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USGA MOVES TO SPEED UP PLAY

The United States Golf Association has taken steps to combat slow play on and near the putting greens.

Changes which will affect every one of the more than 8,000,000 golfers in America will appear in the USGA Rules of Golf booklet for 1966. They will become effective as of January 1, 1966.

There no longer will be a penalty for striking an unattended flagstick in play from off the putting green within 20 yards of the hole, the USGA has announced.

As of January 1, 1966, striking an unattended flagstick will be prohibited **only** when the ball is played **from the putting green**. The USGA will amend rule 34-3c to this effect.

In addition, the 1966 Rule of Golf booklet will authorize two optional local rules concerning play on the greens, which were tried successfully in recent USGA championships.

These two optional local rules are as follows:

1. In stroke play, the player is to play continuously until he holes out, except that a fellow-competitor may request him to lift in order to avoid standing on the fellow-competitor's line of putt.
2. In match play and stroke play, lifting the ball solely for cleaning will be allowed **only once on each hole**, and then only before the first stroke on the green. Cleaning may be done incidentally when the ball is lifted **under other rules**.

Officials of the USGA expect the change in the flagstick rule to save time used in measuring and attending the flagstick. They feel that it also will reduce the risk of injury to the person attending the flagstick on shots from bunkers.

The present flagstick rule has been in effect the last two years.

The 1966 USGA rule is the one which the Royal Canadian Golf Association has been using in Canada. It differs from the British rule, which permits striking an unattended flagstick regardless of place from which the ball is played.

As of January 1, 1966, the USGA no longer will approve the use of a local rule allowing the striking of an unattended flagstick except when the ball is played from within the flagstick's length of the hole. Such a local rule was authorized in 1965.

Another change for 1966 involves the authorized local rule for caddying double. The USGA has taken steps to simplify that regulation in the new code.

This change provides that the caddie is always deemed to be employed by the player whose ball is involved and the equipment that the caddie carries

(Continued on next page)



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Members of the Midwest GCSA who helped man the University of Illinois and Illinois Turf Foundation lawn problems exhibit at the World Flower Show, stand in the front of their display, ready with answers to turf problems. The show, held in Chicago's McCormick Place March 17-27, attracted over 400,000 people. The overall exhibit included sections on flowering annuals for sun and shade, and helpful gardening publications. The exhibit won the Mayor's Award, the Garden Club of America Buckley Award and a gold medal for greatest originality of presentation in the amateur category. The exhibit was built and designed by the U-I College of Agriculture Extension Editors technical services section. Left to right are Edwin Wollenberg, Gary Country Club; Walter Pieper, Flossmoor Country Club; and Adolph Bertucci, President of the Midwest GCSA, Lakeshore Country Club.

USGA MOVES TO SPEED UP PLAY (continued)

is deemed to be that player's, **except** when the caddie is acting on specific instructions from another player.

In those instances when the caddie is acting on specific instructions from a player other than the one whose ball is involved, he is deemed to be the caddie of the player who gave such orders.

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