

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

In a match-play handicap against par, one of the contestants, through error, played under the wrong handicap, discovering the error upon his return to the club-house. Is a player disqualified under these conditions?

Decision—A player in a match such as you describe is responsible only for properly keeping his score in the competition. It is an obligation of the handicap committee's to see that the handicap is properly marked on the score card so that there can be no mistake, and to see also that the card is checked up properly after the match in order to determine the winner.

I was playing in a four-ball match. My ball was two or three feet off the green. My partner's ball was two or three feet directly back of mine. He asked me to lift my ball, as he thought he might hit it. I did so. The other side claimed he had no right to have my ball lifted. I claim, under Rule 1 governing four-ball matches, that he had the right. Rule 1 provides that any player in a four-ball match has the right to have any ball lifted or played at the option of the owner of the ball if he thinks the ball will interfere with or help a player. It does not say that one or both of the balls have to be on the putting green. Kindly give me a ruling on this.

Decision—Rule 1 covering four-ball matches states plainly that any player in a match may have any ball removed at any time if he deems it in the way of or to the advantage of the player. The ball then may be either lifted or played by its owner.

In a medal-play tournament a player holed out from a trap within 20 yards of the hole. The flag-stick was in the cup, but the ball did not touch the flag-stick until after the ball had descended into the cup. After the ball had descended into the cup it rested against the flag-stick; but the presence of the flag-stick had nothing to do with the ball's entry into the hole. Is the player penalized under Rule 13 of Special Rules for Stroke Competition?

Decision—The ruling of the United States Golf Association on the point you mention is that the player is penalized two strokes. This is the interpretation that the committee have made under Rule 13 on similar occasions.

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### **Construction Costs of Winchester Golf Club's Course**

By George Cunningham

Early in April, 1923, construction of the Winchester Golf Club's 9-hole course at Winchester, Va., was begun on a tract of land which for years had been used as a dairy farm. The first five holes were laid out in a narrow flat-floored valley through which flows a meandering stream of considerable volume, while the last four enter rolling broken country by means of a long 3-shot hole, which rises gradually to an elevation of about 50 feet above the valley floor. The soil is slaty, thin, and poor in quality on the hilly part of the course, but silty, fertile, and deep in the valley.

The greens were built to insure good drainage and prevent overwash, and in all cases slope very slightly toward the approach. No