
THE REFEREE

Decisions by the USGA and the R. and A. Rules of Golf Committees

Example of symbols: "USGA" indicates decision by the United States Golf Association. "R & A" indicates decision by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland. "52-1" means the first decision issued in 1952. "R. 37-7" refers to Section 7 of Rule 37 in the 1952 Rules of Golf.

Player Moves Own Ball in Four-Ball Match

USGA 52-43

R. 16, 35-1e,f; 40-1b,c; 40-3g; 41-3.

Q: Play is four-ball match. Player's ball is on the green at rest. His partner plays. While partner's ball is still rolling and seems as though it may hit player's ball, player moves his ball away with his putter so his ball will not be hit.

I wish to find out whether player who moved his ball is disqualified only or do he and his partner lose the hole.

Question by: JOHN BODA

ANDOVER COUNTRY CLUB
ANDOVER, MASS.

A: The player violated Rule 16 by touching his ball purposely and was disqualified for the hole; the penalty did not apply to his partner (see Rule 40-3g).

Under Rule 40-1b, the player could have lifted or played his ball, at his option, before his partner played. Had he not touched his ball, there would have been no penalty if his ball had been struck by his partner's ball (see Rule 40-1c). But it is contrary to the Rules for a ball to be lifted or played or otherwise moved while another ball is in motion (see, for example, Rule 35-1e, f and 41-3).

Rule 40-3d does not apply here; it pertains to moving the ball accidentally.

Tee Shot Out of Bounds in Mixed Foursome

USGA 52-44

R. 29-1, 36-1.

Q: Bangkok has two golf clubs, the Royal Bangkok Sports Club and the Royal Dusit Club, at both of which mixed foursome tournaments are now in play. The entire golfing community has become embroiled in an argument as to where the second tee shot should be played if the first tee shot is hit out of bounds. Both courses are built around race tracks, which are surrounded on both sides by khlongs (waterways), and because

of these hazards, ladies' tees have been constructed.

The British insist that the rules stipulate that the second shot is to be hit from the spot where the first ball was played and that this necessarily means the woman must play from the man's tee if his tee shot went out of bounds. By the same token, the man must hit from the woman's tee if her shot went out of bounds.

My side contends that the team is penalized stroke and distance for an out-of-bounds shot, and that by forcing the woman to play from the man's tee on the second tee shot, the team is automatically penalized again by the fact that the woman cannot clear the hazards in front. A ball in the khlung can be played from where it enters the khlung, but another penalty stroke is added. On the other hand, if the woman's tee shot goes out of bounds, by using the ladies' tee for the second shot her partner can, in almost every instance, drive the green. Thus, instead of incurring the normal penalty, the team is placed in an advantageous position. We feel this was not the intent of the rule.

Question by: MRS. ROBERT G. NORTH
BANGKOK, THAILAND

A: Rule 29-1 governs and, when a ball comes to rest out of bounds, the next stroke must be played as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was played, adding a penalty stroke to the score for the hole. If the original stroke was played from the teeing ground, a ball may be teed anywhere within the teeing ground from which the original stroke was played. The Rules of Golf make no distinction between teeing grounds for men and women.

Rule 36-1 requires the local committee to lay down the conditions under which a competition shall be played, and this includes the establishment of the teeing grounds which are to be used. We would suggest that the committee establish teeing grounds from which play would be feasible for both men and women.

**Player's Ball Hits Partner's Ball
in Four-ball Match**

USGA 52-45
R. 40-1c

Q: The following situation arose in a tournament in which A and B were playing C and D in four-ball match play. After the drives from the tee, A, being away, played his second shot of 130 yards to within 18 inches of the hole. B played his second shot of 100 yards and the ball rolled onto the green and hit his partner's ball, moving it about four inches. We referred to the Rule book and found the following:

Rule 40-1c: "If a player's ball move any other ball in the match, the owner of the moved ball shall, through the green or in a hazard, drop his ball, or on the putting green place his ball, as near as possible to the spot from which the ball was moved, without penalty."

Rule 40-3b: "If a player's ball be stopped or deflected by the player, his partner or either of their caddies, clubs or other equipment, the player is disqualified for the hole. His partner incurs no penalty."

This committee ruled that A should comply with Rule 40-1c, B was disqualified for the hole and A won the hole with a birdie 3. All agree that A acted in accordance with the Rules, but the committee's act in disqualifying B has been the point of contention. Rule 40-1c does not specifically state how B should treat his ball nor do Rules 40-3b and c specifically mention the word "ball".

Our problem is:

1. Is the ball included in the term "other equipment" in Rule 40-3b and c?
2. If A had been 4 on the green by virtue of an out-of-bounds shot, what would be the status of B's ball?
3. If B had hit either C or D's ball on the green, would C and D lose the hole simply because B had been lucky enough to hit one of their balls from 100 yards?
4. If B had hit either C's or D's ball and knocked it into the cup, thereby giving them an eagle 2, would C and D lose the hole because they had deflected B's ball?

Question by: J. A. HORNER
HOUSTON, TEXAS

A: If A replaced his ball, as required by Rule 40-1c, before holing it, his birdie 3 stands as played. B incurred no penalty. If A failed to replace his ball before putting

out, he was disqualified for the hole, but the disqualification did not apply to B.

Rule 40-3b does not apply in this case, and Rule 40-1c states that there is no penalty if one ball hits any other ball in four-ball match play, provided the ball moved is replaced.

