

bet that something has gone wrong. Call him back, and check for broken clubs or missing ones. A good rule to follow is to charge \$2 for any broken club and \$3 for any lost club. This will average up and protect you and remember you must take some of the burden for these sets.

What can you expect from a system like this? Well, let us suppose that you have a public type course that plays 1200 per week. You start accumulating rental sets and soon have a total of 12 sets that have cost you \$200. You have decided to charge 50 cents rental for your sets.

First off you will be worried that they will not go, but soon you will check up \$3 to \$6 per day and after the first month has passed you find a return of \$70 from these 12 sets. You start scrambling about then to accumulate a few more sets.

Now you realize that when players have been turned down on a bright Sunday morning because all sets were in use you

were losing money, the club was losing revenue and golf was losing a potential customer.

Soon you have 16 sets and have invested only a total of \$250 for these. Now at the end of the month you see your rental income tally up to \$115 per month and awake to the fact that the business is growing all the time.

When your season has closed you will probably scratch your head and whistle when you see that you have paid for all rental sets and have a neat profit of \$200. Quickly you visualize the future years when you can hope for 30 sets that will bring you a steady and easy earned income of \$600 per season.

You can do yourself some real good, build up the finances of your club and promote more and better golf through a sound rental policy. Get at it, see what you can do, analyze your spot and do something about this good business deal.

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## USGA Revises Rules and Amateur Code

A general revision of the Rules of Golf has been put into force by the USGA. This is the first general revision since 1934. It is mainly a rearrangement of the Rules in simplified form.

The number of Rules has been reduced from 61 to 21. Definitions directly applying to Rules have been placed with those Rules. For any given occurrence the Rules for match play, stroke play and multi-ball play are under one heading. The old index of about 900 items has been replaced by an index of 73 items.

While a few basic changes have been made in the Rules, they in no way change the sound and traditional manner of playing the game but, rather, tend to strengthen it.

A number of former interpretative footnotes and principles of USGA decisions which never appeared in the Rules are now incorporated in the code itself.

The USGA will welcome suggestions for further improvement of the Rules.

The revision was adopted last year and the effective date was postponed to permit the USGA to obtain the views of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, governing body of British golf. It is understood that the R. and A. has not finished its consideration of the matter and has not adopted the new USGA code; how-

ever, a few suggestions which have been made have been adopted by the USGA.

The revision was first drafted by Richard S. Francis, of Haverford, Pa., long a member of the USGA Rules of Golf Committee. It was brought to the USGA Executive Committee's notice by Charles W. Littlefield, Montclair, N.J., USGA pres., and John G. Jackson, New York, a former pres. The original revision has been worked over for more than a year, first by a special committee headed by Richard S. Tufts, Pinehurst, N.C., and later by the Rules of Golf Committee, of which the Chairman is Edward B. Leisenring, Ardmore, Pa.

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Copies of the 1947 Rules are available in booklet form at 15 cents and in poster form at 50 cents from the USGA, 73 East 57th St., New York 22, N.Y.

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### New Code Highlights

Aside from general rearrangement, noteworthy points in the new code are:

**Preamble: 14-club rule**—Player may replace a club unfit for play and may add a club or clubs up to 14 provided he does not unfairly delay play or borrow from opponent, partner or fellow competitor.

**Definitions:** 15 of the 23 old Definitions

have been transferred to the Rules to which they apply.

**Rule 2(1): General penalties of loss of hole in match play and 2 strokes in stroke play** are provided for all violations except where specifically stated otherwise. Thus, penalties are not stated under every Rule.

**Rule 6(2): Order of play in stroke play** now specifically covered.

**Rule 7(4): Artificial obstructions**—Except in a hazard, if a ball is within 2 club-lengths of an immovable obstruction, it may be lifted without penalty and dropped “at the nearest point not in a hazard and not nearer the hole which permits the player to take his stance and to make his complete stroke in the direction he wishes to play from such stance without interference by the obstruction and without interference by the obstruction with the anticipated flight of the ball.”

**Rule 7(6): In stroke play, when flagstick is attended**, there is a 2-stroke penalty if the ball strikes the flagstick or the person standing at the hole regardless of how far away the ball was played.

**Rule 8(2 c): Unplayable ball in stroke play**—There was question whether a provisional ball might be played. Now a provisional ball is permitted, but a restriction as to subsequent play is added.

**Rule 9: Boundaries** are defined exactly, as follows: “When boundaries are fixed by stakes or fences, the exact line is the inside line, at the ground, of the fence posts or stakes; when a boundary is determined by a white line, the line itself is in bounds.”

**Rule 9(1): Penalty for ball out of bounds** now loss of distance only.

**Rule 10(2): Touching ball with club at address in a hazard** prohibited.

**Rule 12(1 a): Moving partner's ball in best-ball or 4-ball match**—Partner incurs one-stroke penalty.

**Rule 13(3): Playing wrong ball in stroke play**—There is no penalty for playing one stroke with a wrong ball; if 2 consecutive strokes are played, the penalty is disqualification. However, in a hazard, there is no penalty for playing any number of strokes with a wrong ball, as before.

**Rule 13(4 a)**—Clarifies player playing opponent's ball in best-ball or 4-ball match.

**Rule 13(5): Practice stroke**—Penalty for playing a practice stroke with a ball during a round, or rolling a ball by hand or other similar act to test the putting surface, is: **match play**—one stroke, player playing 2 from following tee; **stroke play**—one stroke.

**Rule 17: Hazard boundaries** are defined exactly—“When the boundaries of hazards are fixed by stakes or white lines, the

stakes and lines are not in the hazards.”

