

IT'S YOUR HONOR

Views of the Rules

TO THE USGA:

I am delighted with the change of the rules covering out-of-bounds, lost balls, and unplayable lie for 1960. I am also pleased with the rule permitting cleaning the ball on the green. This gives the ordinary player the same right enjoyed by the professionals.

The right to substitute the ball on the green should also be added to help the amateur score better without using new balls constantly.

However, the main purpose of my letter is to plead for a total simplification of the golf rules. Contrasted to all other sport rules, the golf rules are petty, contradictory and in some instances ridiculous. I am now acting as a referee in a club championship and have reviewed the Rules of Golf for that purpose. Even as a lawyer trained in the interpretation of laws and court rules, I find it very difficult to decide on the application of golf rules.

Golf in itself is a most difficult game and the rules should not add to the woes of the golfers.

HARRY GOTTLIEB
Atlantic City, N. J.

TO THE USGA:

Every legitimate sport has its rules drawn up by a body of men qualified to give their unbiased opinions and expressed so the layman can grasp the decisions readily and understand why penalties are required.

If golfers would study their rules diligently, knowledge of them would

enhance the pleasure of the game and give them a keener insight of its real meaning—best of all it would bring them in closer touch with the true spirit of the sport as our forefathers fostered and enjoyed it.

The Rule book covers such a broad field that the true sportsman is inclined to say there are too many rules. He obeys many by instinct and his inherent intellectual honesty guides his actions into the proper channel.

Our governing body, the USGA, has accomplished a gigantic compendium of almost every conceivable situation that might arise during a game. I have been constantly impressed by the calm and dignified manner and the fairness which have been evident in the consideration of the various phases of progress by this body in its efforts to make clear the rulings of the game as it sees them. It seems to me that the work accomplished is more a labor of love than otherwise. The work is complimentary, the endeavor being to give every player due credit. The compilation must have been a heavy task, and it gives pleasure to repeat that the work is thoroughly well done and deserving of sincere and wide appreciation.

There always will be differences of opinions. They arouse and exercise the mind, but please never throw away hastily any old faith, tradition or convention. They may require modification, but they are the result of the experience of generations.

J. MARTIN WATSON
Boise, Idaho

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