

HOW TO USE THE RULES BOOK

Specific Suggestions
for Finding the Answers

Find the Rules of Golf booklet hard to use?

Get lost trying to find the Rules governing four-ball play?

Know the difference between a four-ball and a foursome?

There is a way out of this dilemma, and we offer the following specific suggestions:

1. Become familiar with key words and special terms in the language of the Rules—thus, **flagstick**, not **pin**; **bunker**, not **trap**; **stroke play**, not **medal play**; **lateral water hazard**, not **parallel water hazard**.

2. Refer to the Index, pages 77-94. Every item in the Rules is listed; many items are cross-indexed.

3. Study the Definitions, pages 2-8. They are basic. Note for instance such differences as “loose impediments” for certain natural objects (Definition 17) and “obstructions” for artificial objects (Definition 20). The Rules do not mention “fairway” or “rough;” both are covered by “through the green” (Definition 34).

4. What form of play is involved? Is it match play or stroke play? Single or four-ball? A four-ball match is not a foursome (Definition 28). Example: When a ball on the putting green interferes with the player who is away, in a single match only the player away may require the ball to be lifted (Rule 35-2a) but in a four-ball match any player may have the ball removed (Rule 40-1b).

5. Where did the incident occur? On the teeing ground, through the green, in a hazard or on the putting green? Find the right place in the Index, as the Rules may be different for the same occurrences on different parts of the course.

6. Two Rules may cover different aspects of the same case. In a hazard, when Rule 31-2 allows the ball to be lifted and dropped away; but it must be dropped in an immovable obstruction interferes,

Balance Of Nature?

“It has become the fashion for large numbers of otherwise rational conservationists and self-appointed protectors of wildlife to view with alarm the progress man has made in recent years in his unending battle for supremacy over the insects that ruled the world before he appeared on it, and have threatened whole civilizations ever since.

“In his large-scale use of modern high-powered pesticides, they charge, man is upsetting the ‘balance of nature.’ But one might well ask: ‘What balance?’ We do not believe there is or ever was such a thing. Rather, the way of nature has appeared to be a course or perennial unbalance. A ‘balanced’ nature would insure an unchanging, static world, incapable of geologic upheavals and mutations, or the evolutions of species. Pterodactyls, no doubt, would still be flying over—not jets, for there would be no homo sapiens (and hence, we suppose, no arguments).”

From an editorial in the Temple Daily Telegram, Temple, Texas.

the same hazard, under Rule 22-3.

7. Every word means what it says. Example: To determine whether or not a ball is at rest on the putting green, a “momentary delay” is allowed by Rule 35-1f. This means a very short period, such as a few seconds, not minutes.

8. Carry a Rules book in your golf bag and use it whenever an incident arises.

9. Committees will find helpful information in the USGA Appendix.

These same suggestions appear also on the inside front cover of the USGA Rules of Golf booklet.