

# RELAXATION IN RULES

## A NEW YEAR'S GIFT

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Come New Year's Day of 1960 and the game will be somewhat easier—but in a qualified sense.

When you're on the putting green, you'll be free to do the following without having a twinge of conscience:

- (a) Clean the ball at any time.
- (b) Repair a ball mark anywhere on the green, including your line of putt, by any method except by stepping on the damaged area.

Those are among the more substantial amendments in the world-wide Rules of Golf produced by a joint American-British committee.

The spirit of softening life for the golfer will have a special trial under the USGA code only, and for 1960 only, in these particulars:

- (a) Ball out of bounds—loss of distance only (not stroke and distance, as now).
- (b) Ball lost—lost of distance only (not stroke and distance, as now).
- (c) Ball unplayable—optionally either (1) stroke and distance, or (2) one stroke for dropping directly behind the unplayable position (in a bunker the ball must be dropped in the bunker). (The latter penalty now is two strokes.)

Yes, the game will be somewhat easier—but you'll still have to hit that little white ball yourself with that little club-head.

### Provisional Ball under USGA Code

In the USGA experimental amendments for 1960, the one-stroke relief from an unplayable lie will bring it into line with the water hazard Rule.

These two Rules will thus have two identical optional methods of getting out of trouble. Consequently, a provisional ball will be unnecessary and will be prohibited for a ball unplayable or in a water hazard, under the USGA trial code.

A provisional ball may be played only if the original ball may be lost or out of bounds.

The water hazard Rule has not been changed in the USGA code.

### A Court's Dictum

**"While silence is the conventional courtesy when a golfer is addressing his ball and swinging, the ban is relaxed between shots, and presumably the nature of the comments depends in some measure upon the success or failure of the player in negotiating the hazardous water."**

**From New Jersey Supreme Court Decision  
Sans vs Ramsey Golf and Country Club**

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, has not adopted the USGA trial Rules, although it has concurred with the idea of USGA experimentation. In other respects the R&A and the USGA are in full agreement on the 1960 amendments.

Rules books for 1960 may be obtained at 25 cents from the USGA, 40 East 38th St., New York 16, N. Y.

Below are changes in substance in the world-wide Rules:

### Definitions

7—"Equipment" is newly defined as anything used, worn or carried by or for the player except his ball in play. One object is to make clear that "equipment" does not include a ball.

12—Flagstick must be straight and circular in cross-section.

20—"Obstructions" do not include any artificial construction which is an integral part of the course, such as retaining walls of hazards and masonry on banks or beds of open water courses.

### Rules

8—Practice on course on day of match play is permissible unless the Committee decides otherwise.

11-1—In stroke play, no penalty can be imposed after the competition is closed unless wrong information had been given by the competitor. Close of competition is defined.

18-1—Loose impediments shall not be removed when ball is in motion.

21—Meaning of a wrong ball is changed to apply only to a ball other than the player's (and not to a ball owned by the player and wrongly put in play by him).

22—A ball dropped or placed but not played may be lifted without penalty if (a) dropped or placed not in accordance with an applicable Rule, or (b) if dropped or placed under a Rule which does not apply to the case. (At present a ball is in play when dropped or placed, even if wrongly done.) A ball dropped or placed properly under the right Rule shall not be abandoned.

27-1—Through the green or in a hazard: Ball at rest moved or lie altered by opponent, fellow-competitor, another ball, or any outside agency except wind—player must place ball on spot from which moved if possible to determine exact spot. (At present ball is dropped.) Same principle applies to multi-ball play (Rules 40-1, 40-3 and 41-4).

31—"Obstruction" other than attended flagstick or players' equipment shall not be removed when ball is in motion.

34-1—If flagstick is not attended before stroke is played, it shall not be attended or removed while ball is in motion. (At present this may be done at any time.)

34-2—In match play, opponent or his caddie shall not attend flagstick without knowledge or authority of player. In stroke play, unauthorized attendance of flagstick by fellow-competitor or his caddie is clarified.

34-3—Flagstick may be adjusted only by placing it in normal position in center of hole and as nearly upright as possible.

35-1—If ball is moved when player moves loose impediment on putting green, no penalty and ball shall be replaced. (At present one-stroke penalty, and ball shall be played as it lies.)

35-1—Damage to putting green caused by impact of a ball may be repaired but player may not step on damaged area. (A new provision.)

35-1—Ball on putting green may be cleaned at any time. (A new provision.)

35-3—In stroke play, two-stroke penalty for ball striking fellow-competitor's ball is extended to apply when both balls are on putting green as well as when both are within 20 yards of hole.

36-4—Stroke play: When a round is can-

celled, all penalties incurred in that round are cancelled.

37-6—Procedure clarified for discontinuing play in accordance with Rules.

37-8—Stroke play: Competitor is to be disqualified for refusing to comply with a Rule affecting rights of another.

37-9—Artificial devices are prohibited for gauging or measuring distance or conditions which might affect play; penalty—disqualification.

## USGA FILM LIBRARY

"St. Andrews, Cradle Of Golf," a 14-minute, full color, 16m.m. travelogue of historic St. Andrews, Scotland, its Old Course and the Royal and Ancient Golf Club clubhouse.

"First World Amateur Team Championship for Eisenhower Trophy," a 14-minute, full color, 16m.m. film of the first World Amateur Team Championship at St. Andrews, Scotland. Twenty-nine countries compete for the Eisenhower Trophy.

"On the Green," a 17-minute, full color, 16 m.m. presentation filmed at the Mid-Ocean Club, Bermuda, illustrating correct procedures under the Rules of Golf governing situations arising on the putting green.

"Golf's Longest Hour," a 16 m.m. full color production, running for 17½ minutes, depicting the closing stages of the 1956 Open Championship. Filmed at the beautiful Oak Hill Country Club, Rochester, N.Y., it shows the eventual winner, Cary Middlecoff, set a target at which Ben Hogan, Julius Boros and Ted Kroll strive in vain to beat.

"Play Them As They Lie," a 16 m.m. color production, running for 16½ entertaining minutes, in which Johnny Farrell, the Open Champion of 1928, acts as intermediary between Wilbur Mulligan, a beginner of unimpeachable integrity, and Joshua P. Sive, a past master in the art of breaking the Rules. The film was made at the Baltusrol Golf Club, Springfield, N. J., where Farrell is professional.

"Great Moments In Golf," gives the viewer an opportunity to see the many interesting exhibits in "Golf House," USGA headquarters in New York, and to re-live golf triumphs of the past with many of the game's immortals. The film is a 16 m.m. black and white production and runs 28 minutes.

"The Rules of Golf—Etiquette" also has proved popular. The film stresses the importance of etiquette by portrayal of various violations of the code in the course of a family four-ball match. Ben Hogan appears in several scenes, and Robert T. Jones, Jr., makes the introductory statement. A 16 m.m. color production, the film has a running time of 17½ minutes.

The distribution of all seven prints is handled by National Educational Films, Inc., 165 West 46th Street, New York 36, N. Y., which produced the films in cooperation with the USGA. The rental is \$20 per film; \$35 for two; \$50 for three, \$60 for four and \$70 for five, in combination at the same time, including the cost of shipping prints to the renter.