

Part III

COURSE PREPARATION SAVES RULES TROUBLES

By **RICHARD S. TUFTS**

Former President and Former Chairman of Rules of Golf Committee,
United States Golf Association

WATER HAZARDS

The subject of water hazards is large and complex. It is proper to consider first the important part played by the architect in their design. Some very difficult situations can be caused by the architect's failure to recognize the application of the Rules to his work.

In the design of any water hazard, consideration must be given to the ingenuity of the golfer and the fact that he can contrive to send his ball into the hazard across any given point in its margin. Therefore, it should be possible for the player to drop a ball where he will have a fair opportunity to play at whatever point required to keep any part of the margin of the hazard between himself and any position on the green where the hole might be located.

If it be impossible to meet this requirement of Rule 33-2, then the lateral water hazard Rule (Rule 33-3) must be used, which requires dropping within two club-lengths of the margin of either side opposite the point of last crossing.

It all seems quite simple, but all too often lack of foresight can make it pretty complicated. Water hazards add much to the beauty of a golf hole and they are often useful in handling drainage problems, but it should always be borne in mind that, unlike a bunker, there is no opportunity for a recovery when a ball is in deep water. Therefore, due discretion must be exercised in their use.

They should never be placed as close to the putting green as bunkers, they should never be used to make excessive demands upon players, especially in the higher handicap range, and when situated along the line of play some extra fairway width should be provided.

Brooks parallel to the line of play present difficult problems when there is "jungle" country or out of bounds on the opposite side, a situation which can introduce an element of doubt as to whether the ball is in the hazard, lost, or out of bounds.

Large bodies of water often require use of the lateral water hazard Rule (Rule 33-3), and when any such water hazard is adjacent to the green the ball must be dropped on the green side and "must come to rest not nearer the hole" than where it last crossed the margin. Obviously, if the water hazard is designed to embrace the green in an arc, there will be times when the ball cannot be dropped in accordance with the Rule without coming to rest nearer the hole. This situation can be handled by establishing a special drop area. But all this artificiality can be avoided if the hazard margin is built in an arc bending away from the green rather than around it.

There are many problems of this nature which can be created when water hazards are constructed without due regard for the Rules. Certainly the alert architect will have a Rule book handy whenever he makes plans for the construction of a water hazard.

However, the alert superintendent can do much to offset the unhappy results of careless planning by the architect. He can, for example, disregard somewhat the natural outlines of a water hazard and designate its margins in a way to provide space to drop within the provisions of the lateral water hazard Rule. This solution can be further improved by avoiding certain cup locations.

Shifting the designated hazard margin can be used to accomplish other objectives. For example, the margins of water hazards in which there are such

obstructions as bridges can be defined either with ample opportunity for the player to drop away from the obstruction in the hazard (as required by Rule 22-2b) or with small prospect that his ball would be in a situation from which he would elect to drop in the hazard.

The advisability has already been mentioned of clearing up areas adjacent to a water hazard in which a ball might be lost, to which solution can be added the possibility of including such small areas within the bounds of the water hazard itself.

One danger which should be foreseen is the possibility that flooding of the water hazard may cause the water to extend beyond the defined hazard margin. If this should occur, the water outside the margin of the hazard will then be casual water (Rule 32) and the player is not penalised when dropping out of it. This may or may not be a desirable development, but at least a decision on what is desired should be made when the hazard margin is defined. Obviously, the Rules governing play in water hazards need to be care-

fully studied by the superintendent as well as the architect.

MAINTENANCE IN MATCH PLAY AND STROKE PLAY

If the superintendent has taken a real interest in the application of the Rules in his daily maintenance, he will be in a position to devote most of his attention to his course when getting ready for a tournament.

For a match play tournament, in which players are competing against each other in the same group, there is no particular reason why standard maintenance procedure should not be followed, subject to any requests made by the committee in charge of the competition.

