkler heads within two club lengths of the green. Your ball must be within two club lengths of the sprinkler head. (Local rule only)
8. You can deem any ball as unplayable (unless in water hazard) and you have three options
 - Play from original spot
 - 2 club lengths from where ball lay (in bunker if ball in bunker)
 - Back in line keeping flag and ball in line. (in bunker if ball in bunker)
9. In stroke play, if you are in any doubt you can play two balls. You must declare which you want to count if both scenarios prove to be ok. You do not have this option in match play.
10. In match play – once a putt is conceded the player cannot take the putt if it will help his partner.

Myth Busters

- Your opponents can stand behind you whilst you take your shot – it is just etiquette not to.
- You can mark your ball on the green with a tee.
- You can clean your ball by wiping on the green.
- You can brush loose impediments from your line of putt using anything, including your putter, as long as you don't press down on the green.
- You **cannot** declare your ball lost – it is the actions you take that result in a lost ball
- You can practice putt on the green you have just played
- You can rake a bunker before playing your shot as long as it is for maintaining the course and not for testing ground.
- You can remove rubbish from a bunker before playing, eg coke can
- You can touch sand in bunker to search for ball – once found you must replace and recreate lie.
- In match play – your ball can hit another ball when both on green.
- Knocking one leaf off of a very leafy tree on a practice swing is not a penalty.

Match Play/Stroke Play differences

<u>Rule</u>	<u>Stroke Play</u>	<u>Match Play</u>
General	Two shot penalty.	Loss of hole.
<u>Disputes</u> (2-5) Matchplay (3-3) Stroke Play	Play a second ball stating which one you want to count if rules permit.	Before teeing off at the next tee clearly state that you will take a dispute to the committee, including the details of the dispute.
(2-5)	No rules can be disregarded	A player may disregard a breach of rule but both players cannot agree to waive a rule.
(4-4) 14 Clubs	Not applicable	Partners may share clubs as long as no more than 14 in total.
(7-1) Practise before	No practise on course allowed.	Practise on course allowed.
(10) Playing out of turn	No penalty.	No penalty but opponent can ask you to cancel the shot and replay it.
(11-4) Outside teeing ground	Two shot penalty and the shot must be replayed from within the teeing ground	No penalty but opponent can ask you to cancel the shot and replay it.
(18-3 & 18-4) Ball at rest moved by fellow competitor/opponent	No penalty and ball must be replaced.	One shot penalty and ball must be replaced. (unless in searching for ball)
(19-5) Ball in motion deflect by another ball at rest	No penalty unless both balls lay on putting green prior to the stroke – then two shot penalty.	No penalty, even in both on putting green.

Rules Quiz

The following quiz relates to the rules of golf 2012 – 2015 and does not include local rules.

True or False

		True	False	Rule
1	In Matchplay, player A putts from on the green and strikes player B's ball which is also on the green. There is no penalty.	X		19-5
2	Stakes defining a water hazard or lateral water hazard that interfere with a player's stance or swing may be moved by the player	X		24-1 & Def
3	A player may remove an out of bounds post that interferes with his stance or swing.		X	Def
4	A player makes a stroke and the ball hits his own golf bag. The player is penalised 2 shots.		X	19-2
5	To identify a ball in the rough a player may rotate the ball in place without marking its position, providing they do not move it off its spot		X	12-2
6	A player cannot use a device that assists in measuring distances	X		14-3
7	A ball embedded in the stacked turf edging a bunker is not in the bunker	X		Def
8	A player may take relief from an embedded ball in the rough		X	25-2
9	Loose soil or sand may be removed anywhere on the course other than in a hazard		X	23-1 & Def
10	Before playing a match, player A plays in the club medal. Player A is disqualified from the match.		X	7-1

Number of shots penalty

No penalty = 0, One stroke = 1, Two strokes = 2(or Loss of hole),

Disqualification = DQ

1	A player's ball lies on the downslope of a bunker and he touches the sand on his backswing of his stroke.	2	13-4/31
2	A player's ball lies in a water hazard and he touches some growing grass on his backswing of his stroke.	0	13-4
3	A and B both hit their tee shots into shallow water hazard. A retrieves both balls and in error gives the wrong ball to B. A and B both take correct relief from the water hazard under penalty of one shot and continue to play the hole with exchanged balls.	0	15-1/4
4	A player arrives 10 minutes late for his official tee time	DQ	6-3
5	A player arrives 4 minutes late for his official tee time	2	6-3
6	A player has been asked to lift his ball as it interferes with play. The player lifts the ball and cleans it.	1	21
7	A player breaks the branch of a young tree situated out of bounds, which interferes with her swing	2	13-2/19
8	In stroke play A's putt stops just short of the hole and B, his fellow competitor, concedes the putt knocking the ball away. A lifts his ball, walks to the next tee and tees off. What is A's penalty?	DQ	3-2/1
9	In match play both players agree that whilst player A has moved the ball, the breach of rule will be ignored? What is A's penalty and what is B's penalty?	A) DQ B) DQ	1-3/4 (2-5)
10	In match play, A's ball is on the green and B feels it is interfering with her line. B, without asking A, marks and lifts A's ball.	1	20-1/2 18-3

