

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 of 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-