

# IT'S YOUR HONOR

## Uniformity in the Rules

TO THE USGA:

In "Golf, Its Rules & Decisions" by Richard S. Francis, published in 1937, the following is stated by former President of the USGA John G. Jackson:

"... the Rules . . . provide the fairest way of playing the game that is consistent with experience.

"The much desired result (is) Uniformity in the Rules whenever the game is played and playing the game in accordance with these Rules."

In the same volume the author states:

"Anyone who attempts to say that this or that in the Code is a horrid technicality, without real merit, is arguing against the considered judgment of many generations of sane and sensible golfers."

Any orderly society must have a governing body and a set of rules that all members must conform to. The Constitution of the USGA gives it the power to adopt, enforce and interpret the Rules of Golf. Adoption of other rules by other golf organizations would be comparable to the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles attempting to change the laws of the State of California or declaring that its citizens were not bound by some state laws. This, of course, if carried to its logical conclusion would result in the destruction of law (in

our case the Rules of Golf). If one district association can change the Rules of Golf, then every other association in the United States can change any part of the Rules their governing members happen to dislike. This could well result in the destruction of the game of golf itself because it would have difficulty surviving without rules for the playing of the same. Certainly this is true if golf is to be played on a national basis.

JOSEPH W. VICKERS  
Los Angeles, California

## On Finding Golf Balls

TO THE USGA:

I enjoyed reading Miss Margaret Curtis' article on the art of finding golf balls in a recent issue of the JOURNAL. I was born and raised in the little town of Manchester, Mass. and, like many of the kids, caddied at the Essex County Club where Miss Margaret played often.

On rainy days the caddies would go out hunting for golf balls to earn a little change for the day from a local store which purchased the balls for prices ranging from ten to 30 cents in accordance with the marks, cuts, etc.

Miss Curtis mentioned the gutta percha ball. Back in the period when I was a caddie, 1918 to 1922, we frequently ran across one of those only to take a practice swing and hit it back into the woods.

Sincerely,  
BYRON P. ROBERTS  
Arlington, Va.

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