



THE REFEREE

Decisions by the Rules of Golf Committees

Example of Symbols: "USGA" indicates decision by the United States Golf Association. "R & A" indicates decision by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland. "60-1" means the first decision issued in 1960. "D" means definition. "R. 37-7" refers to Section 7 of Rule 37 in the 1960 Rules of Golf.

AUTOMOTIVE CARTS:

- (1) ARE CONSIDERED "EQUIPMENT"
- (2) STATUS WHEN OCCUPIED BY TWO PLAYERS

USGA 60-5
D. 7, 20, L.R.

Q: Although we do not permit the use of automotive equipment in our tournaments, electric carts are used at many of our member clubs. We shall therefore appreciate any information you may be able to give us concerning the category into which an electric cart falls.

- (1) Is it an obstruction when unoccupied but in use during the round?
- (2) Or is it part of the "equipment" of the player or players using it, under Definition 7?
- (3) Does its status change in any way when it is occupied by an opponent or a fellow-competitor?

Question by: MRS. KENNETH COOLEY
Evanston, Ill.

A: (1) No.

(2) A cart is part of a player's equipment under Definition 7.

(3) Not unless there is a pertinent Local Rule. It is recommended that a Local Rule be adopted in advance, based on the principles in the text of "Caddy-ing Double" in the 1960 Rules of Golf booklet, page 57.

HAZARD:

STATUS OF HALF-EATEN PEAR

Revised USGA 59-40
D. 17, 20, R. 33-1

Note: This supersedes Decision 59-40 dated October 30, 1959

Q: Is a half-eaten pear in front of a ball in a hazard an obstruction as defined in Definition 20 or is a two-stroke penalty incurred in removing the pear before the ball is hit? The hazard in which the pear was lodged is not in close proximity of the pear tree.

Question by: MRS. ROBERT I. LACEY
Great Neck, N. Y.

A: If the player removed the pear, she violated Rule 33-1, the penalty for which is: Match play—Loss of hole; Stroke Play—Two strokes.

A pear is a natural object. When detached from a tree it is a loose impediment under Definition 17 and may not be removed from a hazard. The facts that someone had partially eaten the pear in question and that it was foreign to its natural area do not alter the case.

Natural objects may be transformed into obstructions (Definition 20) through processes of manufacturing or construction. For example: a log (loose impediment) which has been split and has had legs attached to it has been changed by

construction into a bench (obstruction) ; or a piece of coal (loose impediment) is considered an obstruction after it has been manufactured into a charcoal briquet. However, a loose impediment does not become an obstruction merely because it may have been slightly altered by man. If it were otherwise, a player might declare that a twig broken by a man's footstep is an obstruction.

HAZARDS:

(1) TOUCHING GROUND OUTSIDE LIMITS PERMISSIBLE

(2) SUGGESTED METHOD FOR DEFINING MARGINS

USGA 60-11

D. 14, R. 33-1

Q: In one of our major tournaments, we marked water hazard boundaries with white chalk lines. A local rule provided that a ball touching such a white line was considered to be in the hazard.

In a match between A and B, A's ball touched the outside edge of one of these white lines in such a way that if he grounded his club behind the ball he would not be touching the ground within the hazard. A contended that under the circumstances, he could so ground his club before making the shot. B claimed that if he did so, he would violate Rule 33-1. Which player is correct?

Question by: W. D. McLOUGHLIN
Secretary, Ras Tunura Golf Association
Ras Tanura, Saudi Arabia

A: Player A is correct. When a ball lies in or touches a hazard, the player may sole his club outside the hazard without penalty. Rule 33-1 provides in part: "... the player shall not touch the ground in the hazard ... with a club ..."

We recommend that your local rule be amended to conform with Definition 14d, which states in part: "Stakes and lines defining the margins of hazards are not in the hazards."

In the diagram submitted, the hazard margin in question appears to be located some distance from the natural limit of the hazard, which is the spot where the ground breaks down to form the depression containing water. It is suggested that lines defining the margins of hazards be placed along the natural limits as nearly as possible.

**PROVISIONAL BALL:
WHEN TO ABANDON**

USGA 60-2

R. 29-3, 30-1a, 30-2, 33-2

Q: A and B are playing a match. B strikes his ball toward the edge of woods bordering the right side of the area cleared for play. The ball clearly carries an intervening hilltop and disappears beyond. B then plays a provisional ball to an apparently safe location.

B's original ball is found lying in a drainage ditch. He elects to pick it out of the water hazard and drop behind under Rule 33-2a.

A claims the hole: he maintains that B was in breach of Rule 29-3 because his original ball was found in the water hazard, and the Rule directs a penalty of loss of hole in match play for playing a provisional ball for a ball which might be in such a hazard. Is the claim valid?

Question by: WILLIAM G. HARDING
Dedham, Mass.

A: A's claim is not valid.

Rule 29-3 permits a provisional ball only if the original ball may be lost or out of bounds. Since B's ball might have been lost, B was within his rights in playing a provisional ball provided he announced his intention beforehand (Rule 30-1a). As the original ball was subsequently found in a water hazard, B was obliged to abandon the provisional ball, as provided in Rule 30-2, and to proceed under Rule 33-2. His provisional ball was not provisional with respect to a ball in a water hazard.

COMMITTEE: WINNER'S SCORE NOT POSTED

USGA 60-7

R.11-1b

Q: A 54-hole stroke play handicap tournament was held for a field of approximately 50 women. On the final day, scores were turned in and the Golf Chairman announced Player B as the winner. Player A, the leader in the tournament for the first 36 holes, called the Golf Chairman the day after the tournament to find out the totals, as the publicity the day after the tournament did not list them. The Golf Chairman said she did not have the totals. A, ill with the flu for a week, waited until the following week to check with the Handicap Chairman, who had the totals. A check revealed

that A's score had been properly attested and turned in but not posted. She was rightfully the winner, but the trophy had already been awarded to B. Are we in order in asking B to relinquish the trophy to A even though neither contestant was responsible for the error?

