

UP A TREE WITH THE RULES

By

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A ball and a tree on a golf course can create odd situations and sometimes strange involvements of the Rules of Golf.

Memories of an especially strange case are evoked by the playing of the 1961 Walker Cup Match at the Seattle Golf Club for it was at that lovely course in Washington that the following occurred in the 1952 National Amateur Championship:

Paul H. Johanson, a nimble-witted student at the University of Washington, was seeking some Rules of Golf gospel from Richard S. Tufts, then a Vice-President of the USGA. The conversation went something like this:

Player: "Can I climb the tree?"

USGA man: "Nothing to stop you."

Player: "Suppose the ball moves while I'm climbing?" and he gave a longing

look up into the branches of the big evergreen; high overhead, you could see a little white golf ball nestling.

USGA man: "In that case, one stroke penalty—see Rule 27-1c about moving a ball accidentally."

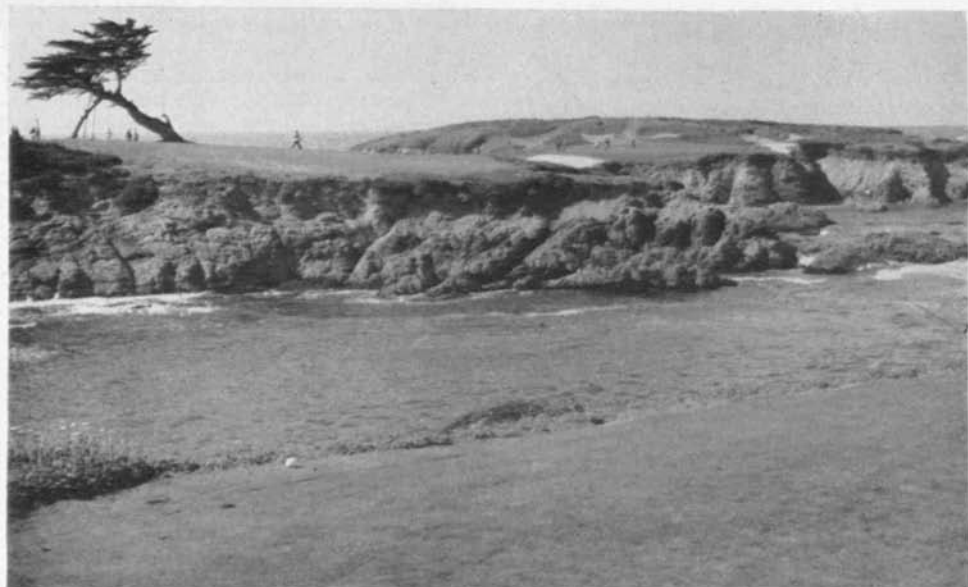
Player: "Can I throw my club at it?"

USGA man: "Loss of hole if you do—can't improve a ball's position or lie by moving, bending or breaking anything fixed or growing (Rule 17-3); also, a ball can't be touched purposely and must be played as it lies (Rule 16); also, have to strike at ball fairly with the head of the club (Rule 19-1). Can I help further?"

Player (gracefully lofting mental stymie): "Can I shake the tree?"

USGA man: "Yes, but it would cost you loss of hole (Rule 17-3)."

Fantastically enough, a tall step-ladder happened to be in the vicinity.



The famous par 3 16th hole at the Cypress Point course, Pebble Beach, Calif.



Gordon Jason is up the tree in the middle of Cypress Point's 16th fairway. Seated below Mr. Jason is Martin Kilgariff (shielding his face with his hand) who found the ball. From his precarious perch Mr. Jason successfully dislodged the ball.

Player: "Can I stand on that ladder and play the ball?"

USGA man: "Loss of hole for building a stance (Rule 17-4)."

Player: "Can I use the ladder to help climb the tree?"

USGA man: "Why not?"

Player climbed ladder. Climbed out on a limb above the limb on which ball is resting, ball remaining quite still. Called out:

"Fore below!"