The answers to your specific questions are:

1. No.
2. The number of strokes A might have taken would have no effect on the status of B's ball under the Rules of Golf. B incurred no penalty and was entitled to complete the play of the hole, playing the ball from where it came to rest after it struck the other ball.
3. No; see Rule 40-1c.
4. No, but Rule 40-1c would require C or D to replace the ball. C or D would not be entitled to a score of 2 on the hole.

Handicap Stroke Overlooked

USGA 52-46
R. 11-1, 37-4

Q: In a four-ball match-play tournament, a player was entitled to a handicap stroke on a hole and did not know it until after the match was ended. This oversight was the cause of his defeat. If the stroke had been used, the match would have ended all even. Would you advise me as to whether the match should continue or if it is too late to claim the stroke?

Question by: HARRY BARKHOUSE
HAPPY VALLEY GOLF CLUB
LYNN, MASS.

A: The hole stands as played. Rule 37-4 requires each player to check his handicap and, in match play, to inform himself of the holes at which strokes are given or taken. Rule 11-1 provides that, in order for a claim of this nature to be considered, it must be made before the players play from the next teeing ground, or, in the case of the last hole of the round, before they leave the putting green. It is a basic principle of match play that both sides are entitled at all times to know exactly how the match stands.

**Ball Strikes Cup Lining
in Four-ball Match**

USGA 52-47
R. 11-5, 30, 34-2d, 40-3b, 40-3g.

Q: A was about 40 feet off the green. His partner took the flag, since there were no caddies. As the ball approached the pin, he pulled it out, and in so doing the cup stuck to the pin. The partner had the pin

in his hand, with the cup attached thereto, and there was a distance of two to three feet between the level of the green and the cup. On the first or second hop, A's ball hit the metal part of the cup which was attached to the pin. The ball bounced away about five feet; otherwise it probably would have gone a distance of 20 or more feet beyond the hole. A holed his putt for a birdie 4.

A then went back and played a provisional ball and, with this ball, scored a 5.

Question by: SAMUEL G. PAYNE
BRIDGEPORT, CONN.

A: The metal lining is deemed to be part of the flagstick. Assuming this was four-ball match play, A was disqualified for the hole, but his partner incurred no penalty (see Rules 40-3b, 40-3g and 34-2d).

Although the hole already was lost and the fact is academic, A had no right to play another ball. This privilege exists only in stroke play; see Rule 11-5. The second ball was not a provisional ball; see Rule 30.

Obstructions in Tree Basin

USGA 52-49.

D. 20; R. 11-3, 31-2, 33-1c.2; 35-1b, Et. 7.

Q1: A's tee shot comes to rest in a tree basin which is a water hazard. All around and extending into the basin is loosely piled lumber and several pieces of pipe. A insists he can drop ball according to rule covering a greenkeeper's pile. B contends that, because the ball is within a water hazard, A must remove the lumber and pipe and play ball as it lies. Who is correct?

A1: The lumber and pipe are obstructions (Definition 20), and A was entitled to remove them as provided in Rule 33-1c, without penalty. If they could not feasibly be removed, A was entitled to lift and drop his ball in the water hazard, as provided in Rule 31-2, without penalty. If A desired relief from the water hazard, he could only proceed as provided in Rule 33-2, under penalty of one stroke.

Determining Five Minutes

Q2: A and B are playing a match and neither carries a watch. A hits his ball in deep grass from the tee and a search is started. After a time B informs A that his five minutes are up. A disagrees and continues the search. The other two members of the group, who are also playing a match, refuse to commit themselves on this point. The ball is found soon after and A plays hole, which is halved with this ball. B claims the hole. A wins the match, 1 up. After lis-

tening to the arguments of both players, the match is allowed to stand. The Committee reasoned that a player cannot determine the passing of time without a timepiece. Was this reasoning correct? Does a player have to refer to a watch in order to put in such a claim?

A2: The committee's decision was final (Rule 11-3).

The question of whether or not five minutes had elapsed is one of fact. In the absence of a timepiece, neither player had a solid basis for his contention and the committee had to evaluate the case according to its best judgment.

Questions by: DR. MILTON F. FENNER
SACRAMENTO, CAL.

Mole Hill Is Cast

R & A 52-27.

R. 32; Def. 34.

Q: In Rule 32-1, regarding a cast or runway made by a burrowing animal, does this include a mole-hill? If a mole-hill is included under this section does the Rule apply even although the mole-hill may be in the rough?

Question by: THE SECRETARY
HILTON PARK GOLF CLUB
MILNGAVIE, SCOTLAND

A: A mole hill is a cast. The Rule applies to the rough, which is included in "through the green". Def. 34.

Replacing Ball in Bunker

R & A 52-28.

R. 24-4.

Q: During a match between A and B both balls were found to be in the same heel mark in a bunker.

A lifted his ball to allow B to play his stroke. In the playing of the stroke B obliterated the heel mark.

Should a "similar" heel mark be made for A in order to comply with Rule 24-4 and if so by whom, A or B?

Question by: THE SECRETARY
WHITECHURCH GOLF CLUB
CARDIFF, WALES

A: The ball should be placed in the bunker as near as possible to the spot from which it was lifted and in a similar lie to that which it originally occupied. See Rule 24-4. It would not, however, be practicable for players to endeavor to create artificially a "similar lie to that which it (the ball) originally occupied," and, so far as is possible, use must be made of the existing configuration of the ground.