



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. "61-1" means the first decision issued in 1961. "D" means definition. "R. 37-7" refers to Section 7 of Rule 37 in the 1961 Rules of Golf.

OUT OF BOUNDS: LOCAL RULE, CONDITIONS FOR

USGA 61-4
R. 29-1a, L.R.

Q: I would appreciate your advice on the Local Rule provision for the new out-of-bounds Rule. We have nine holes with out of bounds. On five of these holes it is difficult to determine where a ball would cross the margin of the out of bounds. The remaining four holes could qualify for the Local Rule provision, with a little tree-trimming, placing more out-of-bounds stakes and numbering the stakes, all for making it easier to spot balls going out of bounds.

Is it possible to have the Local Rule provision only on the holes where there isn't any doubt about spotting a ball crossing the out-of-bounds boundary?

Question by: WARREN ORLICK, Professional
Tam O'Shanter Country Club
Orchard Lake, Mich.

A: If the Local Rule in question is adopted, it must be applied to the entire course. It may not be adopted for specific holes to the exclusion of other holes having out of bounds. See USGA Appendix on "Out of Bounds" in 1961 Rules of Golf.

For the course described, if the Committee adopted a Local Rule as set forth

in the USGA Appendix, the Local Rule could actually be applied only in cases where there was reasonable evidence both (1) that the ball was out of bounds and (2) as to the place where it last crossed the boundary line; in the absence of such reasonable evidence, Rule 29-1a would apply (stroke-and-distance penalty). Thus, the practical effect could be somewhat the same as if the Local Rule were adopted for selected holes (where it was easy to determine the place at which a ball last crossed a boundary) and were not adopted for holes where such determination would be virtually impossible.

MATCH PLAY: INADVERTENT OMISSION OF TWO HOLES

USGA 61-7
D. 29, R. 1, 4, 7-2, 11-1, 11-3

Q: In match play, two women were so busy talking they failed to play two holes. They did not realize the omission until the results of the match were posted and they wondered why their scores were so good. It was too late in the day to send them out again to play the whole 18, and to wait until the following day to replay their match would have delayed the whole flight and upset the entire tournament schedule. We sent them out immediately after their error was discovered to play

the two holes they had left out, and we are anxious to know whether or not this was correct. Unfortunately, those two holes changed the result of the match, and there has been considerable discussion as to whether our ruling was legal.

What is the correct ruling in such a case? Also, what would be the correct ruling in stroke play?

Questions by: MRS. ROGER HETZEL,
Secretary
Womens Central Pennsylvania Golf Assn.
Lancaster, Pa.

A: The Committee's decision is final—see Rule 11-3.

However, the Committee should not have directed that the two omitted holes be played belatedly, especially if this were to have been done out of correct sequence—see Definition 29.

The result should have been allowed to stand as originally posted.—see Rule 11-1. Had the players agreed to play less than the stipulated round, both would have been subject to disqualification—see Rule 4.

In stroke play, both players would be disqualified for failing to play the stipulated round—see Rules 1 and 7-2 and Definition 29.

LINE OF PUTT: SCUFF MARKS MAY NOT BE PRESSED DOWN

USGA 60-41
R. 35-1a, b, c

Q.1: Rule 35-1a of the 1959 Rules, at conclusion of the first paragraph, read as follows: “. . . nothing may be pressed down, and if a club is used it shall not be pressed with more than its own weight on the ground.” This wording has been eliminated in the 1960 Rules, Rule 35-1b indicating that the player may use his hand or the club to pick up or brush aside and loose impediment without pressing anything down.

However, I have observed that most of our better players, including the pros on television, still adhere to the carry-over habit of using the putter to firm down scuff marks or other irregularities in their line of putt which was permissible in the 1959 wording referred to in the preceding paragraph.

May the club be used in the aforementioned manner without conflicting with the spirit of the present “Loose Impediments” clause?

A.1: No.

In fact, it was not permissible to do so under the 1959 Rules. The reference you quoted from the 1959 Rules dealt only with the removal of loose impediments, and could not be stretched to condone touching the line of putt to remove scuff marks.

REPAIR OF BALL MARKS: CLUB MAY BE USED

Q.2: Rule 35-1c now permits repair of ball marks, and states: “. . . but he may not step on the damaged area.” May the weight of club be used? If so, it is at variance with Rule 35-1a concerning touching the line of putt.

A.2: The club may be used to repair damage to the putting green caused by impact of a ball. Rule 35-1a allows for this exception. However, Rule 35-1c provides an exception to Rule 35-1a only insofar as the area actually damaged by the impact of a ball is concerned.

