



## TOMGC Rules and Greens January 2018

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If you are receiving this newsletter, and you have not yet renewed your membership to the Twin Oaks Men's Golf Club, consider this your last warning to do so! It is quick and easy at:

<http://membership.scga.org/start/join/?id=27>

The 2018 Wednesday golf season got off to a New Year start January 3<sup>rd</sup>, with a two-man team match-play event. Now, as most of you know, there are quite a few differences between match play events and our traditional stroke play events. For example, did you know that while it is your privilege to continue putting until you hole out during your turn in stroke play, in match play, you must receive your opponent's permission to continue putting once you are closer to the hole than he/she/they are? Additionally, while you must continue putting until the ball is holed in stroke play, it is not uncommon, in a match play format, for a putt to be conceded by the opposing team. Yes, you could be 4 feet away from the hole, a very scary distance for me by the way, and your opponent could declare the putt good and you can pick it up! Of course, when you pick the ball up, you must add a stroke to your score, just as if you had made that 4-foot putt. For example, I am on the first green in regulation. I knock my birdie putt past the hole 4 feet, and my opponent says, "that's good, pick it up." I walk away with a four for the hole! However, my opponent probably didn't do this because he or she is a nice person, it's more likely that they had already made a birdie on the hole, and neither of us was to receive a stroke on that hole. You see, generally, a putt is conceded when that score does not impact the match, or, because the ball is so close to the hole it would be unsportsmanlike to make the person putt it. Or sometimes it might even be a little bit of gamesmanship to concede a putt of some length early in a match only to ask the opponent to make a putt of that length later in the match when the pressure is on and the opponent has not had to make a putt of that length until now. I bring this up for good reason. Yes, match play is fun, however, we must remember during club play that it is our duty to protect the field and the integrity of the game while we are on the course. Posted scores affect our handicaps, and we need to be cognizant of the side games, namely skins, when we are granting someone a putt that may be outside their comfort zone. We need to remember, that by giving a long putt to someone, we may have just taken a skin away from another player in the field. Just something to consider, eh? Thanks for listening, good day, and good golf.