

For a referee in stroke play there is one important difference in his duties: he is not bound to reach a decision on the course as in match play: he can, if necessary, require the player to proceed under Rule 11-5 and complete the hole with two balls and pass the burden of a difficult decision to the Committee in charge of the competition.

When committee members are watching play or assigned to a particular place on the course, but are not acting as referees, their duties are different. In match play without a referee, the players involved in a particular match are there to protect their own interests and there is no reason for a committee member to take any notice of a breach of the Rules that he may observe, unless he is satisfied that the opponent is not in a position to observe the breach. His presence on the course is solely to assist players in the event of a claim (Rule 11-1a and Rule 11-3). His handling of the situation will depend on whether the committee have granted individual members unlimited authority to represent the committee and make final decisions. This is an issue on which a clear decision must be made in advance. However, deferring a decision should be resorted to only in exceptional circumstances, since it is a principle of match play that each side is entitled to know the state of the match at all times.

In stroke play the position of a Committee member on the course is different. Now every competitor has a direct interest in the play of all other competitors. Since only those playing in a particular match can represent the interests of the others, it becomes the duty of every Committee member to represent the interests of the remainder of the field. Thus a Committee member must act on any probable violation of the Rules which he may observe. This may be done by immediately questioning the competitor about his procedure. Also he will be called upon to make decisions on the course and they should be handled as in match play except that the need for an immediate decision is less urgent.

Competitors in a Tournament are keenly conscious of the spirit in which it is conducted and there is no more certain way of injuring the reputation of a Tournament than by slack management. It may be difficult and unpleasant to be punctilious in the enforcement of Rules, but it is a rare golfer who does not prefer to compete in a well run event. Players are quick to recognise the official who makes use of his position to watch the play better or to inflate his own sense of importance. Authority should be exercised for the sole purpose of helping to ensure that an event will be fairly played under sporting conditions.



APRIL	22nd	S.G.G.A. West Section, Spring Outing, Old Troon Golf Club.
	29th	Sheffield Section, A.G.M., Brunswick Hotel, 7.15 p.m.
MAY	4th	North-West Section, Spring Tournament and A.G.M., Wilmslow Golf Club.
	6th	North-East Section, Spring Tournament, Whitburn Golf Club.
	6th	Northern Section, Spring Tournament, Shipley Golf Club.
	6th	Midland Section, Spring Tournament, Gay Hill Golf Club.
	11th	Southern Section Spring Tournament, Ealing Golf Club.
	12th	East Midland Section, Spring Tournament, Northamptonshire Golf Club.
	27th	S.G.G.A. North and Midland Section, Tournament, Craigie Hill Golf Club.
JUNE	16th	S.G.G.A., Annual Outing, Luffness New Golf Course.
	22nd	Midland Section, President's Match.
SEPTEMBER	14th	Northern Section, Annual Match v. Sheffield Section, Scarcroft Golf Club.
	29th	East Midland Section, Autumn Tournament, Birstall Golf Club.