

GOLF AUSTRALIA RULES NEWSLETTER

Winter 2013



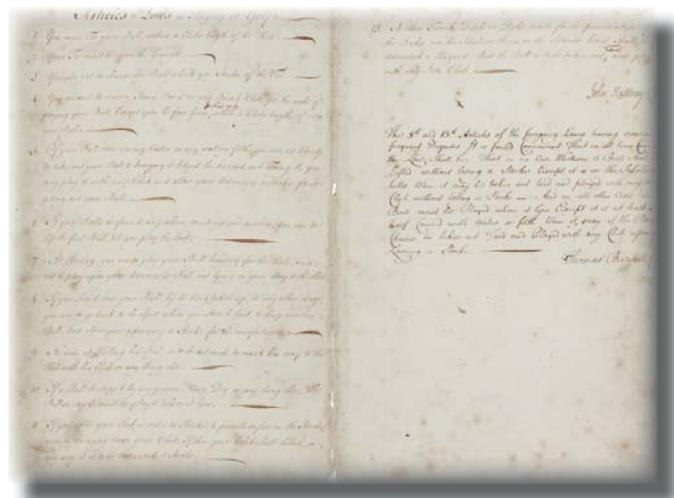
Early Rules of Golf

Article from R&A website www.randa.org

In July, The Open Championship returned to Muirfield, home of the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers. If we owe the governance of the game of golf from the late 19th Century onwards to The Royal and Ancient Golf Club, then it is to the Gentlemen Golfers of Edinburgh (later the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers) that we owe the earliest recorded Rules of Golf.

Written in 1744 and known as the *Thirteen Articles*, these rules were conceived for the first Challenge for the Silver Club, played over Leith Links. The rules were copied almost identically ten years later when a similar Challenge was instituted at St Andrews. The rules appear on the very first page of the St Andrews Golfers' first minute book and are entitled *The Articles & Laws in Playing the Golf*. The first competition, played on 14 May 1754, is taken as the start date of what eventually became known as The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews.

The first winner at Leith in 1744 was John Rattray, an Edinburgh surgeon. It was Rattray's signature that appeared at the end of the *Thirteen Articles*, which were enshrined in the minute book of the Edinburgh Golfers. By virtue of his victory he became 'Captain of the Golf'. Rattray won again the following year and for a third time in 1748. In addition to cementing his place in golfing history as the signatory of the first written Rules of Golf, in the years separating his second and third



victories, Rattray found himself playing a part, albeit against his will, in the Jacobite Rebellion.

Rattray was persuaded to tend the Highlanders wounded at the Battle of Prestonpans in 1745. When Prince Charles Edward Stuart decided to make his way to England, Rattray was prevailed upon to accompany the Jacobite troops. He made it to Derby before returning with the retreating army to Culloden Moor, where he was forced to surrender himself. He

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Handicap Stroke Index
Bob Crosby, Chairman of the GA Rules & Amateur Status Sub-Committee, provides some guidelines for establishing a Handicap Stroke Index



Rules on Tour
Editor & National Referee Tom Duguid sets out helpful hints to prepare referees for a day on the course



Rules Quiz
Victorian State Level referee Brian Nesbitt tests your knowledge with a Rules Quiz





gaining of the Silver Club that in all time coming whoever puts in the ball at the fewest strokes over the field, being 22 holes, shall be declared and sustained victor.

This change in the scoring system necessitated the introduction of a new rule. It was decided that in the event of a ball being driven into a road or other such place "so that it cannot be played out", the player could lift it and throw it back at least six yards, allowing "his adversary one stroke for his so doing". This established the principle of stroke play.

Even though the Rules have evolved and expanded over the years, there are elements of the original Rules that still have relevance today. For example: Rule 10 of the Challenge, as it applied both to the Edinburgh and St Andrews Golfers states: "If a ball be stopped by any person, horse, dog or anything else, the ball so stopped must be played where it lies". According to the current Rule 13-1: "The ball must be played as it lies, except as otherwise provided in the Rules".

In addition, Rule 12 of the Challenge states: "He whose ball lies farthest from the hole is obliged to play first". The current Rule 10-2(b) states: "... the ball farthest from the hole is played first".

Such continuity signifies the relevance of the Rules to each generation of golfers, as well as to early golfing societies and clubs.

