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

Is it permissible, in match and medal play, to remove mud adhering to a golf ball on the putting green?

Decision.—According to the Rules of Golf, mud adhering to a golf ball may not be removed. However, where conditions warrant, the committee in charge may make a local rule which makes removing the mud permissible.

In a tournament, after the qualifying round has been played and the play-off of the tournament is under match play, have the players a right to play on the course up to the greens or on the greens the same day that they are to play in the tournament?

Decision.—Under the Rules of Golf, players have the right to play on the course and putt on the greens before the match play rounds, after the qualifying round has been played.

In match play, A is on the green within 20 yards of the flag. There is no person at the flag. He putts, his ball hits the flag, and is deflected by the pole. What is the penalty for a ball hitting a pole?

Decision.—In match play, there is no penalty for hitting the flag from any distance when there is no person holding it. See Rule 32, paragraph 1.

Among the new additions to the Rules of Golf, I notice that the United States Golf Association has inserted a decision under “Lost Ball” to the effect that a player must play a provisional ball before he leaves the spot at which his last shot was played. Suppose he plays a ball straight down the fairway and has every reason to believe the ball can be found, does not play a provisional ball, but is unable to find his drive. What would he have to do then?

Decision.—If the player is unable to find his ball within the prescribed time under Rule 22, he returns to the spot and plays again as provided under the same rule. A provisional ball is played when doubt exists as to whether it may be lost or unplayable. A player must play a provisional ball before he leaves the spot from which he has played a ball which leaves the player in doubt. Once having left the spot the player must look for his ball and then play as provided under the rules.

Applying ammonium sulfate in hot weather.—Burning is likely to result if ammonium sulfate is applied in hot weather at a rate to exceed 2 pounds per 1,000 square feet. The application, whether in the form or a solution or mixed with sand or compost, should be followed at once with watering. If no water is available, it should be applied only during showers.

Don’t let weed seeds from fairways wash onto your greens.—It is often the case that a portion of a fairway near a green is higher than the surface of the green. As a result of this, many weed seeds are certain to be washed onto the putting green from the fairway unless steps are taken to divert the rain falling upon the fairway from run-
ning onto the green. This may be effectively done by the construction of ditches. In many cases the abundance in a green of crab grass, chickweed, pearlwort, white clover, yellow foxtail, and other weeds may be traced to the higher ground of a near-by fairway.

Seeding Golf Courses in the Piedmont Section of the South
By J. L. Burgess, North Carolina Department of Agriculture

The Problem

The factors which enter into the solution of the problem of securing good year-round golf greens in the piedmont section of the South are soil and climate.

The more elevated parts of Virginia and the Carolinas constitute the northern limit of the best southern grasses and the southern limit of the best northern grasses for golf course purposes and this fact renders rather difficult the selection of the proper combinations for any given area. Here, also, we find every conceivable variety of soil, from the sandy loams to the stiffest of red and white clays.

Nothing is more conducive to rapidity of growth and permanency of a stand of grass than a granulated subsoil that will readily absorb and hold the winter and spring rains. Such a condition of subsoil is found, generally, throughout that section lying north of latitude 40, where winter freezes reach a depth of 6 to 10 inches, or more. Nothing so effectively granulates clay subsoils and promotes their water-holding capacity as deep freezing. Since no such climatic condition obtains in the piedmont section of the South, other means of pulverizing and opening up the subsoils must be resorted to if we are to secure permanent and drought-resisting stands of grass on our golf links.

Again, a cool climate is always a moist climate, and a moist climate is most favorable to the maximum growth of grass. This favorable climatic condition obtains in the North, but the hot sun of the South is killing in its effect on grasses that have an insufficient supply of subsoil water to withstand the onslaughts of our annual midsummer droughts. These facts make it all-important that the initial preparations of the soil for the reception of the seed be as deep and thorough as possible.

Land Preparation

Whenever possible, land should be plowed at least eight inches deep and seeded thickly to cowpeas or soybeans, with heavy fertilization any time from May to July. Just before frost this crop should be plowed into the ground as deeply as the soil was originally broken, being careful not to invert the furrow slice, but to turn the furrow at an angle of about 45 degrees, thus distributing the organic matter from the top to the bottom of the furrow. This will give uniform distribution of humus throughout the entire soil stratum—a necessary condition to promote the water-holding capacity of the soil and to attract the grass root into its lower depths. This done, the land should be thoroughly double-disked in a direction at right angles to the last plowing, so as thoroughly to pulverize and mix the organic matter with the first five or six inches of the surface soil.

Now let the land lie and take the fall and winter rains. About