



Sunday Morning
Competitive Golf
Tournaments
HOME AND AWAY

Tilden Park Golf Club

**Tilden Park Golf Club
Monthly Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2011**

Thomas Spike, Secretary
5519 Balboa Drive
Oakland, CA 94611

President Charlie Barthold:

Called meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.
Thanked Dinner Committee for the steak and salmon dinner, side dishes and salad. There were only 9 members present, including a new member, Hardial Singh.

Treasurer Ronald Vincent

Ron Vincent presented the financials for the end of October, and not only is the Club solvent, there are funds to get the Club through 2012 for expenses, awards, and NCGA fees. We currently have approximately 76 paid members.

Members are encouraged to talk up the Club as this is one of the best tactics to increase our membership..

Tournament Chairman Keith Shiver

Results – Assistant Tournament Chairman Tournament – October 23

1. Casella 66 (77)
2. Liebenguth 67 (79)
3. Shrieve 68 (80)
4. Easley 69 (82)
5. Bard 70 (82)
5. Shiver 70 (80)
7. Hughes 71 (90)
7. Vincent 71 (85)

Results – Jack Fisher Tournament – Oct 30 and November 6

1. Vincent 63 69 = 132
2. Caraska 69 72 = 141
3. Shiver 68 76 = 144
4. Wessels 70 75 = 145
4. Harder 76 69 = 145
6. Shrieve 70 76 = 146
6. Johns 75 71 = 146

Meeting Day Sweeps

Joe Casella had a 40 low gross, and Ron Vincent had a 2nd low gross at 42. Tim Easley had a 34 low net, and Matt Wilpolt had a 2nd low net at 39.

Upcoming Tournaments:

- a. Metropolitan Away Tournament scheduled Nov 13th
- b. Turkey Shoot Nov 20; top five get Safeway Gift Cards
- c. Top Ten Shootout, Dec 4

President Charlie Barthold:

Opened the meeting for **Old Business:**
Charlie will reserve the back nine for the Top 10 shootout on December 4.

Charlie called for a moment of silence for a longtime member and player at Tilden Park Golf Course who recently passed away – Gene Hoggatt.

Will Ed Bloom remain as the Handicap Chairman when he resigns from the Board at the end of this year?

Ron Vincent and Tom Reddy continue to work on preparations for discussions and negotiation with the AGC on rates and potential discounts for members. The negotiation team was approved to be Alex Osborne and Dave Caraska.

Opened the meeting for **New Business:**

There was a brief discussion of the current status of finalizing the golf schedule and calendar for 2012. In response to this discussion and other ad hoc discussions by various Board members, there will be a special Board meeting to address several issues concerning the 2012 schedule. This meeting will be held on Thursday, Dec 1.

See synopsis at end of this email covering the **New Rules in effect January 1, 2012.**

President Charlie Barthold

Dinner for the December 8th meeting will be about 6:00-6:30. Respond to Evite by early Tuesday, December 6th. Charlie asked for members to help supplement the holiday dinner by bringing some special dip and chips, or other appetizers, etc. Tee times for sweeps requested in the 12:00-1:00 time slot.

Charlie Barthold received a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Thomas Spike - Secretary

TILDEN PARK GOLF CLUB – RULES OF

GOLF QUESTIONS – Answers to last month's quiz are copied below the new quiz for this month.

NEW QUIZ – November 2011

1. You just spent 2 ½ weeks playing golf in England, Scotland, and Ireland (North and South). Can you post any scores upon returning home?

Answer: In 1926, the R&A turned over handicapping in the British Isles to CONGU (Council of National Golf Unions), and CONGU doesn't use our Slope system to determine handicaps. Scores recorded on courses in Ireland, Northern Ireland, England and Wales are useless to our handicap system. But scores from Scotland can be posted because the Scottish Golf Union created Course and Slope ratings.

2. In the Valero Texas Open, David Duval hit his ball on the par 3 17th up against the grandstand. Since it is a temporary immovable obstruction that interfered with his next shot, he was allowed to lift his ball without penalty and move it to a spot where the stands would not be in the way, and deemed okay by officials. He then grabbed his ball and dropped from chest height. Any idea of what he did wrong?

Answer: Before he played his next shot, the rules official had him re-drop without penalty. The reason was that Duval had not extended his arm to shoulder height when he made the drop. Rule 20-2a says a player just stand erect, hold the ball at shoulder height and arm's length and drop it. An improper drop would incur a one-stroke penalty.

