

# PGA Support of the Rules

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As never before in the history of golf, the by-word for relations between the United States Golf Association and the Professional Golfers' Association of America is "co-operation."

The aim of the USGA, parent body of golf in America, is the preservation of golf under the highest standards of sportsmanship, and the PGA, recognizing the USGA's supreme authority, is bending every effort to work with the USGA toward the betterment of golf in this country.

One has to go back only a few years to recall when the PGA, in defiance of the USGA, advocated and permitted the use of 16 clubs in tournaments under its sponsorship. Conformity with USGA rules was brought about under the presidency of Ed Dudley. It has continued under Joe Novak—and so far as the present governing body of the PGA is concerned, there never again will be a day when the two Associations will be separated on such a basic issue.

## Policing on Local Level

What most PGA members fail to realize is that the PGA can help golf a great deal by more closely policing its own tournaments on the local level. A year ago in New Jersey, during the sectional qualifying test for the national PGA Championship, several players (including two who would have been qualifiers otherwise) were disqualified by our tournament committee for unwittingly playing "winter" rules on only the first two holes of their rounds.

Our tournament committee promptly disqualified them for that infraction of the Rules. It was hard for committee members to penalize their friends so severely for an error which possibly did not affect the players' final scores, but the committee adhered strictly to the USGA Rules.

The incident caused a tremendous furor, but the committee's forthright ac-



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tion brought credit to the PGA as a whole and gave determined notice to New Jersey golfers that the PGA is 100 per cent behind the USGA in its enforcement of the Rules.

Without such action on our part, golf would become a house hopelessly divided.

The PGA and the USGA today are co-operating in many other ways, especially in the promotion of junior golf. We, on the Executive Committee of the PGA, are encouraging our members to foster junior golf through free lessons and by lending assistance in many other ways to the young boys and girls who are seeking to learn the game.

This program is finding fruition in the national boys' and girls' championships which have been instituted in the last few years by the USGA.