



TOMGC Rules and Greens

May 2020

As is so often the case with most news reports, there is sometimes good news to go with the bad, or bad news to go with the good. Such is the case with this short newsletter offering. As I'm sure most of you are aware, we are playing golf again at our favorite course. However, the SCGA is still not sanctioning club play or tournaments, so we are still playing the game we love to hate, without all the trimmings associated with our usual Men's Club play. No prizes, and no side games. DRAT! None-the-less, it is still nice to have the chance to get out and knock the ball around with some buddies, all the while maintaining our social distancing protocols. A big shout out to Twin Oaks Staff for all they have done to get us back on the course!

At first, it looked as though it was going to be walking only, and then we got the carts back for players 55 years of age and older. Now, the age restriction has been lifted, however, to the best of my knowledge, I believe we are still following the safety protocols set out in Troy's operations pdf which I sent out last month. Please continue to be mindful of these operations guidelines, keeping yourself and your playing partners safe in doing so.

A couple of things to consider in the altered game we are currently playing:

- We are not to remove or handle the flagstick. (How does this change the rules?)
- Bunkers are to be played as waste areas, no rakes, meaning you can ground your club, you can remove loose impediments, but you can't improve your lie a la Patrick Reed.
- With the device installed in the hole to make it easier to retrieve your ball, there was a question regarding the device causing a ball to come back out of the hole. Is the ball holed if it hit the hole but came back out? The answer, I'm afraid, has to be no. There are essentially two parts to the ball being holed as defined in the rules of golf. First, it must be at rest within the circumference of the hole. Secondly, the whole ball should be below the surface of the lip/ground of the hole. Because of the device in the hole, we may not be able to satisfy the second part of this definition. As such, we must turn to the first part of the definition, in that, the ball must be at rest within the circumference of the hole. (Even this could be sketchy.) There can be arguments as to the legitimacy of such a change, but as far as I'm concerned, like the change in social distancing we are currently dealing with, this is what it must be so that we can get out and play. So, deal with it! From my experience, a good putt was rewarded, a bad putt was not, and there we go. Have fun, be safe, and understand we have a way to go before things, if ever, return to normal. Good day, and good golf.