

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

In a medal round, A and B arrive at a certain putting green where the cup is found to have been slightly pulled up so that the edge protrudes above the surface about one-quarter inch. A, lying five feet away, putts first, without noticing the condition of the hole. The ball strikes the edge and is deflected to the side. B, before making his putt, which was only one foot from the cup, pressed the tin back into the green. Was he justified in so doing? The common-sense view of the matter is that this was the proper course for him to follow, and that A's failure is due to his bad luck in not having noticed the condition of the cup, just as if he had failed to remove a worm or a stick from his path.

Decision.—A player or the caddie could have ascertained whether the cup was in proper position before playing. A would have to suffer the penalty of two strokes. B was within his rights to have the cup placed in its proper position before playing, but in this case he should have pointed out to A the defect before he putted out.

A single was playing behind a four-ball. The four-ball had played the 17th hole and had walked over to the 18th tee, and one of the players had shot from the tee. The four-ball then decided to let the single finish the 17th hole and go through. The single then came to the 18th tee and were told to go through. The player who had shot his ball from the 18th tee did not tell the players they had shot. The players (the single) then teed off and played the 18th hole. One of the players beat the other by one stroke. The player who was defeated advanced the player who had defeated him to the next match. Some 15 or 20 minutes later the same single joined a four-ball, when the player who had defeated the other player as mentioned above, discovered that he had some other player's ball, which was of the same mark but of a different brand. He then realized that he had played the player's ball that was first shot from the 18th tee (that is, the ball that had been shot by one of the players of the four-ball), and that his own ball had been found by one of the four-ball behind them. Does this player who shot the ball as explained above lose the match or win it?

Decision.—The player who played the ball outside of the match loses the hole, as provided in section 2 of Rule 20.

A water hazard extends across the course between a tee and the green. A ball is played across the hazard and beyond the green. In playing back to the hole, the player over-approaches and sends his ball into the water. Under the exact wording of the rule, he should return toward the tee, drop a ball, and again play across the water hazard which he has already safely crossed. Some of our members maintain that the ball should be dropped beyond the green at the spot from which the shot which entered the water was played. Is there any basis for such a ruling, or would it be necessary to make a local rule to that effect?

Decision.—Rule 27 would apply to the case you have cited, unless your committee have made a local rule covering shots played in the way you describe.