

# IT'S YOUR HONOR

## *Changes in the Rules*

TO THE USGA:

Let me say that I like the Rules on the flagstick and marking the ball very much. It's about time we ended all the monkey business of marking the ball as soon as one gets on the green, plus the uncertainty of whether to have the stick held. In medal play, there has always been great frustration when you are just outside 20 yards and want the stick in, but your playing partner's caddie takes the stick. You hesitate to wave him away because it might look like you were trying to take some unfair advantage.

JOSEPH M. GAMBATESE  
BETHESDA, MD.

TO THE USGA:

I am not so sure that I approve of the two major amendments. I feel that while they will speed play they will at times unfairly benefit the player. In match play the player has the advantage of having his ball hit the flagstick and thus be left a short putt. When putting, his ball may have the benefit of caroming off his opponent's ball into the cup. When making a long putt down hill, it may strike his opponent's ball below the cup and be left a short putt back. Freedom to hit the flagstick from any distance also gives the player a stroke play a considerable advantage.

NORMAN B. BEECHER  
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA

TO THE USGA:

We have been playing the new flagstick Rule and so far have found it does not speed play. The uncertainty of the players as to leave it in or take it out does cause delay.

MAXWELL HEYMANN  
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

TO THE USGA:

First, let me express my approval of the Rules changes made for 1956. I think they are sound. While serving as a member of the Rules Committee for the Los Angeles Open I discussed the changes with many of the professionals and several expressed their disapproval, but my comment was that as they became more familiar with them they would see the consistency of the changes.

BRIG. GEN. STANLEY RIDDERHOF  
NEWPORT BEACH, CAL.

## *For the Game's Sake*

TO THE USGA:

I would like to congratulate you on the recent statements made by the USGA concerning gambling, Calcuttas and the like in golf. It has been something that has been long needed. Undoubtedly the professional amateur and the hustler will be much distressed. But to those of us who play golf out of sheer love of the game, it promises to restore amateur golf to the high level where it belongs.

I was personally annoyed twice this past summer while participating in amateur tournaments by people who cannot seem to enjoy a round of golf without betting.

I am hoping that the USGA's ruling will do much to eliminate this sort of thing. You can be assured that any future action you contemplate along these lines will be enthusiastically received by the millions of golfers who play not for money but for the unique recreation it gives.

BOB LARKIN  
PELHAM, N. Y.

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