3. During one of the six rounds I've played in the past 12 months, one of my foursome said it was illegal to have a suction cup on the end of my putter grip. As some of you know, I have had a bad back the past year, and I like using the suction cup, and it doesn't affect the movement of the ball, but it is an "unusual device." What do the Rules say?

PRIOR QUIZ – October 2011

1. At the 2009 Masters, Padraig Harrington was five feet from the hole in three on the par 5 15th green. After taking a practice stroke, he took his stance and grounded his putter behind the ball, but

he then stepped away to reassess the line. At that moment, a gust of wind blew his ball three feet further from the hole. How do the Rules consider this?

Answer: Rule 18-2b states that if the ball moves after a player addresses it, the player is deemed to have caused the ball to move and incurs a one-stroke penalty, and the player must return the ball to its original spot. If the ball moved after Harrington took the club back and made the stroke, he still would've been assessed the penalty, but he wouldn't have had to replace the ball. If Harrington had not addressed the ball, he would have played it from its new position without penalty.

2. Your birdie putt is running true and straight into the hole, but then pops up into the air and stops outside the hole ... yes, it hit the hole liner which hadn't been pushed all the way in. You know it would have gone in, but you couldn't just write down birdie. So you replayed it from the same spot and made it. What do the Rules say?

Answer: Your compromise of re-putting is not supported by the Rules. You should have played the ball from where it came to rest, and alerted the course to the poor liner. As it stands, count the two putts and add two penalty strokes for playing the ball from the wrong spot (Rule 16-1b).

3. A single was added to my threesome in a casual round. On the 7th hole, he and I both hit our balls left of the green in some bushes. He arrived first, found his ball, and pitched on. I searched but could not find my ball. So I declared the ball "lost", dropped and took a 2-stroke penalty. On the next hole, I discovered that the single was playing the ball I had declared lost. What is the ruling here?

Answer: According to Decision 27/6, the offending player should have taken a 2-stroke penalty for playing the wrong ball and played his original ball from where it actually landed. Furthermore, if he played his tee shot from the next hole (in a competitive round), he should have immediately disqualified himself. Unfortunately, his error doesn't give me a free ride. As my original ball was lost, I incur a one-stroke penalty under Rule 27-1c. If I dropped a ball where the original ball was lost, add two more strokes for playing from a wrong place, and if my error was serious, I am disqualified unless I correct it. Whew!!

NEW RULES – NEW RULES – NEW RULES

From Barry Rhodes

R&A Rules and USGA have announced their four-yearly revisions to the Rules of Golf, which will be **effective worldwide from 1st January 2012**. The good news is that there are very few changes that will cause us any difficulty in understanding and remembering. The majority of the changes are amendments aimed at improving the clarity of the Rules. I am pleased to present my summary of those changes that are most likely to affect golfers, whatever their handicaps or playing status.

- **Definition of Addressing the Ball:**

At present, a player has addressed their ball when they have taken their stance and have also grounded their club. Under the revised Definition a player will have addressed their ball as soon as they ground their club, whether in front of the ball, or behind it. There is no requirement to take a stance. Consequently, a player will no longer address their ball in a bunker or a water hazard, as the Rules do not permit the grounding of a club in a hazard.

- **Rule 6-3a. Time of Starting:**

Under the existing Rules, a player who arrives even 15 seconds later than their starting time should be disqualified from a competition, unless the Committee has introduced a condition of competition that reduces the penalty for players arriving within five minutes of their official starting time from disqualification to two strokes in stroke play, or loss of the first hole in match play. The revised Rule dispenses with the need for such a condition of competition, as the penalty of disqualification has been reduced accordingly in these circumstances.

- **Rule 13-4. Ball in Hazard; Prohibited Actions:**

This will be a welcome change for golfers and course maintenance staff alike. Players will be permitted to smooth sand or soil in a hazard at any time, including before playing from that hazard, providing it is done for the sole purpose of caring for the course and nothing is done to improve the position or lie of their ball, the area of their intended stance or swing, or their line of play. How often have we wanted to smooth irregularities made by previous groups at one end of a bunker when our ball lies waiting to be played at the other end? Well, we will soon be able to do just

that.