Question by: MRS. FRANK C. EBAUGH, JR.
Winter Park, Fla.

A: Yes. The trophy should be retrieved from B and given to A, the rightful winner.

If a Committee has erred in failing to post a score which has been correctly returned and a remedy is feasible, the Committee should correct its error.

Rule 11-1b does not apply as no penalty is involved. There is no time limit for correction of errors of this sort by a Committee.

BALL: IS NOT EQUIPMENT USGA 60-8

D. 7, R. 40-1b, 40-1c, 40-3b

Q: The 9th hole at Ponte Vedra is a par 3 with an island green. A and B were partners against C and D in a four-ball match. A hit his ball directly across the water into the bank of the island and then watched it trickle down into the water. B drove onto the island about five feet short of the green but within 20 yards of the hole. C drove onto the green, about 10 feet from the hole. D drove into a trap-his ball does not enter into this discussion.

Where A's ball went into the water is not a lateral water hazard, and he should have played another ball from the tee side of the water. However, he made a remark to the effect that his ball did not make any difference any more, walked across the bridge, dropped his ball on the green side of the water and chipped up to within three feet of the hole. A's ball was then between B's ball and the pin, and slightly to the right of the line of play which B would normally take.

B chipped on the green. His ball hit A's ball solidly, ricocheted to the left and stopped about two feet from the pin.

The question is whether or not B could then play his ball where it lay with or without a penalty. B sank the putt for a par 3 which was immediately questioned,

as he halved the hole with C, who also got a par 3.

Question by: HARRY B. SCHNABEL
President, Ponte Vedra Men's Golf Assn.
Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

A: The hole was halved. There is no penalty if a player's ball strikes another ball from any distance in a four-ball match. Rule 40-1c provides that the moved ball (A's ball) shall be replaced. B was obliged to play his ball as it lay, as he did. Rule 40-3b is not applicable. A's ball was not "equipment" as used in the Rule and as defined in Definition 7. It was still in the match despite his statement that his ball "did not make any difference any more" and his failure to drop correctly from the water hazard.

C or D could have avoided the incident by requesting that A's ball be lifted or played before B played under Rule 40-1b.

HAZARD: **TOUCHING WITH CLUB (s)**

USGA 10-10
R. 33-1, 33-1f

Q: Please explain Rule 33-1f. What is meant by term "place his clubs in hazard prior to making a stroke."

I allowed my club to rest on the sand in hazard while I adjusted my glove. I was some 10 feet from the ball and in no way was testing, etc. I contended such was legal in accordance with the above mentioned Rule 33-1f. Was I correct?

Question by: GEORGE SKINNER
Portsmouth, Va.

A: No. If it were permissible to take such action, the way would readily be open to testing the soil in the hazard, contrary to the Rule.

Clause f in Rule 33-1 is for the practical purpose of permitting one's club to lie in a hazard without penalty while the player is making his stroke. It is a matter of convenience and time-saving, especially when the player is carrying his own clubs and the hazard is large or awkward to enter and leave.

Clause f in no way abrogates the fundamental principle of Rule 33-1 that the lie of a ball in a hazard may not be improved and that the player may not touch the hazard with anything which could conceivably affect his lie or could be used to test the hazard's condition.

HANDICAP DECISION

SELECTED HOLE EVENTS:

NO EQUITABLE WAY TO HANDICAP USGA Handicap Decision 60-5

Miscellaneous

Q: We propose to conduct a golf tournament based on the low net of selected holes with the following variations: (a) Low net on odd holes; (b) Low net on even holes; (c) Low net on selected six holes; (d) Low net on selected nine holes; (e) Blind draw of various numbers of holes.

1. Should net scores on the selected holes be determined by the allocation of handicap strokes as they fall on the card?

or

2. Should net scores on the selected holes be determined from a percentage of the player's handicap, such as one-half handicap for nine holes or one-third handicap for six holes?

Question by: MR S. J. A. HENDRICKSON
Minneapolis, Minn.

A: It is likely that inequities will arise under either method and the USGA does not have any recommendations for such events. The USGA Handicap System is based on the player's ability to score on an entire 18 hole round and his handicap is valued accordingly. Handicap strokes are allotted on the score card on the basis of the relative difficulty of each respective hole as compared to the entire 18 holes.

Method 1 is inequitable because the fraction of handicap received in relation to the fraction of holes selected could be more or less than that to which the player is entitled. Method 2 is inequitable because a player could receive handicap strokes on holes where she would not receive them if her full handicap were used during a full round; for example, a ten handicap player could receive a stroke on the No. 15 handicap stroke hole.

USGA Handicaps are 18-hole handicaps. Any tournament of less than 18 holes in which handicaps are determined on a proportionate basis can produce certain inequities. In light of this, when an event such as this is scheduled, the Committee should announce in advance the method which is to be used to determine handicaps and point out to the competitors that any method used will be inequitable to some degree.

USGA FILM LIBRARY

"Famous Golf Courses: Scotland," is a 18-minute film in full color. **Famous holes were** photographed at **Troon, Prestwick, Carnoustie**, St. Andrew, 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. Andrew, 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 17% 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 16% minutes in which Johnny Farrell, Open Champion of 1928, acts as **intermediary** between Wilbur Mulligan, a beginner of unimpeachable integrity, and Joshua P. **Slive**, 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 17% minutes.

The distribution of prints is handled by National Educational Films, Inc., 165 West 46th Street, New York 36, 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**.