

IT'S YOUR HONOR

54 Perfect Lies

To THE USGA:

Mr. A. M. Reid's remark in a recent issue of the USGA JOURNAL that playing preferred lies "is not golf at all, and the players are only out for fresh air and exercise" could be elaborated on to good advantage. As a teaching professional, I feel strongly that players who regularly improve their lies miss a great part of the enjoyment of the game and also will never learn to hit shots really well.

When a player starts a round, he is guaranteed 54 perfect lies. He can tee up on 18 tees, and presumably he will have 36 perfect lies on the greens. On only a minority of his shots, therefore, does he even run the risk of an imperfect lie.

The few imperfect lies a player may find provide the challenge that makes golf a fascinating game.

The excuse that preferred lies spare the golf course is hardly valid. After all, when a player moves his ball from an imperfect piece of turf to a perfect piece, he will, in most cases, only dig up one more good piece of turf.

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Advice On Advice

To THE USGA:

I have been rather surprised to see how openly some of the big name pros ignore the rule on advice.

One quietly said to me during play here that he guessed he would do a little snooping on Ben Hogan, who was sizing up his shot to a green. The competitor walked over to Ben's bag of clubs and could tell at a glance the club Ben had in his hand by noting which was missing.

I do not care personally who peeks on me, and it would help me very little to spy on another competitor. No two players hit a ball exactly the same way, and there are several ways to play any shot.

Many ask and many tell a competitor the club that was used. I have yet to see the Rule enforced.

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Discourteous Defaults

To THE USGA:

Herewith is a copy of a letter which Mr. Joseph Esherick, President of the Golf Association of Philadelphia, sent to eight players in the Philadelphia Amateur Championship:

"In a recent Philadelphia Amateur Championship held by the Golf Association of Philadelphia, you qualified in the second sixteen and defaulted your first match.

"We of the Golf Association would like to call to your attention what this means in the operation of a golf tournament, but before going into that detail would like to remind you that, if you are not going to play through, the proper thing to do would be to inform the committee in charge that you would not play through the tournament, and that would have made your place available for someone else who would have been delighted to have competed in the second sixteen.

"By defaulting you upset the pairings of the Committee and we feel that in defaulting you have displayed very poor sportsmanship, been discourteous, first of all and most important, to your opponent with whom you have been paired, secondly, to the host club, and thirdly to the Golf Association of Philadelphia.

"As I mentioned in presenting the prizes at the completion of the tournament, it is my intention to recommend to the Executive Committee of the Golf Association that hereafter anyone who defaults without a good excuse, such as serious illness, a death in the family, etc., should be barred from all tournaments for the balance of the year.

"This last amateur championship was a big success except for the eight defaulters, who included yourself, and we are going to take steps as mentioned above to see that these defaults do not occur in the coming year."

MRS. RALPH I. RAYNOR, EXEC. SEC'Y,
GOLF ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA

Editor's Note: The USGA JOURNAL invites comments on matters relating to the welfare of the game and will publish them as space permits.

