



TOMGC Rules and Greens

February 2019

Well, the first thing that I should do is correct a mistake I made in last month's newsletter, with regards to the stroke and distance local rule, in which I mentioned that after a two stroke penalty you would be hitting your third shot! Hello! One plus two is three, so you would be hitting your fourth shot, not your third shot. Still, with the adoption of this stroke and distance local rule, you might be better off taking the two stroke penalty than hitting a provisional ball which may or may not end up in better position, not to mention assisting with pace of play? Food for thought, eh? I mean, how many times have I hit the provisional ball into the same trouble I did with the original ball, requiring another provisional ball, which would leave me playing my sixth shot with the second provisional ball. I think that I would much rather be playing my fourth shot from a good distance down range than my sixth, eh? With that in mind, you should know that while not yet in print, your TOMGC board has adopted the USGA recommendation for this stroke and distance local rule. I've again included the link to the video which explains how to proceed under this local rule, along with those other new rules explanations for 2019.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/lucf8lvmwbp7pk6/AADX6KW6MC6GSKGWHXmjS2Hwa/4.%20Video%20on%20top%20changes?dl=0>

I don't know if you've caught any of the discussion about bettering your odds of making a putt by leaving the flagstick in, but I'm sure that you have probably noticed that a lot of the pro's are now leaving the flagstick in a majority of the time. Here is a video which scientifically gives us some statistical proof that leaving the flagstick in may be the best option.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mc90UbpJbuM>

Lastly, they have made some great strides in making the rules of golf a little fairer, but did you see what happened to Ricky Fowler on the eleventh hole of the Phoenix Open on Sunday? I mean he places a ball after hitting the ball into the water (penalty area), and when the ball rolls into the water all on its own; he is assessed an additional stroke penalty when he had nothing to do with it! I don't get that as being fair at all. Anyway, I guess there is still some work left to do on making some changes that make sense. Good day, and good golf!