By the time the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers hosted The Open Championship for the first time, at Musselburgh in 1874, its own Rules code had been amended four times (1775, 1809, 1839 and 1866). Its 1883 code was entitled: *Rules of Golf as Played by The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers on Musselburgh Links (Adopted from the Rules of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club)*. Towards the end of the 19th century the Honourable Company, like hundreds of clubs throughout the United Kingdom, regarded The Royal and Ancient Golf Club as the pre-eminent club and rules-making body and it was as a result of pressure from such clubs that The R&A agreed to formalise its governance role and establish the Rules of Golf Committee in 1897.

Articles & Laws in Playing at Golf - 7th March 1744.

1. You must Tee your Ball within a Club's length of the Hole.
2. Your Tee must be upon the Ground.
3. You are not to change the Ball which you Strike off the Tee.
4. You are not to remove, Stones, Bones or any Break Club, for the sake of playing your Ball, Except upon the fair Green & that only within a Club's length of your Ball.
5. If your Ball comes among Watter or any wattery filth, you are at liberty to take out your Ball & bringing it behind the hazard and Teeing it you may play it with any Club and allow your Adversary a Stroke for so getting out your Ball.
6. If your Balls be found any where touching one another, You are to lift the first Ball, till you play the last.
7. At Holling, you are to play your Ball honestly for the Hole, and, not to play upon your Adversary's Ball not lying in your way to the Hole.
8. If you should lose your Ball, by it's being taken up, or any other way, you are to go back to the Spot where you struck last, & drop another Ball, And allow your adversary a Stroke for the misfortune.
9. No man at Holling his Ball, is to be allowed, to mark his way to the Hole with his Club, or anything else.
10. If a Ball be stopp'd by any person, Horse, Dog, or any thing else, The Ball so stop'd must be play'd, where it lyes.
11. If you draw your Club in order to Strike & proceed so far in the Stroke as to be bringing down your Club; If then, your Club shall break, in any way, it is to be Accounted a Stroke.
12. He, whose Ball lyes farthest from the Hole is obliged to play first.
13. Neither Trench, Ditch or Dyke, made for the Preservation of the Links, nor the Scholar's Holes or the Soldier's Lines, shall be accounted a Hazard; But the Ball is to be taken out / Teed / and play'd with any Iron Club.

John Rattray, Capt

was imprisoned in Inverness and only escaped slaughter due to the fact that his role was to tend the wounded and not bear arms. He was released thanks to the intervention of the Lord President of the Court of Session, Duncan Forbes, a friend and fellow golfer. Forbes had played his own part in the campaign. Following the 1745 Silver Club Challenge, he travelled north to try and persuade the Highland clans not to join the Jacobite cause. He later died, on 10 December 1747, at Culloden.

The annual Silver Club Challenges were the bedrock on which early golfing societies were founded and flourished. In the 18th and for most of the 19th century, each society was at liberty to follow its own rules and these were determined by factors specific to their own course. In 1754, the St Andrews Golfers made a slight alteration to Rule 5 of the Edinburgh Challenge to read: "If your Ball come among water, or any watery filth, you are at liberty to take out your Ball, and throw it behind the hazard, six yards at least". In the Edinburgh version, the wording was "bringing it behind the hazard and teeing it".

This amendment was presumably to reflect the course conditions at St Andrews, where teeing would be unnecessary as the ground was firmer. It could also have been that in the mid-18th century, teeing the ball simply meant placing it on a favourable piece of ground. According to Rule 2: "Your tee must be on the ground".

The regulations for the Silver Club Challenge, of which there were also thirteen, make it clear that it was a match play competition. Again, the St Andrews golfers followed very closely the model established by the Edinburgh Golfers. Any changes were simply to reflect the number and names of holes. No.3 of the St Andrews regulations states:

After the figures are drawn, the Set or Match beginning with No.1 etc. shall go out first, with a Clerk to mark down every stroke each of them shall take to every hole; Then by the time they are at the Hole of Leslie, the second Set beginning with No.3 shall strike off, and so all the rest in the same order, each Set having a Clerk, and when the Match is ended, and the wholle golfers have played to the last hole, being Eleven holes, and played in again to the hole of hill, being in all 22 holes, then a scrutiny of the wholle Clerks books or jottings is to be made, and the player who shall appear to have won the greatest number of holes, shall be declared to be the winner of the Match, and if there shall be two, three or more that are equal, then these must play from the hole of Craig to the hole of Cartgate, and back again, by themselves in the order of their figures before the Match can be determined.

