

UNIFORMITY RESTORED IN RULES OF GOLF

Southern California
Rescinds Special Rules

The Southern California Golf Association has restored uniformity to the Rules of Golf.

In the USGA Journal of February, 1959 the case for uniformity was presented in commenting on the adoption by the SCGA of several basic deviations from the established Rules of Golf.

At the same time, the USGA appealed directly to the SCGA to rescind its special rules in the interests of uniformity in view of the forthcoming quadrennial conference with the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland on proposals for change in the Rules.

It is a pleasure to report the subsequent receipt of the following letter.

"The Board of Directors of the Southern California Golf Association met on March 3, 1959, for the purpose of considering your letter dated January 30, 1959, in which you respectfully requested our Association to rescind our local rules announced last January 15th.

"Under the authority provided in our Articles of Incorporation (Article Second (b) (2)), these local rules were adopted as a result of a poll conducted by our Association. The members of our Clubs voted overwhelmingly that the severe penalties for a ball out of bounds, a lost ball, and an unplayable ball, should be lessened. Our higher handicap golfers (5 and over) have long urged these changes. This group represents over 95% of our golfers. Very few of them will ever compete in any United States Golf Association-sponsored event. They pay the major portion of the expenses of our Clubs and want to enjoy everyday golf.

"We represent and service 70 Clubs and 35,000 golfers in Southern California. Since we adopted these local rules over 250,000 rounds of "day to day golf" and over 5,000 rounds of competitive team play golf have been played without any problem pertaining to these rules. They have proven very popular and satisfactory, and our golfers have been very happy

playing under them.

"Our action was taken because we sincerely believed, and so stated in our press release of January 15, 1959, that the notice of this action will be welcome news to all golfdom and also be of assistance to the USGA and the Royal and Ancient in obtaining the public reaction generally in this modification of golf play.

"We agree, however, that it is best for golf 'that the game be played under a uniform code throughout the country,' provided that code reflects the wishes of the majority of the golfers and is changed whenever a majority becomes dissatisfied. Any other code would eventually fail since it would be arbitrary and undemocratic. We are sure you must agree with this principle.

"We are sure you would not have asked us to reverse our action in this matter unless it was imperative and vitally important to the United States Golf Association. Our Board has thoroughly weighed all of the points set forth in your letter of January 30th. We think that the first and most important consideration is to do everything we can to promote harmony and cooperation between our Associations.

"The statement in your letter to us that this matter is on your agenda for your coming Conference with the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, in May, has become a very significant part of our consideration. This, together with the many press releases which indicate that you are planning to take favorable action regarding the rules in question, has caused us to accede to your request and therefore we have this date rescinded our local rules announced on January 15, 1959.

"We are now looking forward to favorable action at your coming Conference.

Donald W. Spry, President
Southern California Golf Association"