**Rule 17(2): Water hazard or casual water in hazard**—When the ball lies or is lost therein:—

If dropping a ball might result in it becoming unplayable or unfairly difficult to play, a local rule is recommended.

If a ball cross the margin of a water hazard more than once, the last point of crossing determines the line on which the ball shall be dropped.

If doubt exist whether a ball is lost in a water hazard, there must be reasonable evidence that the ball is in such a hazard before the player can have the benefit of the Rule; otherwise, he must proceed under Rule 8 for lost ball.

**Rule 18(10): A ball lying on a wrong putting surface** must be lifted and dropped off, without penalty.

**Rule 19: Provisional ball** may be played for all 3 possibilities of the original ball being lost, unplayable or out of bounds. However, if the original ball be in a water hazard or casual water in a hazard, the provisional ball must be abandoned and the player must proceed under the Rule for water hazards (17 (2)).

**Rule 20(7): Stroke play**—Clarified to provide that returning a score for any hole lower than actually played entails disqualification.

**Recommendations for Local Rules:** Recommendations are made for local rules involving water hazards when: (1) it is impossible to drop fairly; (2) a water hazard parallels the line of play; (3) a provisional ball from the tee may be necessary.

#### **Rules Governing Form and Make of Golf Clubs and Balls**

The following new sections are now in force:

“The grip shall consist of a plain extension of the shaft to which material may be added for the purpose of obtaining a firmer hold.” (This prohibits grips of odd sizes and shapes.)

“A club shall be one unit. All its various parts shall be permanently fixed. No part may be movable or separable or capable of adjustment by the player.”

#### **Amateur Code Revised**

The amateur code in golf has been revised by the USGA, effective immediately. The new rules are somewhat more liberal regarding certain technical violations and more restrictive regarding actual professionalism.

The new code, entitled “Rules Governing Eligibility to Amateur Classification,” is headed for the first time by a positive definition of an amateur golfer, as follows:

(Continued on page 88)



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## SURE GRIP

### GREENKEEPERS' 1948 MEET AT DETROIT, FEB. 9-13

Executive committee of the Greenkeeping Superintendents' Assn. has set the 19th annual turf conference and show for Feb. 9-13 at Book-Cadillac hotel, Detroit, Mich. Bids from the south and California, offering the possibility of outdoor exhibitions and demonstrations were considered. Transportation problems and expense accounted for decision against these invitations. Exhibition plans for the Detroit meeting now are being prepared.

### USGA Rules Changes

(Continued from page 44)

"An amateur golfer is one who plays the game solely as a non-remunerative or non-profit-making sport."

This is in line with the trend of similar rules in Great Britain.

The above definition is then followed by examples of acts which are violations and which result in forfeiture of amateur status.

No longer do players under 18 years of age forfeit amateur status for any violation except for playing for prizes of money or of other disapproved character. Otherwise, the examples of violations apply only to players of 18 or more. Hitherto, amateur status was denied to players under 18 who were caddies, caddie-masters, assistant professionals or who engaged in any other activities which denied amateur standing to older players.

Golf course superintendents (greenkeepers) are no longer classed as non-amateurs.

On the other hand, the code is more restrictive than before in several respects, including:

(a) Giving golf instruction for compensation, by any means or to any extent, is prohibited. Formerly, full-time members of faculties of schools and colleges were exempt if only a minor part of their duties included instruction in golf. Now they forfeit amateur status if they receive any compensation whatever for golf instruction.

(b) Where the old rules advised against certain types of prizes, the new code provides for forfeiture of amateur status if a player accepts a prize of the following character:



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- "2. Of a nature making it readily convertible into cash.
- "3. An order on a mercantile establishment which fails to limit the purpose to which the order may be put.

**"Exemption:** Prizes of only symbolic value or prizes with intrinsic value less than \$100.00; this applies to total prizes received for any one event or series of events in any one tournament."

War Bonds or other Government securities may not be accepted as prizes.

Except as noted above, there have been no substantial changes. The old prohibitions apply in all other matters, including recognized professionalism, acceptance of free golf equipment from manufacturers or dealers, receiving expenses (except in four specific instances), "ghost writing," accepting free club memberships which are not purely and deservedly honorary and in recognition of an outstanding performance or contribution to golf, and exploiting one's golf skill or reputation in general.

The rules governing reinstatement to amateur status now provide that every application is to be decided on its own merits. However, reinstatement will still be denied to one who has been a recognized professional for 5 years or more. Among those considered to be recognized professionals are those who give instruction for pay or who play for money prizes.

A 2 year probationary period, starting from the last violation, will still be necessary before any applicant can be granted reinstatement.

The new rules, which are part of the USGA By-Laws, were formulated by the Amateur Status and Conduct Committee, of which the Chairman is Isaac B. Grainger, of New York, and were approved by the USGA Executive Committee.

## 25 Years of Golf

(Continued from page 25)

### U. S. Curve Lost

By late 1941 the conservative group seized control again, but came a cropper, and for two years in 1942 and 1943 contact with the U. S. curve was lost. The book-keeper last in charge went to war and the judgment used in picking his successor failed to pass the test of time. Poor house management cost 41 resignations. Because the financial charge was down more money was available and both house and golf course costs went to town. (See the chart.) Because no overall manager had control the club went \$10,000. in the red in 1942. That staggered the Board, plus the blur of the war, and in 1943 the roughs were al-

June, 1947

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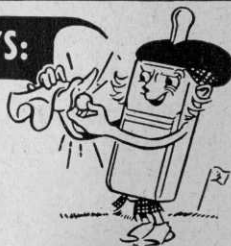


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