However, in a stroke play event the entire philosophy of course maintenance is changed by the fact that the first player off is competing against the last player and consequently the playing conditions of the course during the day should be as nearly uniform as it is possible to have them. Bunkers are

GET
YOUR **MOWER**
SERVICED **NOW**

BY SPECIALISTS

MOWER OVERHAULS, REPAIRS AND SPARES ARE OUR ONLY BUSINESS

Ransomes

Authorised service Repair Agents, Sales, Spares and Service.

Main Agents and Distributors to Briggs & Stratton (Engine Manufacturers).

Main agents and distributors for Clinton Engines. Spare parts and service exchange assemblies now available from stock.

Officially Appointed SERVICE DEPOT for

Villiers & JAP



Industrial & Agricultural Engines

HONDA AGENTS

RELF AND KENDALL

406 BRIGHTON ROAD, SOUTH CROYDON, SURREY. CR0 057R
11 STATION ROAD, NEW BARNET, BARNET. BARNET 8228



Official London Area Distributors to Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies for specialist machines.

Agents for Dennis, Shanks, Greens, Atco, Lloyds and Allen motor scythes.

raked and ball marks and other damage to the greens are repaired in order to maintain the course in as nearly as possible the same condition that it was for the first player. However, any mowing of putting greens or fairways should not be done after a hole has been played by the first group. Even watering should be avoided. As for cutting off a few offending tree limbs, trimming some extra tall rough or even repairing a bad wash found in the woods, can you imagine how happy that would make an early player who had the misfortune to suffer some calamity from being in the situation subsequently corrected?

WORKING WITH THE COMMITTEE

Any competition, whether stroke or match play, is conducted under the supervision of a committee (Definition 9) and the superintendent should keep in close touch with this committee at all times. He should advise it of his plans for all work on the course, obtain a schedule of the starting times and for any possible play-off, should receive the committee's instructions on course condition and advise it of any unexpected changes, and should be available to cut the holes and set out tee markers for each day's play, either with a representative of the committee or in accordance with its instructions.

It will be a happier golfer who plays on a course constructed by an architect and supervised by a superintendent both of whom are Rule conscious in their work. Such a situation will also make the United States Golf Association happier by the contribution it is certain to make to better observance of the Rules of Golf.

Reprinted with grateful acknowledgments to the U.S.G.A. Golf Journal, in which it originally appeared in April this year.

MISCELLANEOUS

PROFESSIONALS AND GREENKEEPERS having stocks of used golf balls contact Sparkbrook Golf Ball Co., 295 Highgate Road, Stoney Lane, Birmingham, with a view to filling export orders.



By Appointment to
Her Majesty The Queen
Seedsman

The production and care of Fine Turf

Carters are specialists in the production and blending of the finest grass seed. Carters Tested Seed, Turf Dressings, Fertilisers and Weed Killers are used by the All England Lawn Tennis Club, Wimbledon and leading Golf Clubs and Sports Grounds throughout the country.

GRASS SEED FOR AUTUMN SOWING

We recommend "Wimbledon All England Mixture" a splendid blend without Ryegrass as used on the courts at Wimbledon.

Prices 1 lb. 8/- 14 lb. 109/- 28 lb. 213/-
56 lb. 403/- 1 cwt. 784/-

AUTUMN-WINTER GRASS DRESSING

A special dressing almost entirely of organic origin formulated to avoid forced growth. This is absorbed and stored by the grass roots to ensure a vigorous and healthy sward in the spring. Apply 2-4 ozs per square yard according to the condition of the turf.

Prices 1 cwt. 62/- 5 cwt. at 60/- per cwt.
10 cwt. at 58/- per cwt. 1 ton £57

Our autumn list of grass seeds, fertilisers, etc., for golf courses, recreation and sports grounds, will be sent to you free on request. Carters' catalogue of spring-flowering bulbs for autumn planting has just been published and will also be sent to you free on request.

Carters
TESTED SEEDS LTD

**RAYNES PARK
LONDON, S.W.20**