



Twin Oaks Men's Golf Club

August 2017

Hey guys, those of you who have been in the club for a while, let's remember that we are representatives of our club. Please make new members feel welcome. Introduce yourself, and invite them to play with your regular group of guys for a couple of rounds until they can find or form their own group. It can be daunting to face a bunch of strangers for the first time, so let's all do our best to make new members feel welcomed. Thanks.

I was going to use this time to review the Rules Quiz in the Summer Edition of "Fore" magazine, but I've decided to save that for next month after watching the PGA this weekend. There was an incident on the 8th hole on Sunday, involving Jordan Spieth's group. Playing with Spieth was Ian Poulter. On the 8th tee, Poulter drove his ball wide to the right. That area, to the right of the fairway and rough, was marked as a lateral hazard. Poulter proceeded forward, without hitting a provisional ball. After searching for the allotted five minutes, and not finding Poulter's ball, Poulter was preparing to take a drop at the margin of the hazard where he thought the ball had last crossed. It was at this point that things got a little dicey. The rules official with the group began explaining to Poulter, that he was going to have to return to the tee and hit another ball, a penalty of stroke and distance. The first part of Rule 26-1 reads like this: *It is a question of fact whether a ball that has not been found after having been struck toward a water hazard is in the hazard. In the absence of knowledge or virtual certainty that a ball struck toward a water hazard, but not found, is in the hazard, the player must proceed under Rule 27-1.* (Stroke and distance.) (The underlining was added by me for emphasis.) After Poulter, Spieth, and the caddies testified that that is the spot they saw the ball go into the hazard, the official relented and allowed Poulter to play from that spot with the one stroke penalty. As it turns out, Poulter's ball was found after the five-minute search, and it was outside of the hazard. So, what is the lesson here? Well, when I was a carpenter, we used to say, "craftmanship was our creed, and accuracy our law." When it comes to golf, our new mantra would seem to be "virtual certainty". So, if we don't know where it went out, we're hitting again, unless we are fortunate enough to have a drop zone at our disposal. Good day, and good golf!