- **Rule 18-2b. Ball Moving After Address:**

Most of us will have been sympathetic when my near-neighbor, Padraig Harrington, penalized himself one stroke during The Masters in Augusta, in 2008, because his ball had moved after he had addressed it, even though the movement was obviously caused by the gusty wind blowing around the course. There have been several other similar, high-profile incidents since then. Well, now there is going to be an Exception to Rule 18-2b that exonerates the player from any penalty if their ball moves after it has been addressed (remember the new definition of address) when it is known or virtually certain that they did not cause the ball to move.

- **Appendix IV:**

Although a new Appendix is to be added, relating to the regulations for the design of tees, gloves, shoes, clothing and distance measuring devices, I don't think that it contains any noteworthy changes to the existing regulations. I am quite surprised that there is no change to the ruling that a player may not use a smartphone or PDA as a distance measuring device if there are other features or applications installed on the device that, if used, would be in breach of the Rules, whether or not they are actually used (e.g. the inbuilt compass feature on an iPhone). Perhaps this subject will be addressed in the revised Decisions on the Rules of Golf 2012 – 2013, which are due to be published soon. It is Decision 14-3/4, which prohibits the use of a compass on the course, that I would like to see changed.

- **Rules of Amateur Status; Hole-in-One Prizes:**

The only material difference that I am aware of between the R&A Rules and the USGA Rules is going to be removed. From the 1st January there will be no general prize limit to the prize for achieving holes-in-one while playing a round of golf. Previously there was no limit in USA or Mexico, but a limit of £500 (or the equivalent currency) applied in the rest of the world.

Please note that the above are my interpretations of the most important revisions to the Rules of Golf, which are not effective until 1st January 2012. For the detail of all the amendments please refer to the 32nd edition of Rules of Golf, as published by R&A Rules and USGA.

New Rules Synopsis from USGA.org

Rules of Golf

Definitions

Addressing the Ball

The Definition is amended so that a player has addressed the ball simply by grounding his club immediately in front of or behind the ball, regardless of whether or not he has taken his stance. Therefore, the Rules generally no longer provide for a player addressing the ball in a hazard. (See also related change to Rule 18-2b)

Rules

Rule 1-2. Exerting Influence on Movement of Ball or Altering Physical Conditions

The Rule is amended to establish more clearly that, if a player intentionally takes an action to influence the movement of a ball or to alter physical conditions affecting the playing of a hole in a way that is not permitted by the Rules, Rule 1-2 applies only when the action is not already covered in another Rule. For example, a player improving the lie of his ball is in breach of Rule 13-2 and therefore that Rule would apply, whereas a player intentionally improving the lie of a fellow-competitor's ball is not a situation covered by Rule 13-2 and, therefore, is governed by Rule 1-2.

Rule 6-3a. Time of Starting

Rule 6-3a is amended to provide that the penalty for starting late, but within five minutes of the starting time, is reduced from disqualification to loss of the first hole in match play or two strokes at the first hole in stroke play. Previously this penalty reduction could be introduced as a condition of competition.

Rule 12-1. Seeing Ball; Searching for Ball

Rule 12-1 is reformatted for clarity. In addition, it is amended to (i) permit a player to search for his ball anywhere on the course when it may be covered by sand and to clarify that there is no penalty if the ball is moved in these circumstances, and (ii) apply a penalty of one stroke under Rule 18-2a if a player moves his ball in a hazard when searching for it when it is believed to be covered by loose impediments.

Rule 13-4. Ball in Hazard; Prohibited Actions

Exception 2 to Rule 13-4 is amended to permit a player to smooth sand or soil in a hazard at any time, including before playing from that hazard, provided it is for the sole purpose of caring for the course and Rule 13-2 is

not breached.

Rule 18-2b. Ball Moving After Address

A new Exception is added that exonerates the player from penalty if his ball moves after it has been addressed when it is known or virtually certain that he did not cause the ball to move. For example, if it is a gust of wind that moves the ball after it has been addressed, there is no penalty and the ball is played from its new position.

Rule 19-1. Ball in Motion Deflected or Stopped; By Outside Agency

The note is expanded to prescribe the various outcomes when a ball in motion has been deliberately deflected or stopped by an outside agency.

Rule 20-7c. Playing from Wrong Place; Stroke Play

Note 3 is amended so that if a player is to be penalized for playing from a wrong place, in most cases the penalty will be limited to two strokes, even if another Rule has been breached prior to his making the stroke.

Appendix IV

A new Appendix is added to prescribe general regulations for the design of devices and other equipment, such as tees, gloves and distance measuring devices.

For another write-up on the new rules, go to NCGA.org and click on Rules Archive, Local Rules October 2011.