



THE REFEREE

Decisions by the Rules of Golf Committees

Example of Symbols: "USGA" indicates decision by the United States Golf Association. "R & A" indicates decision by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland. "60-1" means the first decision issued in 1960. "D" means definition. "R. 37-7" refers to Section 7 of Rule 37 in the 1960 Rules of Golf.

BALL HOLED—IN RAISED CUP LINER

Revised: USGA 59-39

R. 26-1, 26-3b, 34-1, 35-1h. D. 10, 22

Note: This supersedes Decision 59-39 dated October 29, 1959

Q: After a rather heavy rain A and B were playing a somewhat soggy course. B, about to make an approach shot, asked A not to remove the flag. However, after B hit the ball, it appeared from A's position that it was heading directly for the hole, so A decided to remove the flag. When he tried to lift it out, it stuck in the cup. When he gave it a second rather harder yank not only the flag but the cup as well came out of the ground. At precisely the second when the cup was an inch or so above the green B's ball bounced into it. This appears to be a unique and once-in-a-lifetime happening. Could it be considered, under the circumstances, a sunk shot?

Question by: E. CRENSHAW
Carmel, Calif.

A: Stroke play: Yes. A fellow-competitor is an outside agency (Definitions 10 and 22). Should he attend the flagstick without authority and should the competitor's ball strike the flagstick or cup liner (which is an extension of the flagstick), it is a rub of the green and the

ball shall be played as it lies—see Rule 26-1 and Rule 26-3b. Since the ball went into the cup liner, it must be considered as holed. (Note: In the 1960 Rules, this is covered specifically in Rule 34-2b.)

Match play: A lost the hole for violation of Rules 34-1 and 35-1h. B was entitled to have the flagstick unattended and to play for it. Rule 34-1 provides that the flagstick may be attended "only on the authority of the player." A, the opponent, breached that Rule and also Rule 35-1h, which prohibits taking "any action to influence . . . the movement of the ball." (Note: In the 1960 Rules this is covered specifically in Rule 34-2a.)

AID IN GRIPPING: BALL IN HAND

USGA 59-42

R. 2-2f

Q: A player putts with a golf ball held in his left hand against the putter. The object is to apply the pressure on the ball and transmit this pressure to the club and therefore he gets help in this way. Is that considered to break the second part of Rule 2-2f?

Question by: RODOLFO PATRON
Mexico, D. F.

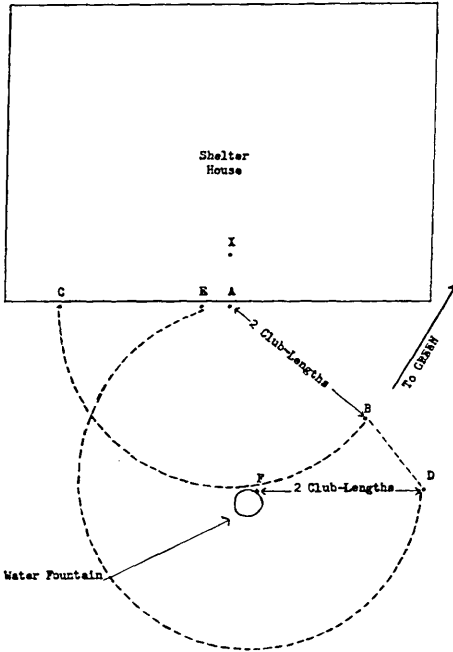
A: Yes.

**OBSTRUCTIONS: SECOND RELIEF
AFTER DROP**

USGA 59-43
D. 20 R. 31-2

Q: A ball came to rest within the confines of an open-walled shelter house. There was a concrete water fountain near the shelter (sketch enclosed). Where may the player drop his ball in conformance with Rule 31-2?

Question by: NORMAN BUTLER
Dayton, Ohio



Ball X in shelter house may be dropped within two club-lengths of Point A anywhere inside arc BC. B is a point of maximum relief under Rule 31-2 as it is exactly the same distance from the hole as Point X. After dropping at Point B, which is within two club-lengths of Point F, player's backswing is interfered with by the water fountain and he is entitled to further relief within arc BDE.

A: As the ball lay within the confines of the shelter, Rule 31-2 permits the player to lift the ball without penalty and to drop it within two club-lengths of that point on the outside of the obstruction nearest which the ball originally lay; the ball must come to rest not nearer the hole than its original position.

If the concrete water fountain interfered with the player's stance, stroke or

backswing either before or after the player took relief from the shelter, the player was entitled to further relief from the fountain, under Rule 31-2.

The word "outside" as used in Rule 31-2 means, with respect to an obstruction such as an open shelter, the vertical plane formed by a downward projection of the outer limits such as the roof edge.

See Definition 20 regarding obstructions.

PLACED BALL ROLLING INTO HOLE

1. WHEN HOLED

2. WHEN CANNOT BE REPLACED

USGA 59-45

D. 5; R. 22-4, 11-4

Q: Two players participating in a stroke competition on a windy day arrive at the sixth green with A's ball at rest lying 3 on a knoll on the putting surface about 8 feet above the cup. B requests A to mark his ball as it is in B's line of play and then B proceeds to play out. Then A when replacing his ball and before addressing it sees it roll down the slope into the cup. A claims to have holed out on the previous shot (3) and if this is not so, then to have holed out on his next shot (4). Subsequent replacements indicated that the ball rolled down to the cup either in or close to the hole. A pointed out that he could not replace the ball on the putting surface and make it remain stationary unless he forced the ball into the surface of the putting green. B maintains that if A could not replace the ball properly it was his duty to place the ball on a more level surface equidistant from the hole.

Q1: If A's ball rolled into the cup after replacement and before address, did he hole out on previous shot, scoring 3?

A1: Yes. It is understood that the ball had actually been replaced and was at rest. A ball when placed is in play and shall not be replaced—see Rule 22-36 and Definition 5. (Note—It is emphasized that this answer is predicated upon the ball being actually replaced and at rest.)

Q2: Under these circumstances, did A hole out for a 4?

A2: No. See answer 1 above.

Q3: If the ball cannot be replaced without rolling nearer to or into the cup, should A replace his ball in another spot equidistant from the hole?

A3: Yes. In equity under Rule 11-4, if

the ball could not be replaced to be at rest, A should replace it as near as possible to the spot from which it was lifted but not nearer the hole.

Q4: Would the ruling be different if the circumstances as described took place in match play?

A4: No.

Questions by: HERMAN FREYDBERG
New York, N. Y.

BALL LIFTED: WHEN TO REPLACE ON PUTTING GREEN

USGA 59-50
R. 35-3b; LR

Q: In a stroke competition in 1959 (not four-ball) a local rule allowed lifting and cleaning of the ball on the putting green. In the absence of a local rule, nothing in Rule 35-1 or 35-3 allows a fellow-competitor to mark his ball on the putting green in lieu of playing it except upon request of the competitor.

Could not the competitor, whose ball was in a hazard within 20 yards of the hole, legally request the fellow-competitor to replace his ball and leave it or play it at his pleasure?

Question by: GARLAND R. JAMES
Portsmouth, Va.

A: No, unless the local rule expressly permitted.

A comparable local rule recommended by the USGA when conditions warrant cleaning the ball provides that "in match play, the ball must be replaced immediately if the opponent so requests," but there is no such provision in stroke play. (This provision is contained in the 1960 Rules of Golf, under Rule 35-1d.)

It is a basic principle of stroke play that one ball shall not assist another. In the case described, we cannot see why the competitor would have any justifiable interest in having the fellow-competitor replace his ball.

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