

"My Golf Creed"

When James W. Spangler of Seattle was active as a banker, golfer and toastmaster in 1933, he composed "My Golf Creed" for the public benefit of his golfing opponents. He read it frequently at golfing dinners. The Creed has continued in circulation and has been republished in the Seattle Golf Club's "Divot Diggers Digest." Forest Watson of Seattle believes it deserves even wider circulation. We agree. Here it is:

My handicap is Eighteen.

I am not interested in hearing that you are not playing down to your admitted handicap.

I do not care to risk more than ten cents a point on this game.

I prefer to play first and second ball.

Please do not propose at the end of the first nine that the basis of the contest be modified.

Do not embarrass me by asking me to concede any of your putts. I will volunteer to do so if in my judgment it is deserved.

I admit it is a nice day for it.

Kindly refrain from a review of your previous golf performances.

It will be appreciated if you will avoid the usual, hackneyed, insincere expressions common to golf such as: 'That won't hurt you any'; 'Oh, too bad' (Meaning goodie! goodie! goodie! when uttered by an opponent); 'You should have had it' (also meaning goodie! goodie! under same authorship); 'We don't pay on the drive'; et cetera, et cetera.

Any complimentary expressions by an opponent concerning my shots will be understood as having an ulterior purpose and lacking sincerity.

I am aware that my practice swing is fair; please indulge me at least one on each tee—it's the most perfect part of my game.

It does not inspire me any to have other players engaging in practice swings when I am about to shoot.

The following imperfections in my golf performance are well-known to me:

Looking up.

Coming back too fast.

Standing too far ahead of the ball.

Standing too far behind the ball.

Playing off the left foot.

Not following through.

Bending left arm.

Lunging at the ball.

Stance too open.

Stance too closed.

Not pivoting.

Teeing ball too high.

Teeing ball too low.

Tightening up.

Too much right hand.

Not enough right hand.

Hitting ball on down instead of upswing.

Left foot too far forward.

Left foot too far back.

Wrong grip.

The above-mentioned faults have been pointed out to me by Bob Johnstone and also by one or more high-handicap men in practically every game I have played during the past 20 years. Calling my attention to these errors will be superfluous; no offense will result but your time could be more profitably employed. I will, however, appreciate it if you will, in a loud voice, call to my attention any imperfections which are not listed above.

The score card contains the local Rules. I shall expect you to apply them as scrupulously as though I were watching.

If I am 'up' on the last tee, I do not wish to give an additional one-half stroke or more and play the last hole 'double or nothing.'

I prefer, while at golf, not to be drawn into a discussion of business or economic subjects nor hear such discussion pursued by others.

If you must play 'Ship, Captain and Crew,' when this golf contest is finished, please make it a separate engagement not employed for the purpose of altering the monetary result of our golf. I reserve the right to refuse to shake.

Yes, I have heard the one about the banker with the glass eye, also the one concerning the banker who wished to shield his mother from the knowledge of the fact that he was a banker.

If it is agreeable to me to engage in a return match, I will so indicate at the appropriate time

WHEN THE GAME IS WON

When I've played my last shot to the home hole
And the span of my life has been run,
If I've kept the respect of my caddie,
I will feel that the game has been won.

Tho I've gathered no honors or trophies
And have played like the poorest of dubs,
Yet a prize I'll have won if I've kept the respect
Of the caddie who carried my clubs.
And if in the Great Book of Judgment,
These words are writ after my name,
"He kept the respect of his caddie,"
I will know that I won at the game.

—JUDGE EARLE F. TILLEY