

man, say, who could drive 225 yards—and not on the line taken by either the very short or the very long player, both of whom, due to their variations from normal, are more or less golfing freaks. The measurement, therefore, should be made from the center of the tee on the line indicated above to an angle point clear of the dog-leg which properly opens up the green, and from this point to the center of the green. If measurements are also to be made from the regular tee and from the short tee, the same theory should be followed; that is, one should measure on the line which would be taken by the standard player of regular tee-length or of short tee-length.

Holes with long diagonal carries, on which the player has the option of biting off just as much as he thinks he is able to chew, should be measured on just the same theory as above, namely: from the back tee, on the line which would be taken by the standard good player—one who could carry, say, 190 yards; and from the regular tee and from the short tee, on the lines which would be taken by the standard player of the class who would be expected to use these tees—let us say 160 yards and 125 yards.

There has developed in this country recently, probably due to the increased power of the modern golf ball, a desire for long golf courses, and due to this desire clubs have yielded, in some cases, to the temptation of what might be called artificially lengthening their holes by the use of such expedients as measuring from the back of the back tee to the back of the green. This would probably add 30 yards to the length of the hole, and while it may look pretty on the card and add 500 yards to the apparent length of the course, it not only adds nothing to the play but deceives the stranger as to the length of the hole, and also deceives the regular player by making him think that he is getting, let us say, 450 yards in 2 shots, when actually he is getting about 420 yards. This is, of course, a harmless deceit, but, all said and done, it is pretty bad practice in what we believe to be essentially a sportsman's game.

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

**Question.**—In an open tournament conducted by a club, medal play, a player drove a ball from the fifth tee, making a poor shot. He immediately teed up another ball and took another drive, not with the idea of playing his second ball but presumably because, exasperated, he wanted to show himself and others that he could send it out. His first ball was in the fairway. He played his first ball, taking up the second. What penalty, if any, should be imposed?

**ANSWER.**—This situation is covered by Decision 267 of the Decisions by the Rules of Golf Committee of the Royal and Ancient Club of St. Andrews, which is as follows: "By the custom of the game the competitor is disqualified. After teeing his ball for the first stroke in a stroke competition, the competitor may not play a practice stroke at any tee or during the play of any hole." This applies to medal play only. In match play there would be no penalty, but the act of the player would be considered very bad form.

**Question.**—In the back of our 12th hole there is a deep ditch diagonally across which there is a water pipe  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 feet above the ground. A's ball on the second shot landed in this ditch, directly under this pipe. Measured perpendicularly the pipe was therefore more than a club's length from the ball. The pipe was too low for A to take his stance thereunder, and the pipe would also inter-

fere with his back swing. A claimed that he could pick up his ball and drop it a club's length from the pipe, measured horizontally. B claimed that the pipe was more than a club's length from the ball and that therefore the ball must be played from its lie. Who was right? Is the player himself the sole judge as to whether his ball is unplayable?

**ANSWER.**—A could not move his ball except under Rule 22. The player himself is the sole judge as to whether his ball is unplayable. Under the conditions, a local rule should be made for a player in this ditch and he should be allowed to drop in the hazard away from the pipe without penalty.

**Question.**—A and B, as partners, were playing a 4-ball match with C and D. B had a private match with C. We all played our second shot toward the green. As it was dusk, A accidentally played his third shot onto the green with C's ball, thinking it was his own ball. C started a search for his own ball, and in the meantime A holed out and went into the club house. After 15 or 20 minutes had elapsed, C came into the club house and found that A had his ball. C, in his private match with B, claims he has a right to go out the following day or any other day, replace his ball, and play out the hole. B played out the hole and claimed the hole in his private match with C.

**ANSWER.**—Under Rule 10 for 3-ball, best-ball, and 4-ball matches, and Rule 20 under General and Through the Green, A is accordingly disqualified for playing his opponent's ball. In equity B has no foundation for his claim of the hole against C. In this case C did nothing in violation of the Rules of Golf, but was the injured party. Under the conditions and in all fairness, B's claim of the hole should be ruled out and B and C should come to some equitable arrangement to decide the hole.

**Question.**—You state that when a handicap match ends in a tie, a full 18 holes must be played off after the completion of the round in order to determine the winner. Does the handicap apply on the second 18 holes also? Is it not true also, as a general proposition, that where handicap matches are tied the handicap always applies on the extra holes that are played the same as on the original 18 holes?

**ANSWER.**—Handicaps are made to equalize the two players for 18 holes. If they tie at the end of the round the full 18 holes should be played over again in fairness to the one receiving the handicap. In answer to your second question, the handicap applies in this case the same as in the other. The handicap should be adjusted over a certain number of holes in order to equalize it for the full 18 holes. For instance, if the player receives three strokes handicap, they may determine the playoff by playing 6 holes and the player receiving one stroke handicap.

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