The scoring system – all against all match play – was also used at Leith. There, the course had only five holes and matches were generally played over four rounds, so we can assume their Silver Club Challenge was over 20 holes.

A significant change was made by the St Andrews Golfers in 1759. On 9 May, the minute book was signed by all of the players due to compete in the Challenge, but before it was played, an alteration was made to the format:

It is enacted and decreed by the Captain and Gentlemen Golfers present in order to remove all disputes and inconveniences with regards to the

Handicap Stroke Index

By Robert Crosby

(Chairman of Rules & Amateur Status Sub Committee - Golf Australia)

A topic that often causes much debate in Clubs, both at Committee level and amongst the Members, is the Handicap Index.

Before we delve into the 'whys and wherefores' of how this is done we firstly need to refer to the Rules of Golf - Rule 33-4:

"Handicap Stroke Table – The Committee must publish a table indicating the order of holes at which handicap strokes are to be given or received."

So, as far as the Rules go, that is where it starts and ends. Both The R&A and Golf Australia have provided guidance to assist Committees in establishing a Stroke Index. Traditionally there has been no one basic principle for fixing the order of the Stroke Index. Some have based it on the order at which it is considered most difficult to achieve par, whereas others have based it upon a mathematical formula. Some also separate the stroke index for match play and stroke play. The upshot being that there is no hard and fast rule for a Committee to work on.

I will discuss indexing for both Match play and Stroke play separately, as the reasoning is quite different.

a) Match Play Index

One of the main factors that should be taken into consideration is that the very early or very late holes should not be assigned to a low Stroke Index. The reason being that if a game were to finish all square and the players were required to go on to the 19th and subsequent holes to determine the winner, a player in receipt of very few strokes would gain an unfair advantage if he were to receive a stroke at the 19th or 20th. Similarly, if a low Stroke Index were assigned to a hole at the very end of the round, a player in receipt of very few strokes may not have the opportunity to use them as the game may be over by that stage. In general, therefore, Stroke Index 1 to 4 should not be on holes 1, 2, 17 or 18. The other important factor to be taken into account in fixing the order of the Stroke Index is that strokes should be fairly spread out over the 18 holes.

Golf Australia has provided a generic Match Play Index as an option for Clubs, which provides for a fairly even distribution throughout the round. It also disregards hole difficulties. It is fair to players on all handicap levels, and it has proved satisfactory in use. This option can be found on the GA website under Rules & Handicapping – Handicapping & Course Rating – Competition & Course Management Resources – Course Management, Marking the Course, & Course Set-Up Procedures – Part 1 – Course Management. Or at the following link:

www.golf.org.au/site/_content/document/00014129-source.pdf

b) Stroke Play Index

Well, that was the easy part! Establishing a Stroke Play Index can be far more complex and there are various ways to formulate it.

Some Committees would have arrived at the Stroke Play Index for their course based on someone's 'expert' opinion, others by extracting data from competitions over a period of time. Two methods that are detailed in the above GA website link, which I will try to briefly summarise, are:

Standard Statistical Method for Determination of Stroke Index

One method is to analyse all players' results in an eclectic competition which has been conducted over a reasonable period of time. Another is to analyse the hole-by-hole scores from an elite competition.

Comprehensive Statistical Method for Determination of Stroke Index

For Committees who have available to them someone who is willing and able to perform detailed statistical projects, it is recommended that

a more granular analysis be conducted.

With such an analysis for example, players are split into handicap groups, and the 'average over par' score calculated for each hole within each group.

Some considerations that support the pursuit of such an approach are:

- Will a 15-marker and a 1-marker both agree on what is the hardest hole on a course? Not necessarily as they have quite different skill levels and will play the game in different ways. But does it matter what hole the 15-marker will find the most difficult? Not at all because whether a given hole is the hardest on the course or the sixth hardest, the 15-marker will still receive a handicap stroke – for them it is simply an interesting point of discussion. But it is critical for the 1-marker because for them it is the difference between receiving a handicap stroke on a hole and not.
- Is there likely to be a notable difference from low to high markers as to the degree of difficulty that will be ascribed to a hole? There certainly can be, and it is a particularly common occurrence with par 5s. Par-5 holes are relatively easy for low markers, but can become harder the higher the handicap of the player. This is because a longer marker must hit three relatively good shots on a par-5 hole to be near the green. Given longer markers' inconsistencies, this can be a challenging proposition (particularly on a course that features many obstacles). On the other hand, when a low marker stands on the tee of a par 5, their standard thought is "good birdie chance".

