

THE GALLICO RULES

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by

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Bunker Play

A BALL ROLLING or flying into a bunker or sand trap may be played if the player feels he is in need of the practice or enjoys that kind of thing, but no strokes other than the first one made in the bunker shall be counted against said player, should the ball fail to emerge after the making of this first stroke, since by this very failure of the ball to come out, the faulty design of the bunker is deemed amply demonstrated and the skill of the player should not be penalized because of a defect in construction over which he has no control.

The club may not be grounded in the bunker after the ball has been struck, since the smoothing out of the sand falls within the purview of the employees of the club and no sportsman will tolerate such anti-union activities.

Winter Rules (Amended)

In order further to spare the valuable turf of the course and protect club property when teeing the ball up in the fairway, the player must hereafter employ small wooden pegs, or tees, such as are used on the teeing ground at the start of each hole.

Should the stroke played from one of these wooden pegs result in the player finding himself in difficulties, he shall have the right to examine both the wooden peg and the consistency of the ground into which it was thrust. Should a defect be apparent in either, he may play the stroke again, since the purpose of the game is to eliminate all mechanical and extraneous factors so that the genuine beauty of the sport be permitted to flourish. A chip or nick, out of the tee, shall be considered a defect for all purposes, since that throws the instrument out of balance.

The Drive

All shots which curve into the rough

on the right or left, either from a hook or a slice, shall be returned to the fairway at the point of farthest flight or roll, whichever is the greatest distance, since this unfortunate curvature is frequently an uncontrollable mechanical phenomenon resulting from friction between the face of the club and the cover of the ball, takes place contrary to the wishes and desires of the player and results in his ball landing in areas which no person in his right mind would wish to enter for the sake of play. No penalty, though players may, if they wish, collaborate on a round-robin letter to the manufacturer of the golf equipment whose faulty construction is responsible for this phenomenon.

Ball Striking a Tree

A ball striking a tree while in flight shall be deemed not to have struck the tree unless the player making the stroke declares that he was deliberately aiming for it, in which case play shall cease momentarily while his partners congratulate him upon his marksmanship. But if the player attests in good faith that it was in no wise his intention to strike this tree or any part of it with his shot, then it is obviously a piece of bad luck which has no place in a scientific game, or poor planning on the part of the course architect, and on either score, no penalty shall accrue to the player, who is thereupon permitted to estimate the distance his ball would have gone but for the unfortunate encounter, but no more than half the distance to the goal line, or two bases. Time need not be called.

Lost Ball

There is no such thing as a lost ball. The ball is somewhere on the course and will be picked up eventually and pocketed by someone other than the owner and therefore not entitled to do so, becoming hence

not a lost, but a stolen, ball. A player suffering a stolen ball shall be entitled to cries of sympathy and understanding from his fellow players, who shall crowd around him importuning him not to compound the felony by charging himself with the loss of a stroke. Upon returning to the clubhouse, said player shall apply to the professional for restitution of the stolen article, since this official always has a large supply of them on hand.

Ground Under Repair

In arriving at a judgment whether or not ground is under repair for purposes of lifting a ball unpleasantly situated, without penalty, the player may toss a coin. If it falls, the ground may be deemed under repair. However, if the player is unwilling to gamble in this manner, he may inspect the ground in question. If the situation or lie of the ball be such that it adds the element of hazard to the ensuing stroke, it is obviously ground in need of repair, which repairs will be made in due course at the end of the labor shortage or when the green committee can get around to it. However, since the player and his partners

cannot be expected to wait around until next Christmas, the ground shall be deemed under repair, as of and from that moment, or thereafter, whichever is nearer the hole.

Ball Rimming Cup

A ball putted on the putting green which rims the cup and stays out shall be deemed to have dropped, since such an occurrence shall be held contrary to the laws of gravitation which supersede the Rules of Golf and therefore illegal. The same rule shall be in force for balls which pass over the hole and remain out after striking the other side, since it is a well known scientific fact that any object attempting to maintain its position in atmosphere without something to support it must drop, and hence shall be deemed to have done so rather than upset matters more than they are by disputing science.

Putt Failing to Drop

A ball putted on the green which reaches the brink of the cup and hangs there for want of a half or quarter turn further to cause it to drop shall be deemed to have made that half or quarter turn and duly dropped, provided the player has indicated by bodily contortions and gestures coupled with energetic supplication and prayer that he was genuinely desirous of this result. For since the player has thus indicated that he has made a diligent and accurate putt and it is not through any lack of desire or interest on his part that the ball has failed to complete its journey, it shall be so scored, since its failure to drop must then obviously be charged either to the manufacturer of the ball or the greenkeeper, or both. Likewise, to eliminate complaints frequently to the effect that "the ball stopped so close to the hole you could have blown it in," the player in such case shall place himself lengthwise on the green behind his ball and blow. If the ball drops, it shall be deemed to have been holed out properly. If not, a small, hand-type power-generated air-compressor may be used.

I know you would enjoy the game under the Gallico Rules.

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