

New Member Clubs of the Green Section.—East Shore Country Club, Culver, Ind.; Clovernook Country Club, Cincinnati, Ohio; Cincinnati Golf Club, Cincinnati, Ohio; Yorktown Country Club, Yorktown, Va.; Country Club of Birmingham, Birmingham, Ala.; Mt. Hawley Country Club, Peoria, Ill.; Del Monte Golf and Country Club, Del Monte, Calif.; Manasquan River Golf and Country Club, Brielle, N. J.

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

Question.—A player drove a ball from the tee, which he thought went out of bounds, and at once played a provisional ball. This shot was poor, as was also his second shot with the provisional ball, so that he did not reach the spot at which he thought his first ball went out of bounds until he had played three times with the provisional ball. On reaching the spot, he searched and found the first ball. I ruled that he should continue to play with the first ball. Was I right in thus ruling?

Answer.—You were entirely right. A player is entitled to continue to play with a provisional ball until he reaches the spot where his first ball is likely to be.

Question.—On the left of a certain fairway there is another fairway with its green and tee, now part of the playable course. Between the two fairways are boundary stakes. In the absence of any local rule, is a ball driven from one tee or fairway, over the boundary stakes and onto another tee, green, fairway, or bunker, or into a trap, out of bounds?

Answer.—The definition of out-of-bounds is, "all ground on which play is prohibited." In the absence of any local rule, it would therefore seem that a ball driven to the other fairway over the boundary stakes would not be out of bounds and therefore would be in play. The local committee, however, should make a ruling on this case.

Question.—The question arose as to whether a ball could be taken out of a bunker, with a loss of two strokes. I stated that the ball could only be taken out if it were in an unplayable position, and that the bunker was there just for the purpose of catching bad balls. Was I right?

Answer.—The player is the sole judge of whether or not his ball is unplayable. He therefore has the right to lift it any time under the rules.

Question.—Our "Round Table" is playing at different times for a cup. The player having the lowest net strokes for the 18 holes is to hold the cup until the next contest. Recently a considerable discussion arose as to whether a ball may be lifted from a bunker under two-strokes penalty. Personally I have no doubt about this, but I would appreciate your advice on the point so that the matter may be settled before the next contest.

Answer.—In medal play a ball may be lifted from any place, at the discretion of the player, and may be played as provided under Rule 22, for lost and unplayable ball, the penalty for which is stroke and distance; or it may be played as provided under Rule 11, special rules for stroke competition, the penalty for which is to tee the ball under penalty of two strokes.

Question.—In playing from the tee in match-play handicap, do strokes count in honor of playing? I have lately been advised that if strokes played were the same and opponent was given a stroke on the hole, it carried the honor with it.

Answer.—Strokes always count in the matter of taking the honor. It is the net number of strokes that the player takes at a hole that decides who has the honor in all cases.