A more detailed explanation of how to conduct this granular analysis is in the abovementioned GA website reference.

Other things to be considered:

Even Distribution of Handicap Strokes

Ideally, the indexes should be spread evenly between the front and the back nine.

Indexing Holes for Players on Handicaps Above 18

A common practice is for the distribution of indexes to replicate the order used for players on handicaps of 1 – 18. eg. 1/19, 2/20, 3/21 etc. However, whilst holes with Index 1 and 2 may be the most difficult hole on the course for 1 and 2-markers, they may not be the most difficult holes for the 20-marker. Therefore, a split index may be more appropriate. Consideration of par 3s is the typical reason for a Committee to decide to use a split index. Generally, a high marker will find it relatively easy to make a bogey on a par 3 and therefore it would be too generous to allocate two handicap strokes on those holes. Analysis confirms that second strokes should not be given at the par 3s, except they could be allocated 33-36 in the handicap group 19 – 36.

Indexing Holes for Players on Plus Handicaps

Many times the easiest hole on the course may be a par 3, and therefore, a Plus Marker would require a hole-in-one to have a 'win' on the hole in Par or to have 3 points in Stableford. It may be more appropriate for Committees to consider par 5 holes for these players. Perhaps, there could be a note somewhere on the card to the effect:

"Plus markers will give strokes in the following order – eg holes 6, 13, 2 etc."

Indexing the difficulty of holes is an intriguing subject and once completed should not be set in concrete. Conditions change over time and it is recommended that the Stroke Play Index be reviewed periodically to ensure any changes to the local conditions and changes to the course are accounted for.

Rules Quiz

By **Brian Nesbitt**

(Victorian State Level Referee)

Answers can be found on back page

Club Level — Please provide Rule number and sub-paragraph (Rule Book may be used if necessary)

1. The Player - Scoring in Stroke Play
2. Playing from Outside Teeing Ground
3. Dropping and Re-dropping the ball
4. Concession of Match, Hole or Next Stroke
5. Touching Line of Putt
6. Ball in Hazard, Prohibited Actions
7. Immovable Obstruction
8. Playing from a Wrong Place
9. Ball Striking Flagstick or Attendant
10. Advice

This section will require the use of the Decisions Book

1. A player's ball came to rest in reeds overhanging a water hazard about a metre from the surface of the water. The opponent disputes whether the ball is in the hazard and you are called.
2. A ball is half buried in the rough. The player announced his intention in advance to his opponent and, in order to identify the ball, touched his ball and rotated it. He was then able to identify his ball. His opponent was not impressed and you are called.
3. A player's ball came to rest through the green near some trees whose roots were exposed. Believing that some more roots might be just below the surface, the player took a tee and probed around his ball to see if his club would strike a root or stone in making his stroke. His opponent immediately lodged a protest and you are called.
4. In a tight match, a player makes a stroke in a bunker but fails to extricate his ball from the bunker. He smooths irregularities in the area where the stroke was made. The smoothing does not breach Rule 13-2 with respect to his next stroke. His opponent, however,

claims that the smoothing assisted the player in his subsequent play of the hole as it constituted testing the consistency of the sand. You are called.

5. In a match a player (B) made a statement which her opponent (A) interpreted to mean that her (A's) next stroke was conceded. A lifted her ball and B immediately said she had not conceded A's next stroke. You are called.

Now for a Hole with our intrepid heroes, David and Brian. Please count the strokes and any penalties involved in each paragraph and check your score for the hole at the end.

