

IT'S YOUR HONOR

Artificial Aids

To the USGA:

Since American sport is deteriorating in every way possible — for instance, livelier baseballs, basketball played on stilts, boxing skill gone from boxing and rules makers constantly trying to hike the score in football — I think the USGA should take a stand on artificial aids to lower the golf score. By this I mean not only control of the size and shape of the ball but limits on club construction.

Golf carts are becoming such a nuisance that I believe the player should have a doctor's certificate in order to use one. I have seen players and carts out in front of the play to the annoyance of their opponents and partners. They also pack the soil, give a physical advantage, and in general are not in the best interests of golf.

I recently played two courses locally and both placed markers 150 yards from the green. One used an iron pipe painted white and the other planted evergreens on the edge of the fairway. Would the next step be to have a professional ride alongside on a bicycle and call out the club to be used?

Golf has always been a game where judgment of distance was the prime requisite. But with the distance markers, all players will be in a class with the inventors of "near beer", the poorest judges of distance ever known.

Why not a Rule allowing a free drop when the play is interfered with by a marker? This might call attention to the silly things!

The two clubs I refer to above, have both held national championships on their courses.

A golf body of fine people recently printed an announcement that all competitions in 1955 would be played

under "winter rules". They would rather make a low score than a good score, I am afraid.

Please put more emphasis on the elimination of the imaginary "winter rules."

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Pressing Club on Green

TO THE USGA:

Rule 35-1a: "A player may remove any loose impediment from the putting green by picking it up or brushing green either by picking it up or brushing it aside either with his hand or a club; *nothing may be pressed down, and if a club is used it shall not be pressed with more than its own weight on the ground.*" (Italics supplied for emphasis.)

The wording is unfortunate in that many players take it to mean they may press down with club's own weight. As Chairman of the Green Committee of Miami Shores Country Club, I have drafted the Local Rules and I have refereed several matches. It is my view that the intention of the rule is to prohibit pressing down with a club under all circumstances, and that if a club is used with no more than its own weight it may only be done (not in pressing) in brushing.

It is recommended that a substitution for the underlined words be as follows:

"nothing may be pressed down. If a club is used to brush aside such impediment, no more pressure thereon may be used than the club's own weight on the ground."

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