LINE OF PUTT: TOUCHING INSIDE EDGE OF HOLE PROHIBITED

Q.3: In match play, player A was on the green of a par 4 hole in 2. He putted to within four feet of the hole after his opponent, Player B, had finally reached the green in 5 and had putted and left himself a two foot putt for a 7. Player A prepared to putt. Upon observing a broken area on the left side of the cup not in line with his intended putt, Player A walked up to the hole and when in process of scrutinizing the condition placed his finger along the inside broken edge of the hole. He then sank the putt for an apparent 4 against 7.

When ready to tee off, the referee announced that Player A had lost the hole because of a violation of Rule 35-1a.

This seems a very fine interpretation and not within the spirit of the rules that the better scoring player should be denied even a half because of a minor technicality that had nothing to do with getting the ball into the hole by stroking the ball.

A.3: As the inside of the cup was in the line of putt, the referee's decision was correct. It is understood that Player A was not removing a loose impediment or repairing a ball mark.

Questions by: ROSS YAHN, Secretary
Buffalo District Golf Assn.
Snyder, N. Y.

**BALL ADHERING TO CLUB: TO BE
DROPPED AT SPOT WHERE BALL
LODGED THEREON**

Revised USGA 53-2
R. 11-4, 261b

Note: This supersedes USGA 53-2 dated Feb. 19, 1953.

Q: My shot to the green hit the flag and bounced into a sand trap which was scarcely four feet away from the pin. There my ball was lodged against an embankment about a foot high. I opened a 9-iron and took a hefty cut at my ball. One of my feet was on the green while the other was in the trap. After my swing, I saw no ball, yet it wasn't on the green. It was on my club, held firmly by wet red clay.

Question by: MRS. VERA LAKE
Shreveport, La.

A: Since there is no Rule to cover such an occurrence, Rule 11-4, the Rule of Equity, must be invoked. It would seem that equity would be best served in the present case by applying the principle of Rule 26-1b, in which case the player would drop a ball without penalty as near as possible to the spot where the object (club) was when the ball lodged on it.

**BALL: DEFLECTED BY CUP-LINER
RAISED BY REMOVAL OF FLAGSTICK**
USGA 60-49

R. 34-4a, 35-1a

Q: A and B are playing a match. A is on the green 15 feet from the hole, and B is on the green ten feet from the hole. A's caddie is attending the flagstick. When A putts, his caddie pulls the flagstick and the cup-liner from the hole. The cup-liner falls from the flagstick, part of it in the hole and part of it out. A's ball hits the cup-liner and stops about one foot away. What is the correct ruling in such a case?

Question by: SCUDDAY HORNER, Pro
Montgomery Country Club
Montgomery, Ala.

A: A lost the hole under Rule 34-4a, as the cup-liner is considered part of the flagstick.

In stroke play, A would be penalized two strokes under this same Rule, and the ball would be played as it lies. Before putting again, A could request the Committee to repair the hole if damaged; to repair it himself would violate Rule 35-1a.

USGA FILM LIBRARY

"Second World Amateur Team Championship for Eisenhower Trophy" is a 17 minute film in full color of the competition at the Merion GC last fall which was won by the United States team. Ex-President Eisenhower is shown receiving the American and the Australian teams at the White House.

"Famous Golf Courses: Scotland," is an 18-minute film in full color. Famous holes were photographed at Troon, Prestwick, Carnoustie, St. Andrews, North Berwick and Muirfield.

"Walker Cup Highlights," is a 16-minute film tracing the early history and play for the first international golf trophy. Bob Jones, Francis Ouimet and other Walker Cup stars are shown. The latter half of the film is in color.

"St. Andrews, Cradle Of Golf," is a 14-minute, full color, 16mm 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," is a 14-minute, full color, 16mm film of the first World Amateur Team Championship at St. Andrews. Twenty-nine countries compete for the Eisenhower Trophy.

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

"Golf's Longest Hour," a 16mm full color production of 17½ minutes, depicts 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 16mm color production of 16½ minutes in which Johnny Farrell, Open Champion of 1928, acts as intermediary between Wilbur Mulligan, a beginner of unimpeachable integrity, and Joshua P. Slive, 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," lets the viewer see the many interesting exhibits in "Golf House," USGA headquarters in New York, and re-live golf triumphs of the past with many of the game's immortals. The film is a 16mm black and white production and runs 28 minutes.

"The Rules of Golf—Etiquette" 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 16mm color production of 17½ minutes.

The distribution of prints is handled by National Educational Films, Inc., 723 7th Ave., New York 19, 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.