Multiple Choice

1	<p>In a stableford competition a marker has recorded a player's gross scores correctly but has incorrectly recorded the points at one of the holes</p> <p>a) There is no penalty as the gross scores are correct</p> <p>b) The player is disqualified from the competition</p>	A	6-6d/2
2	<p>Whilst making a practice swing a player moves his ball in play with his club, and the ball ends up a couple of inches away.</p> <p>a) The player has made a stroke and must play the ball as it lies</p> <p>b) The player incurs a penalty of one stroke and must replace the ball</p> <p>c) There is no penalty but the player must replace the ball</p>	B	18-2a/20
3	<p>In match play, on a par 3 A looks into B's bag to deduce which club he is using.</p> <p>a) A incurs a penalty of loss of hole</p> <p>b) A is disqualified</p> <p>c) There is no penalty</p>	C	8-1/10
4	<p>In stroke play, a player's ball lies on the green. Before playing his next stroke he taps down spike marks in the vicinity of the hole but not on his line of putt.</p> <p>a) He incurs a penalty of two strokes</p> <p>b) He incurs a penalty of two strokes if the act assists with his subsequent play of the hole</p> <p>c) There is no penalty</p>	A	16-1c/4
5	<p>A player's ball lies on the fringe of the green and he plans to putt the ball. There is sand on the line of the shot, both on the fringe and on the green. The player brushes all of the sand away.</p> <p>a) He incurs no penalty</p> <p>b) He incurs a 2 shot penalty</p> <p>c) He incurs a 1 shot penalty</p>	B	13-2 Def

Note: In stroke play there is no penalty for touching a fellow competitor's ball, but there is for touching an opponent's ball in match play. Elton should have followed the procedure for identifying a ball set-out in Rule 12-2.

Jon 2 - Stroke to a greenside bunker.

Elton 3 - Stroke onto the putting green.

Jon 3 - Stroke from the bunker onto the putting green.

Note: Because his ball hit his opponent Jon was permitted to cancel his first stroke from the bunker and play again, without penalty, as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played (Rule 19-3). He was permitted to smooth the sand in the bunker before dropping his ball (Exception 2 to Rule 13-4).

Elton 4 - Putt to within 18 inches of the hole.

Elton 5 - Conceded putt.

Note: The fact that Elton putted and missed after the concession is irrelevant. The concession may not be withdrawn (Decision 2-4/6).

Jon 4 - Putt past the hole.

Jon 5 - Putt into the hole.

Both players scored 5 and so the hole is halved.

How many strokes?

Louise is playing Kathy in the final of the Club singles match play competition. Having won the first two holes Louise is putting her driver back in her bag after a good tee shot on the 3rd hole when she realises that she has not removed a club that she found on the course the day before, meaning that she is carrying 15 clubs in her bag. She advises Kathy that she has someone else's club in her bag but obviously will not be using it during the round. Kathy then drives her ball down the fairway, close to where Louise's ball is lying. Still worrying about the extra club that she was carrying Louise plays Kathy's ball by mistake. Kathy does not notice and plays Louise's ball to the putting green. Louise takes two more strokes to hole out and Kathy takes three. What is the state of the match at the end of this 3rd hole, assuming the opponents make a valid claim about any breach of the Rules that may have occurred?

Answer 55:

Louise won the first two holes

Louise lost the 3rd hole as soon as she played the wrong ball on her second stroke. The result of the hole was already decided when Kathy also played a wrong ball (Rule 15-3a).

At the conclusion of the 3rd hole, during which Louise had discovered that she had started the round with 15 clubs, the state of the match is adjusted by deducting one hole for each hole at which a breach occurred, with a maximum deduction per round of two holes (Rule 4-4a).

So, after winning two holes, losing one hole and having been deducted two holes, Louise is now 1 down.

The state of the match at the end of the 3rd hole is that Kathy is 1 up.