1. It was 10.29am and David and Brian were waiting by the 1st tee for their starting time to tick over (10.30am). Brian was listed first on the draw sheet but as David was having a practice swing on the tee block when 10.30 arrived, Brian said: "Although I'm supposed to play first, if you're ready, have a whack." David then teed-off and hit his ball straight down the middle of the fairway.
2. Brian's ball came to rest in an awful spot where someone had failed to rake the bunker and there were footprints all over the place. 'I'll just tidy this up', he said and began raking the bunker. He raked all round his ball but left an area of about 20 cm behind the ball. 'That's better', he said, 'some members should be shot.' He then played his ball out of the bunker and it came to rest in front of the green but plugged in its own pitch-mark as there had been a downpour in the previous hour.
3. Brian decided to take relief under Rule 25-2. He lifted his ball, cleaned it and then cleared some loose impediments out of the area in which he was going to drop his ball and finally repaired the pitch-mark. He then dropped his ball and played it onto the green.
4. Unfortunately, Brian hit his chip rather too hard and it crashed into the flagstick. However, it was his day, and the ball wedged between the flagstick and the side of the hole with just a fraction of it above the surface of the hole and, thinking he had holed his ball, he picked it up with a huge grin on his face at his luck.

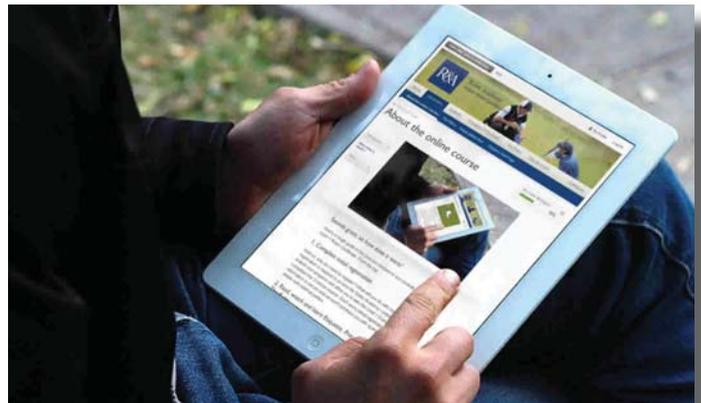
R&A Rules Academy

Many of you may be already aware of the R&A Rules Academy, a new free online course to help golfers and administrators improve their knowledge of the Rules of Golf.

The R&A and Golf Australia have agreed that this course is to be incorporated into the Australian National Rules Accreditation & Education Programs Framework as an additional tier which will further increase the opportunities available to Australian golfers around developing knowledge of the Rules of Golf.

The Rules Academy is available at www.RandA.org/RulesAcademy and is based on the Etiquette Section and the Quick Guide to the Rules of Golf (a short summary of the most commonly occurring Rules). Users are guided through the course by either Padraig Harrington or Suzann Pettersen, who are both R&A Working for Golf Ambassadors.

Through a combination of text, video, diagrams and photographs, the Rules Academy provides an interesting way to learn about the Etiquette and Rules of Golf. You can test your knowledge by taking the review questions at the end of each section and then, if you choose, you can try to gain an official R&A certificate by taking the Exam. The Exam questions will be based on content within "Etiquette", "Principles of the Rules" and "The Rules". Each section contains a mixture of videos, text and diagrams to help you understand the basic Rules of Golf. The more



you absorb the content in these sections the better you will do in the Level 1 Exam.

Access to all of the Rules Academy content is free, but there is a charge of £10 to take the Exam should you choose to do so. This £10 fee will be directed to The R&A's "Working for Golf" projects around the world.

No matter how much you think you know, you can always learn something more, and the Exam will let you gauge how good your knowledge of the Rules actually is! Also, success in the Exam will mean you gain a certificate from the governing authority, The R&A.



Rules on Tour

By Tom Duguid

(Editor, Golf Australia National Referee and part-time PGA Tour Referee)

Last issue we listed a number of interesting incidents that occurred during the previous summer season. This time we will set out some hopefully helpful thoughts on acting as a referee at major pro and amateur tournaments. Only a relatively small number of rules enthusiasts get this opportunity, with others limited either by lack of available time or inexperience.

Although knowledge of the Rules is obviously of importance, there are other factors that also are considered by the organising bodies when choosing officials. Experience at lower level events, appearance (shabby clothes and dirty shoes do not instil confidence – if a uniform has been provided, ensure that you wear it) and most importantly, the ability to handle a situation in a professional manner. Some of the better volunteer officials I have known may not have been able to recite the rules or quote rule numbers, but had the right demeanour when engaging upset or enquiring elite golfers.

