



# 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. "59-1" means the first decision issued in 1959. "D" means definition. "R. 37-7" refers to Section 7 of Rule 37 in the 1959 Rules of Golf.

### Ball "Lost" in Ground Under Repair

USGA 58-35

D. 5, R. 21-2, 3; 32-3

**Q:** Player drives ball from tee which seems headed for ground under repair. After a brief search, player drops another ball in a designated drop area, without penalty under a local rule. After playing the second ball, a fellow-player finds the original ball well beyond area where it had been believed to be. Should original ball be continued in play? May the second ball be continued in play without penalty?

Question by: JOHNNY MORGAN  
Vero Beach, Fla.

**A:** As the player's original ball was in play (Definition 5), he incurred a penalty of loss of hole in match play for playing a wrong ball, under Rule 21-2.

If the incident occurred in a stroke competition, the player would have been obliged to continue play with his original ball and would be penalized two strokes for playing a wrong ball under Rule 21-3.

These answers assume that the wrong ball was not played from a hazard.

It is a question of fact whether a ball

is lost in ground under repair. When the fact cannot be positively determined, the mere possibility that the ball may be in ground under repair is not sufficient; there must be preponderance of evidence to that effect. Even if the weight of evidence be to that effect and there yet remains the possibility that the ball is not in ground under repair, the player must strengthen the evidence by searching five minutes for the ball. In the absence of strong evidence that the ball is in ground under repair, the ball must be treated as lost, and Rule 29-1 must be applied. See Rule 32-3, second paragraph.

### Referee May Not Waive Rule

USGA 58-36

R. 11-1 and 2, 35-1d

**Q1:** Ball on putting green was moved to avoid casual water. Player, before putting, placed full hand on green near ball to test green. Referee ruled that, due to mitigating circumstances of wet green, Rule on testing could be waived. Can referee waive this Rule or does the player lose hole?

**A1:** Referee has no authority to waive any Rule, including Rule 35-1d, which applies in present case. However, referee's

decision is final under Rule 11-2.

**Q2:** Where referee has no authority to waive Rule and does, can protest be referred to Committee?

**A2:** Protest of referee's decision may be referred to Committee only if referee is willing and if claim is made within time limit specified in Rule 11-1. Both players are entitled to know status of match at all times, and therefore referee's decision is final.

Questions by: JAMES PILLET  
New York, N. Y.

## **Tee Markers May Not Be Lifted**

USGA 58-37  
D 32; R.5

**Q:** Is a player allowed to tee his ball up close to one of the markers, then remove the marker while he plays his shot and replace it again afterward?

Question by: KENNETH T. GORDON  
Essex Fells, N. J.

**A:** No. The markers must always remain in place for all players. Rule 5 is pertinent, and the penalty for breach is loss of hole in match play or two strokes in stroke play.

## **Ball Splits in Two, Half Remains in Bounds**

USGA 58-38  
D. 21; R. 28

**Q:** A man hitting from the men's tee drove a ball that struck a marker on the women's tee and was split exactly in half. One half went out of bounds, the other half bounced back toward the man. What is the ruling?

Question by: WILLIAM F. FOX, JR.  
Indianapolis, Ind.

**A:** The ball being unfit for play, the player was entitled to replace it as provided for in Rule 28, using the half of the ball that remained in bounds as the part being replaced.

The ball was not out of bounds as all of it did not lie out of bounds—see Definition 21.

## **Caddie Need Not Carry Player's Clubs**

USGA 58-39  
D. 7, R. 37-2

**Q:** A rides a cart which carries his clubs. A hires a boy who is called a spot-

ter. This boy does not carry the clubs; all he does is find A's ball.

B claims this is in violation of the Rules and quotes Definition 7.

Where carts are permitted in tournament play, can a player hire a caddie to find his ball and not carry his clubs?

Question by: JAMES D. FOGERTY  
Sappington, Mo.

**A:** Yes. A boy who does not carry the player's clubs but performs the other normal duties of a caddie is considered to be a caddie as the term is used in the Rules of Golf.

Definition 7 and Rule 37-2 were intended to prohibit the employment by a player of two "caddies."

The USGA prohibits the use of automotive transportation by players in its championships.

## **Ball Has "Moved" When It Sinks Down**

USGA 58-40  
D. 3

**Q:** A player drives his ball to deep and thick grass and it rests on the top of the grass. The player takes up a trial stance before addressing and then the ball sinks down, the lie becoming very much worse than the original position; in other words, the ball moves down vertically, but not horizontally.

Is this ball deemed to have moved as it changes its position vertically though not horizontally?

When a ball oscillates and comes back to its original position, the ball has not moved. Is this interpretation applicable to the vertical movement of a ball up or down?

Question by: S. TAKAHATA  
Osaka, Japan

**A:** The ball in question is deemed to have moved, within the meaning of Definition 3. The direction of movement is immaterial.

## **Ties in Stroke Play Should Be Played Off**

USGA 58-42  
R. 36-3

**Q:** In a recent best ball of four tournament there were several ties. The winner was decided by matching of cards starting from the 18th hole and working backwards. The committee in charge

of the tournament stated that this was in accordance with USGA Rules.

Is this proper procedure?

Question by: JOHNNY VASCO  
Allentown, Pa.

A: Rule 36-3 empowers the Committee to determine how ties shall be decided. A tie in stroke play shall not be decided by a match.

In handicap stroke play, the USGA recommends a playoff; see 1958 Rules of Golf booklet, page 60.

The USGA considers that matching cards against each other or against the course par is not a proper way to decide a tie. If two players return scores of the same total in stroke play, they have finished the test originally set. To decide their tie, it would not seem fair to go back arbitrarily to any individual part of the original test, for that test was on a total-score basis. Any such method is artificial. Stroke play and match play are two different games. Therefore, a new test should be provided for settling a tie.

## Sacrificing Stroke to Assist Partner

USGA 58-31 (49-220)  
R. 5,11-4

Q: A and B are partners against C and D in a better-ball match. All four are on the green, A's ball farthest away. A seemingly deliberately putts so as to get slightly farther away than B and on a line to the cup so that when he, A, makes his second putt, it will give his partner an opportunity to see the line and the roll. In other words, A deliberately sacrifices his own score in the hope of aiding his partner on the better-ball score.

Is such procedure against the Rules? Is such procedure barred by ethics or sportsmanship. What would you suggest as the chairman's ruling on the question?

Will you visualize the same performance on an approach shot and let me have your opinion?

Question submitted in 1949 by:  
MILTON A. JENTES  
White Plains, N. Y.

A: The Rules of Golf have been written upon the premise that players hole out in the least number of strokes and that in order to do so the game be play-

ed towards the hole whenever possible or practicable.

A's action is so contrary to the intent of the Rules, to the customs of the game, to sportsmanship, and to the rule of equity that A and B should be declared to have lost the hole; see Rule 11-4 and Rule 5.

The foregoing applies to any stroke played in the manner and for the purpose employed by A.

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STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (TITLE 39, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 233) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION OF USGA Journal and Turf Management, published seven times a year at New York, N. Y., for October 1, 1958.

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John P. English, Editor  
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 15th day of September, 1958.

(signed) Gotfred Pearson, Notary Public,  
State of New York  
(My commission expires March 30,  
1960).