



TOMGC Rules and Greens

December 2017

Let me start by wishing you all the best for the Holidays from your TOMGC board of directors and officers!

Alright, let's finish the Rules Quiz, shall we? The answers to the last four questions are as follows. I will try to remind you of what the question was with the answer, as I'm sure we don't remember all of them, do we?

6. In a stroke play event, Desi hit her drive into a water hazard. She dropped her ball in accordance with the rules, and took three additional strokes to complete the hole, so what is her final score? Well, I believe the Fore Magazine was in error, as they have the answer as D. 7, however, Rule 26-1b tells us there is only a one stroke penalty when taking relief from the water hazard. As such, if we count one in (her tee shot), and two out (the penalty stroke), and three more strokes, the answer should be B. 5.

7. At a stroke play event, a player shows up after his group has been announced for their 8:10am starting time. There are no exceptional circumstances which caused this player to be late. What is this player's penalty? C. 2 strokes per Rule 6-3a.

8. Player looks into another player's bag to see what club he used on the third hole. On the fourth hole, the caddie looks to see what club the player used, and to do so, removes a towel which was obstructing his view. What is the penalty? Per Rule 6-4 and the decisions 8-1/10 and 8-1/11, the player incurs no penalty on the third hole, but is penalized two strokes on the fourth hole. This penalty is related to advice and the physical act of removing the towel. Just looking seems to be ok.

9. In a stroke play event, a player hits his tee shot into a fairway bunker. His next shot lands in the same bunker. The player's caddie rakes the area from which the player had made his last stroke, and then rakes the area in front of where the player's ball lies currently. What is the penalty. Per rule 13-4 exception 2, and rule 13-2 the player is penalized two strokes for improving the area of intended stance, swing, or line of play.

There, aren't you glad that is done with?

When I lived in Fresno, I used to play a little course there called Hank's Swank Golf Course. It was unique in that each of the 9 holes had two different tee locations for the men, and each green also had two separate hole locations, basically making the course an 18 hole affair. Recently I have been watching Tiger Woods on his come-back trail at the Hero Challenge over in the Bahamas. The course they were playing has two holes which share a green. That is the green for hole number six is also the green for hole number 13, although the two flags are separated by a substantial distance, but it is essentially one green with two flags. This is different from old Hank's Swank, but interesting in another way. On Friday, Tiger was paired with Henrik Stenson. While playing the 6th hole, Stenson hit his second shot long, and landed on the area that had the flag for the 13th hole. Because of the configuration of the green, Stenson decided to chip the ball from the area that was considered the 13th green, over to the area that was considered the 6th green. At first, I thought this was a violation of rule 25-3, playing from the wrong putting green, and that Stenson would be penalized two strokes. However, Stenson was not penalized, and the announcers said nothing except that the greens keepers don't appreciate it when you leave a divot on the putting green. Naturally I had to research this a little, and did not receive any help from rule 25-3. So, I pulled out the old trusty "Decisions on the Rules of Golf" for this year. Decision 25-3/1 advised that unless the committee had marked the two greens so as to differentiate the two, there is no penalty for playing from the other green as in this case. So, next time you are in the Bahamas, and you play this course, (like that is going to happen) keep this decision in mind.

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night! Or day, whatever. Have fun.