Having been invited to assist at a major event, it is advisable to do a bit of pre-event research. Via the internet, you could check out the course lay-out of an unfamiliar course. If there is a briefing session, make sure that you attend and don't be afraid to ask questions – it is better to clear up any doubts beforehand rather than during play. Acquire a copy of the Local Rules and Competition Conditions in advance so that you can at least study them the night before going on duty. In PGA Tour events, the Tour "Hard Card" also applies. This sets out standard local rules and conditions for all Tour tournaments. If you are assigned to a particular zone, try to visit that zone on the briefing day to familiarise yourself with any potential problem spots.

On the tournament day, give yourself adequate time to get properly prepared before venturing on course. Make sure that you bring or pick up all available resources. If walking with a group you will need - Rule book (make sure it's the current edition!), Local Rules, Hard Card (if a Tour event), 2-way radio (on the right channel!) and ear-piece, watch (stop watch preferably), and if required, any pace of play record or scoring forms that may be required to be completed. If you are roving in a cart you should also have the current "Bible" (Decisions Book), draw sheet, and a siren. If the weather is threatening, having waterproofs and umbrellas will save a trip back to HQ. In pro tournaments that have spectator roping, rovers operate in carts without a roof so that they can drive under the ropes when necessary. This means being well prepared for the weather, particularly having sunscreen and water on board.

Rovers at the start of play should make a sweep of your zone to ensure that everything is in good shape and to reacquaint yourself with possible tricky spots. Have a quick look to see that bunkers are raked, roping and stakes are intact, flagsticks are in the holes, and that no damage such as fallen trees, holes made by vehicles or animals, etc. will affect play. Any concerns can be referred to HQ so that the problem can be remedied before play reaches that hole. It is also wise to check out the tracks through the trees and rough that the ground staff use. These can prove very handy when required to get quickly from one hole to another, particularly when a large crowd is around.

Now that the preliminaries are out of the way, we can move on to dealing with the players. Firstly, as a walker with a group, try to get to the first tee 10 minutes before the scheduled start time. Let the starter know you have arrived and (if not done so earlier) check your watch with the official time. Introduce yourself to other personnel who may be walking with your group

– marshals, scorer, course maintenance assistant, VIPs, etc. Generally you will be seen as the leader of this entourage and usually the instructions are to stay close together, out of the way of play, rather than having an untidy fairway of meandering individuals (one of my pet hates!!). Your HQ will have given specific instructions regarding this however.

Introduce yourself to the players and caddies with a friendly approach that you will be walking with them and will be available to assist them if the need arises. It is not necessary to ask if they have counted their clubs or what type of ball they are using. On the first tee and thereafter it is not necessary to stand opposite the tee markers. Once initial pleasantries are over, leave it to the player to start up conversations again. Remember that they are in their workplace (or in the case of an amateur, trying to establish a career) and very rarely want to be concerned with small talk with officials.

Your role is to assist – to answer any query that arises or to warn the player if he/she is about to break a rule. Do not act like a policeman by tracking the player everywhere and studying every stroke at close range. But be close enough to render assistance to the player most likely to need help, eg in the trees. Get used to routinely checking your watch when a ball search starts. Assist in the ball search and if necessary communicate with the rovers as to whether the following group should play through.

Whether as a walker or rover, when called over by a player it is good to start by asking "how can I help?" rather than something negative like "that's a bad situation!" It is important to listen carefully to the request or query as this could affect your reply. You have to be careful not to lead the player into a certain course of action. If, for example, the player has an unplayable lie, he may ask if a drop in a particular area is permitted. If the answer is yes, it is not your role to then add "but a better alternative is over there". However if he is pondering what to do, you could ask if he would like the options explained. It is important to be polite, efficient and calm. Most times the player just wants to do the right thing and then get on with their job.

When assessing whether the shot a player intends to play is reasonable, always factor in the great skill they have; don't go on your own ability!

Once a player has decided to take a drop under your direction, stay in close proximity to observe their actions and then advise that "the ball is now in play". Do not be afraid to request a re-drop if the player does not comply with the Rules, e.g. dropping from less than shoulder height.

Occasionally a player will not agree with your ruling, particularly if they do not know you, and will insist on speaking to a PGA official or rover. If you are 100% sure of your decision, it may help to quickly show them the appropriate rule in the book or Local Rules. If even a little unsure, it is best to contact the requested official by radio and usually confirmation of your decision can be made this way. In cases where some judgement is required, a rover should be asked to attend the scene. With a view to achieving effective player management, sometimes when a player is unhappy with your ruling it is best to call for a second opinion, even if you are convinced you are correct – the most experienced Tour officials in the world will do this from time to time. And remember that it is not a sign of weakness to call for a second opinion; it is more often a sign of strength and cooperation. It is always better to get the right result in the end!