Played ball to ground. Halved hole. (Later wins match, 1 up).

USGA man polished his badge and strolled off.

Out of a Cypress Tree

At left is a picturesque scene on the unique Cypress Point course at Pebble Beach, Calif. Most of the 16th hole is in

the foreground—note cypress tree at left in middle of 16th fairway. Sam Davis, of Los Angeles, happened along with his trusty camera a few minutes before Gordon Jason, of Atheton, teed off on the 6th in the California Amateur Championship's qualifying competition. The direct tee-to-green route is 227 yards over water. It is, at the same time, one of golf's most beautiful and terrifying sights.

Mr. Jason elected to hit a No. 5 iron toward the cypress tree in the middle of the fairway. An official told him that the ball had not come out of the tree. Martin Kilgariff, in the lower part of the picture above, climbed the tree and found the ball. Mr. Jason elected to play from the tree. He hit the ball left-handed and played a remarkable shot—the ball stopped just short of the green, and he scored a 5.



Paul H. Johanson, of Seattle, actually attempted to build a stance 20 feet up in a Douglas fir at the Seattle Golf Club during the 1952 Amateur Championship. The ball can be seen at the extreme right, below Johanson. He played it out of the tree and got a halve on the hole in a third-round match he went on to win, 1 up.

Rules Decisions

The following are Rules decisions involving balls and trees:

- (1) **PENALTY IF SHAKEN OUT PURPOSELY**
- (2) **CLIMBING TO PLAY NOT BUILDING STANCE**

USGA 52-18

Q1: A ball lodges in a tree. Suppose that while standing on the ground the player purposely shakes the tree in trying to make the ball drop out of the tree. Is he penalized?

A1: Yes—two strokes under Rule 17-3, as the player's action is purposeful.

Q2: Is a player entitled to leave the ground and climb a tree in order to play

a stroke? Is that building a stance within the meaning of Rule 17-4?

A2: The player is entitled to try to climb a tree under the circumstances described. Rule 17-4 does not apply.

PENALTY IF DISLODGED IN CLIMBING

USGA 52-57

Q: If a player starts to climb a tree to knock his ball down and while the player is in the tree the ball drops to the ground, is he deemed to have caused the ball to move or is it a question of fact as to whether the player's activities caused the ball to move. It seems to me that there should be a penalty stroke, for, had the ball not dropped to the ground, the

player could have done little more than tap the ball to the ground.

Question by: F. A. BURTTSCHELL
San Antonio, Tex.

A: The player sustains a penalty of one stroke under Rule 27-1c, as the ball must be deemed to have been moved accidentally.

EXTRICATING BY HITTING TREE LIMB PROHIBITED

USGA 55-19

Q: On our golf course (Cypress Point) there are numerous cypress trees in the fairways themselves and on the borders. A high ball will generally lodge on top, but occasionally if found in some low branches it can be driven out with a hard horizontal stroke, which I presume is entirely legitimate.

A ball was found lying loosely in a nest of twigs, 10 or 12 feet above the ground, but the branch to which these twigs were attached was well in reach. The player delivered a mighty blow with his niblick at the branch and the ball dropped to the ground. He then played out the hole and referred us to Definition 30: "A 'stroke' is the forward movement of the club made with the intention of moving the ball."

But the opponent claimed the hole under Rule 19-1: "The ball must be fairly struck at with the head of the club, etc."

Question by: GEORGE NICKEL
Pebble Beach, Calif.

A: It is understood that the player did not strike at the ball but struck at the branch in order to move the ball.

The player lost the hole. He did not stroke at the ball fairly, as is required by Rule 19-1; the definition of a stroke (Definition 30) has to be taken in conjunction with this Rule, and the player did not make a stroke.

Further, he did not play the ball as it lay, in violation of Rule 16, which is fundamental to the entire code of Rules.

Although the ball was not actually touched, the object on which it lay was touched purposely to move the ball.

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. Slve, 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.