



Twin Oaks Men's Golf Club

August 2016

By now, the majority of you should be familiar with the Twin Oaks Men's Golf Club Website. As such, I have decided to go back to issuing a Rules and Greens Newsletter only. Should this cause any of you to lose sleep or have the feeling that your panties are too tightly bunched, I am truly sorry. As always, if it is really important to any of you to have those links included in my Newsletter, just let me know, and I will be happy to return to my previous format.

Rules and Greens:

One of the changes to the Rules of Golf for 2016 is with regards to Rule 18-2 which addressed the issue of a Ball at Rest Moved by Player, Partner, Caddie or Equipment. Specifically, rule 18-2b (Ball Moving After Address) has been withdrawn. This means simply that if a ball moves, after address or not, the application of a penalty under Rule 18-2 will be based purely on whether the player or an outside agency caused the ball to move or not. For clarification, the Rules of Golf define Move or Moved as follows: "A ball is deemed to have "moved" if it leaves its position and comes to rest in any other place."

You know doubt recall the Dustin Johnson incident during the U.S. Open? Dustin Johnson was stepping in to clean up a relatively short putt when he saw the ball move, ever so slightly. He had not addressed the ball, nor did it appear from what I could see on T.V., that he caused the ball to move in any way. Erring on the side of caution, Dustin called a rules official over to review the happening. The Rules Official asked Dustin if he caused the ball to move. Dustin said that he believed that he had done nothing to cause the ball to move, but had no explanation as to what might have caused the ball to move. The Rules official told Johnson to play the ball as it lies and the "committee" would review the situation to determine if the one stroke penalty should be assessed. So at this point, it seemed clear that Rule 18-2 would not apply, as the ball had not been moved by the player or anyone else, although the official did tell Johnson to play the ball as it lies, which would suggest he was responsible.

So the question becomes, was the ball moved by an outside agency? Rule 18-1, which addresses this issue says, "If a ball at rest is moved by an outside agency, there is no penalty and the ball must be replaced. The note under Rule 18-1 does add a bit of clarity, I think, by saying, "It is a question of fact whether a ball has been moved by an *outside agency*. In order to apply this Rule, it must be known or virtually certain that an *outside agency* has moved the ball, (not the player). In the absence of such knowledge or certainty, the player must play the ball as it lies (with a penalty of one stroke) or, if the ball is not found, proceed under Rule 27-1." The definition of "Outside agency", basically; an outside agency is the player, his caddie, his competitor and his caddie, a ball or equipment, a referee, marker, an observer or forecaddie. Wind and water, by the way, are not considered an outside agency. So what the heck? Do you mean to tell me that because Dustin Johnson couldn't say what caused the ball to move, he is penalized a stroke? As it turned out, yes, that was the case. It wasn't until Johnson had finished his round that he was notified that he had indeed been penalized one stroke for causing his ball to move on the putting green, although, I guess an apology was given by the PGA later. Fortunately, Johnson had won the tournament by two strokes! For my way of thinking, that note about known or virtually certain should apply to the player having moved the ball, and not some outside agency. I wonder; does gravity qualify as an outside agency?

<http://www.scga.org/scga-video>

HOLE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT	I N T I A L S	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	IN	TOT	Rating/Slope	
Blue HCP 0-12	361	500	194	369	527	356	170	334	370	3181		207	374	352	373	388	350	555	194	561	3354	6535	71.8/130	
White HCP 13+	344	475	173	352	501	333	142	319	353	2992		179	353	338	349	366	332	533	166	538	3154	6146	M: 70.0/126 W: 76.7/141	
Handicap	11	1	13	9	5	7	15	17	3			8	10	18	12	6	14	2	16	4				
Par	4	5	3	4	5	4	3	4	4	36		3	4	4	4	4	4	5	3	5	36	72	HCP NET	
Maximum Pace of Play	:13	:31	:45	:59	1:17	1:30	1:43	1:55	2:10			2:27	2:41	2:53	3:06	3:19	3:33	3:51	4:02	4:20				
Josh S	4	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	4	37		4	5	5	5	5	4	5	4	5	42	79	70	
+/- Team ^{NET}	4	4	3	3	4	3	3	4	3	31		1	4	5	4	4	3	4	3	4	32	63		
+/- Mike G	5	5	4	6	5	5	5	5	6	44		(2)5	5	5	5	5	4	6	4	7	43	89	73	
Red	301	445	134	277	457	308	115	303	337	2677		155	319	317	304	327	310	459	125	430	2746	5423	71.7/130	
Handicap	7	3	17	15	5	13	9	11	1			18	10	6	14	8	12	2	16	4				
Scorer:	J. Senter										Attest:											Date:	7/13/16	

Should you have questions and/or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your attention, and play well.