There are two types of referees – those that have made a mistake, and those that will make a mistake. Don't dwell on an error, but afterwards go over the details in your mind, study similar cases, and ensure that you will not make the same mistake again. Do not be backward in asking advice from more experienced officials, whether they be staff members or senior volunteers. Although nerve-racking at times, a day on course when you know that you have been of assistance to one or more golfers can be very rewarding.

In a future issue, we will cover the other important role carried out by officials – that of Pace of Play.



US Tour to Follow Anchoring Rules

Statement from the US PGA Tour

The US PGA TOUR Policy Board recently acknowledged that the R&A and USGA's ban on anchored strokes, known as Rule 14-1b, will apply to PGA TOUR competitions beginning on January 1, 2016. In making this acknowledgement, the Policy Board also passed a resolution strongly recommending, along with the PGA of America, that the USGA consider

extending the time period in which amateurs would be permitted to utilize anchored strokes beyond January 1, 2016.

PGA TOUR competitions are conducted in accordance with the USGA Rules of Golf. However, the Policy Board reserves the right to make

modifications for PGA TOUR competitions if it deems it appropriate.

"In making its decision, the Policy Board recognized that there are still varying opinions among our membership, but ultimately concluded that while it is an important issue, a ban on anchored strokes would not fundamentally affect a strong presentation of our competitions or the overall success of the PGA TOUR," PGA TOUR Commissioner Tim Finchem said. "The Board also was of the opinion that having a single set of rules on acceptable strokes applicable to all professional competitions worldwide was desirable and would avoid confusion."

The USGA and R&A jointly announced the proposed ban on anchored strokes in November 2012; then, following a "comment period," the governing bodies announced on May 21, 2013 that the ban would go into effect on January 1, 2016.

Tee it Up

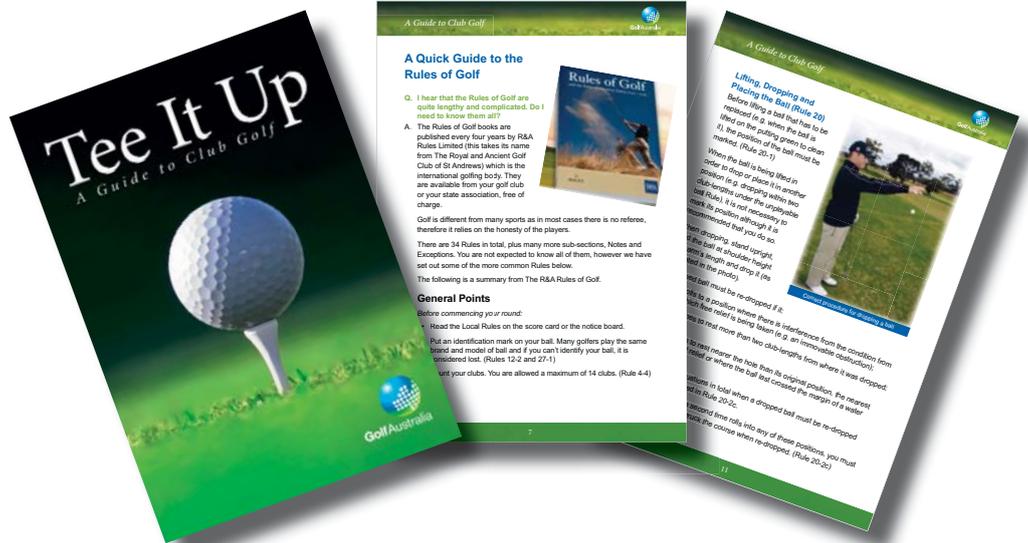
Since the first edition in 2011, Golf Australia has distributed almost 30,000 copies of the publication "Tee it Up – A Guide to Club Golf."

The booklet is a component of the National Rules Accreditation & Education Programs Framework. Endorsed by Golf Management Australia, the Australian Golf Course Superintendents' Association and all State Associations, the publication provides the following information:

- Common Golf Terms
- A Quick Guide to the Rules of Golf
- Local Rules and Competition Conditions
- Handicapping
- Etiquette and Dress Code
- Pace of Play
- How Various Competitions are Played and How to Mark a Score Card

Filled with diagrams and photos, the 50-page booklet is a useful resource for clubs and new club members to have on hand when that tricky question arises.

