

## Some U. S. Golf Association Decisions on the Rules of Golf

**Question.**—Four men are playing a best-ball four-ball match, A and B being partners and C and D being partners. A and C have holed out in 5 and B has putted for a 3 and hangs on the lip of the cup. D is about 10 feet away with a putt for a 4½. He steps forward and picks up B's ball, conceding the putt, stating that he had a right to do so because he was afraid it would fall in the hole. The other side claims that he could request the ball to be picked up but he had no right to touch the ball of either of his opponents under penalty for so doing. There is no question as to the willingness of the opposing parties to concede such putts to each other, the argument being wholly as to the rights in the matter.

**Answer.**—D is wrong under Rule 1 of rules for three-ball, four-ball, and best-ball matches. D requests B to either lift or hole out his ball if he thought B's ball would interfere with his putt. Rule 7 under the same rules for four-ball matches states in part, "If a player's ball be moved by an opponent, the opponent's side shall lose the hole." Technically C and D would lose the hole by moving B's ball.

**Question.**—In a four-ball match one of the players who was "away" was about to make a putt. His partner's ball was beyond and close to the hole on the green. In the opinion of one of his opponents this ball would serve as a mark for the hole, and this opponent asked the player to putt or lift his ball before his partner played. To this action the player who was "away" and about to putt objected and asked that his partner leave his ball where it was. Is the player compelled to lift as requested?

**Answer.**—The player is compelled to lift as requested. Rule 1 for three-ball, best-ball, and four-ball matches.

**Question.**—A and B are on the putting green. A has played 3 and is 18 inches from the cup. B has played 2 and is 12 feet from the cup, completely stymied by A's ball. B says to A, "If I give you your putt I can knock your ball away and putt for a 3, can't I?" A replies that it is all right with him, and picks up his ball, which B has knocked to him. B putts and misses the 3, taking 4 and halving the hole. Is either player subject to any penalty? Are both subject to any penalty? The incident happened in a championship event during the second round.

**Answer.**—Both players are disqualified under special rules for match-play competition, for the reason that they agreed to violate the rules of golf. This decision is sustained by the ruling of the R. and A. No. 199-293.

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**Ruling on corrugated, grooved, slotted, or punched clubs.**—At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the United States Golf Association held at the Flossmoor Country Club Friday evening, September 21, 1923, the following ruling was adopted with respect to corrugated, grooved, slotted, or punched clubs, effective January 1, 1924:

"Club faces shall not bear any lines, dots, or other markings made for the obvious purpose of putting a cut on the ball, nor shall they be stamped or cut with lines exceeding 1/16 inch in width, nor less than 3/32 inch apart, measured on their inside edges. Both line and dot markings may be used, either alone or in combination within the above limitations, provided all rough or raised edges are removed."