

When Caddies Carry Double

One premise of the Rules of Golf is that each player has a separate caddie and that the caddie is, in a working sense, a partner of the player. But the game since the war has developed differently. At nearly every club there are more active players than caddies.

Thus, out of necessity, boys began to carry two bags instead of one, and situations were created for which the Rules of Golf do not provide.

Basically, a player always has been held responsible for the actions of his caddie. If a caddie interferes with a ball in a match, for instance, the effect is the same as if the player himself interfered.

Yet when a boy caddies for two opponents and, for example, interferes with a ball, takes a flagstick, causes a ball to move by picking up a loose impediment, or provides wrong information on the ownership of a ball, whose caddie is he deemed to be, and who is penalized?

Questions of this nature were submitted so frequently to the Rules of Golf Committee that the Association has recommended local rules for use when it is necessary to assign a caddie to two players.

Whenever possible, each player should have his own caddie and the Rules of Golf should have full effect. When this is impossible, it is recommended that the local committee adopt the following local rules to cover contingencies:

Match Play Singles

The caddie is an agency outside the match within the meaning of Rule 15 except when he acts upon specific directions of a player, in which case he is considered to be that player's caddie.

Instances in which he could be considered a player's caddie could arise under the following Rules:

- 4(1)—Advice.
- 7(1)—Irregularities of surface.
- 7(2a)—Removal of loose impediments.
- 7(3)—Fixed or growing impediments.
- 7(7)—Attending flagstick. The cad-

die should be specifically advised what to do. If he attends the flagstick without receiving instruction from either side, he is an agency outside the match. If he receives conflicting instructions from the two opponents, the wishes of the player who is about to play the stroke shall control.

12(1)—Accidentally moving ball. This applies only when the caddie is specifically doing a direction of the player affected.

13(1b)—Wrong information.

18(4)—Direction for putting.

18(5)—Exerting an influence upon the ball.

Best-Ball and Four-Ball Matches

A caddie carrying double should be assigned to the members of one side.

Stroke Play

The caddie is always deemed to be employed by the player affected.

RULINGS IN THE OPEN

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that if a ball be so damaged as to be unfit for play, the player in stroke play may replace it with another ball upon informing his fellow competitor or marker of his intention. It is a simple procedure. The job of the fellow competitor or the marker is to protect the rest of the field.

But Middlecoff and Snead each asked a USGA official to determine whether the ball were unfit for play. The answer in each instance was no. Strictly, it was not necessary to appeal to an official. But by so doing each player protected himself from any future question about the ball's status. If he had simply changed the ball in accordance with Rule 14(1b) and had informed his fellow competitor or marker, but if another competitor had later questioned whether the ball were actually unfit for play, Middlecoff and Snead each would have had to submit the ball to the committee for decision. By getting official decisions immediately, they closed the question then and there.