Golf Australia has just released the 'Third Edition' of the booklet. Copies start from \$2.00 per book and an order form can be found at the following link - www.golf.org.au/default.aspx?s=publications



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Why are the Definitions Important?

Here's an example why!

In a stroke play event a Player (A) asks his fellow-competitor (B) if he might mark his (B's) ball in order to save time. Player B agrees. Player A sets B's ball aside and then putts out. Player B then putts out from where his ball lay on the green – forgetting that he had agreed to let Player B mark his ball. One might be forgiven for thinking that Player B has played from a Wrong Place (Rule 20-7) and therefore incurred a two stroke penalty.

However, upon closer examination of the facts, and secure in the knowledge of our Definitions, we find that Player B has not played from a Wrong Place, but in fact has played a Wrong Ball, as Player B's ball was out of play as soon as it was marked and lifted.

In the case of a Wrong Ball situation the error MUST be corrected before teeing off from the next tee or the two stroke penalty for playing a Wrong Ball becomes a case of DISQUALIFICATION for not correcting the error before teeing off at the next tee.

A couple of points come out of this incident:

LEARN THE DEFINITIONS!

As soon as you mark and lift a ball, it is OUT OF PLAY.

Now have a look at Decision 15-3b/3, which amplifies the above.

Rules Quiz Answers

Answers to Club Level Quiz using Rule Book

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Rule 6-6 | 6. Rule 13-4 |
| 2. Rule 11-4 | 7. Rule 24-2 |
| 3. Rule 20-2 | 8. Rule 20-7 |
| 4. Rule 2-4 | 9. Rule 17-3 |
| 5. Rule 16-1 | 10. Rule 8-1 |

Decisions Book Answers

- Decision 26/1. Yes, the ball is in the hazard. The margin of a water hazard extends vertically upwards and downwards.
- Decision 12-2/2. The player is penalised one stroke for touching his ball other than as provided for in the rules (Rule 18-2a). If he had marked his ball before rotating it, there would have been no penalty, assuming the rotating did not result in the ball being cleaned beyond the extent necessary to identify it.
- Decision 13-2/27. The player is entitled to probe the area provided the lie of the ball, area of intended swing or the line of play is not improved (Rule 13-2) and the ball is not moved (Rule 18-2).
- Decision 13-4/36. In such circumstances Exception 2 to Rule 13-4 permits smoothing, provided nothing is done to breach Rule 13-2 with respect to the player's next stroke.
- Decision 2-4/3. If B's statement could reasonably have led A to think her next stroke has been conceded, in equity (Rule 1-4), A should replace her ball as near as possible to where it lay without penalty. Otherwise, A would incur a penalty stroke for lifting her ball without

marking its position (Rule 20-1) and she must replace her ball as near as possible to where it lay.

Answers to a round with David and Brian:

- One stroke, no penalty – see Decision 10-2c/2. There is no penalty under Rule 10-2c because they did not do so in order to give one of them an advantage.
- One stroke, two penalty strokes – see Rule 13-4 Exception 2 and Decision 13-4/9. Whilst clearly done to care for the course, Brian nevertheless improved his stance and area of intended swing and line of play, contrary to Rule 13-2.
- One stroke, two penalty strokes – see Rule 25-2 and Decision 13-2/10. Brian was in breach of Rule 13-2 when he improved the area in which his ball was to be dropped by eliminating an irregularity of surface (the pitch-mark).
- One stroke, one penalty stroke – see Rule 17-4 and Decision 17-4/1. Brian incurred a penalty of one stroke under Rule 20-1 for lifting his ball without marking its position. He must replace the ball against the flagstick and may then apply Rule 17-4. See also Decision 16/3. Note there is a difference between removing the flagstick, and the ball coming out of the hole without being holed, and removing the ball by picking it up before it is holed. The former is covered under Rule 17-4 – the ball is placed on the lip of the hole with no penalty; the latter is covered by the above discussion.

Total: 4 strokes and 5 penalty strokes = 9 strokes. However, if Brian did not replace his ball against the flagstick and teed off at the next hole, he would be disqualified under Rule 3-2.

