

Massachusetts GA Issues Caddie Instruction Manual

MASSACHUSETTS GOLF ASSN. has issued a 62 page Caddie Instruction Manual, with heavy paper cover and substantially bound, which is going to be an exceedingly helpful factor in showing caddies how to do their job properly.

The association, at 261 Franklin Street, Boston 10, Mass., makes the booklets available to clubs anywhere, at low prices in quantities so it may be used as a text book in connection with pro or caddie-master personal instruction of the boys.

The book is simply written and plentifully illustrated. It begins by telling the lad the general nature of the job, its requirements and opportunities. Then it gives definitions that the boy should know. Caddie classifications and requirements are presented in a way that explains to the lads what's "par" for the various grades of caddies. Care of the players' clubs also is covered.

"Do's" and "don'ts" are illustrated and described in a manner that gives the boys the reasons for what they are expected to do and the objections to practices that the kids might otherwise think are merely grouchy criticisms of members.

The book was prepared when the caddie manual previously used by the MGA

member clubs no longer was available; the edition having been entirely exhausted. When the Executive committee of the association decided that a caddie instruction book was urgently needed the job of preparing such a treatise was turned over to William O. Blaney of the committee. Blaney credits many caddies and caddie-masters in MGA territory with the good job done in the book. He says he took notes from all available sources and as he got deep into the job became strongly impressed with what a well-tutored caddie should know and how much more than the average player realizes the kid can contribute to proper play and full enjoyment of the game.

The material in the manual concerning the caddie's association with the rules of golf is especially interesting and valuable if the game is to be played in uniform observance of the rules. The rules aspect is set forth in such a way that the kids thus introduced to the rules are bound to have more knowledge of how the game should be played than many of the members of clubs. Etiquette of the game and the amateur eligibility rule are set forth for the enlightenment of the lads.

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Simplified text is supplemented by many case-example photos in MGA Caddie Manual.



Never stand a ball while a player is making a shot.

When acting as a forecaddie, never signal players in your match to shoot until you are certain all the players and caddies in the match stand out of range and beyond the point where they could be hit by a ball of one of the players in your match.

Watch every player's ball from the time it is hit, while it is in flight, and until it hits the ground and stops rolling. If you cannot see where it comes to rest, mark the general location where you think it is and, after everyone has played, walk straight towards it. You may thus help a fellow caddie find his player's ball and help speed up the game.

If a player's ball goes out of bounds, or if you think it may have gone out, tell him immediately. Under the rules, if the ball is out, the player must play his next stroke as nearly as possible at the spot from which the ball which is out of bounds was played, hence he can save time and effort by playing a second, or provisional ball before going ahead.

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If you lose a ball, lay your bag where you think it is.

When your player's ball goes into the woods, tall grass, rough or to a point where you can no longer see it, line up its approximate position with a tree, house, shrub, stake or some other distinctive mark and, when all other players have hit, go directly to where you think the ball is. If you cannot find it immediately, lay your bag down near the spot where you think the ball should be with the club heads pointing in the direction the ball was going when

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After Blaney made and sifted his copious notes he made a schedule of the photographs needed to give the copy fitting pictorial treatment. Then he got a fellow club member at Brae Burn to be the player subject and enlisted Brae Burn caddies as models. Something went wrong in the development of the first 72 pictures from which shots were to be chosen for the book. So the job had to be done all over.

Blaney says that the whole job took almost 2½ years of intermittent work before the book was finally given the O. K. of various authorities to whom it was presented in proof form.

Caddie committee chairmen, caddie-masters and pros all over the country have seen early copies of the book and have pronounced it a great basic job in starting to restore caddie service to the generally high standard it was at better clubs before the war.

Special covers are printed, at slight added cost, with the name of each club ordering the manuals. The MGA expects to use the profits, if any, from the sale of the caddie manual, in financing caddie scholarships.

Picket Fence Club Sign

A white picket fence section, with the pickets artistically graduated in lengths, and having dark cut-out wooden letters, arranged symmetrically, and tacked to the pickets, makes an attractive name sign for the entrance to a country club. Its advertising value lies in the fact that it appears to be a part of the landscaping, and that it "tells its story" with plenty of eye-appeal.

This idea is carried out at the Rockbrook GC in suburban Omaha, Neb. The sign, bearing the name of the club, stands in front of a tall green hedge, slightly taller than the fence sign and between two entrance ways leading into the club grounds.

These two entrance roads converge at the parking lot, thus forming a diamond-shaped parkway directly behind the fence sign, which is landscaped with flowers. In this way the sign harmonizes well with the landscape scheme and lends beauty to the highway for long stretches both ways. It is something that passing motorists will remember.

Recently the second entrance was closed, and the flower-planted parkway grassed but the sign still holds its own! Its cherry white picket work, laced with black wooden letters, and the green hedge behind it is striking.

The sign was built entirely of scrap material. The only cost being the paint, nails and the time in making it.

Ordinary pine scrap lumber was used, cut picket-fence fashion, supported by 2 short fence posts on both ends having cross boards the same size as the pickets nailed to the posts the length of the fence. The pickets are nailed to these two board supports; and the end posts are concealed by pickets that box them in.

The sign section is 16 ft. long. The center picket post stands 4 ft. high, and the end pickets are 2 ft. 7 in. high.

There are thirty-five pickets across the front, graduated in lengths, with the highest point at the center. And boxed around each end post, are two more pickets. Each picket is 3½ in. wide and ½ in. thick. The letters are cut-out wooden strips, nailed together, and tacked to the pickets in front—each letter being blocked in with little pieces of white painted boards matching the pickets, to make them show up more distinctly.

The capital letters are 10 in. high and 9 in. long. The small letters are 6 in. high and 9 in. long.

This picket Fence sign sets in front of a hedge, slightly higher than the fence, and about twice as long—the sign being directly in the center. The pickets are painted a glaring white, and the letters black.



D. Jay Rhodes, manager of Rockbrook GC, and his artistic roadside sign.