



A Superintendent's Rules Test

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North Central Region - United States Golf Association

Answers to The Wisconsin Golf Course Quiz are on page 50.

Editor's Note: Those of you who attended this year's USGA Green Section Seminar at Westmoor Country Club had a chance to meet Jim Sweeney. Jim has held his current position with the USGA for nearly three years. Previous to that, he was the Executive Director of the Sun Country Golf Association, a job he had for three and a half years.

Jim is a 1984 graduate of the University of New Mexico where he earned a BA degree in Economics. He was a member of the UNM golf team for the years 1980-1983. He has played competitive golf at all levels, including the US Amateur and the US Mid-Amateur.

The subject of the rules of golf is one Jim understands very well; his experience runs to five USGA/PGA rules schools along with officiating at numerous local, state and national championships.

Jim and his wife Mary have two daughters—Kathleen (8) and Caroline (3). They reside in Crescent Springs, Kentucky which is actually a suburb of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Many thanks to Jim for the time he has taken to compose this rules quiz. Hopefully, it is the first of several in the coming issues of THE GRASS ROOTS.

1. A legal hole location
 - a) is at least 4 paces from any fringe area
 - b) must not have more than a three-to-one slope
 - c) is not defined in the rules of golf
2. A player's ball lies in a lateral hazard. How many options does the player have?
 - a) three
 - b) five
 - c) one - stroke and distance
3. A player's ball rolls into a hole made by a greenkeeper. It is not marked "ground under repair." What should the player do?
 - a) declare the ball unplayable and drop within two club lengths of

the spot where the ball lay, not nearer the hole, and add one penalty shot to his score

- b) play it as "ground under repair"
 - c) put another ball into play under stroke and distance
4. During a stroke play competition, the green crew wants to get a head start on preparing the course for the next round. They may:
 - a) mow fairways or roughs but not greens between groups
 - b) mow anywhere on any hole behind the final group, keeping distance between themselves and the players
 - c) do any necessary maintenance without regard to the players
 5. During play of a hole, the cup is damaged so as to make it unplayable. Who may fix the hole?
 - a) any player
 - b) a member of the green crew
 - c) a tournament official
 6. The right side of a hole is densely wooded with thick underbrush. Lost balls in this area slow down play. The green committee can:
 - a) declare that any ball hit into that area is automatically lost
 - b) encourage use of the provisional ball rule
 - c) mark the area a lateral hazard
 7. The teeing ground is defined as:
 - a) the area between two tee markers
 - b) an area measured from the outside edge of two tee markers which is two club lengths in depth
 - c) a closely mown area specially prepared for teeing the ball
 8. Under the rules, the major areas of the golf course are:
 - a) the teeing ground of the hole being played; the putting green of the hole being played; any hazard on the course; all other areas in play which are termed "through the green"

- b) tees, greens, hazards, and grassed areas
 - c) tees, greens, water hazards, bunkers, fringes, aprons, rough, fairway, waste areas, woods, and obstructions
9. Out of bounds is an area from which play is not permitted. In order to protect oncoming golfers on an adjacent hole, the committee erects in course out of bounds on a hole. The O.B. applies only to the hole being played. The committee:
 - a) acted in accordance with the rules
 - b) acted outside the rules; in course O.B. is illegal
 - c) acted outside the rules; the O.B. must apply to both holes
 10. A mysterious disease has attacked the fringes around all the greens on the course. The city championship begins play tomorrow. The committee should:
 - a) mark all the affected areas "ground under repair"
 - b) do nothing; the areas of concern are so widespread that they have become part of the course condition
 - c) adopt a local rule prohibiting play from the fringes
 11. A water hazard is so situated that a player's options under the water hazard rule are limited. The committee elects to install a ball drop behind the hazard. The player:
 - a) must use the ball drop if his ball goes in the water
 - b) must use the ball drop only if he elects to drop behind the hazard
 - c) may consider the ball drop as an option in addition to those provided in the rule
 12. A pile of grass clippings has been accumulating in a disposal area adjacent to a hole. A player's ball

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- comes to rest next to the pile. The player may:
- take relief under the "ground under repair" rule
 - play his ball as it lies or declare it unplayable
 - take relief under the immovable obstruction rule
13. When both stakes and lines are used to mark a water hazard:
- the stakes identify the hazard, and the line defines its margin
 - the lines identify the hazard and the stakes define its margin
 - the lines and stakes are there only as a courtesy to the player; the water hazard margin begins at the water's edge
14. A player's ball comes to rest in a divot hole. The divot is lying, roots up, adjacent to the hole, but still partially attached to the ground. The player may:
- remove his ball from the divot hole, repair the divot and then replace his ball on top of the repaired divot
 - play the ball as it lies or declare the ball unplayable
 - detach the divot, cast it aside, and then play the ball
15. A violent though brief afternoon storm has left the golf course wet but playable. Some areas have standing water, other are soft but a player cannot see water around his feet when at address. Players:
- will get relief from casual water in both situations
 - will get relief from the standing water but not from the soft areas
 - will get casual water relief from standing water and relief from "ground under repair" in soft areas
16. A pile of brush in the left rough of a hole will be removed later in the day. A player's ball comes to rest near the pile. The pile interferes with the player's follow through. The player:
- may take relief from the pile, which is deemed "ground under repair"
 - must play the ball as it lies or declare it unplayable
 - may move his ball only enough to allow himself a free swing
17. Player A's ball comes to rest in a water hazard. The player can play the ball, but an immovable obstruction in the hazard interferes with his swing. Player B's ball comes to rest outside the hazard, and his swing is restricted by the same obstruction.
- both player A and player B get relief from the obstruction
 - neither player gets relief from the obstruction
 - player B gets relief; player A does not
18. A player's ball comes to rest on a putting green other than the one of the hole he is playing. The player must:
- play the ball as it lies
 - drop the ball at the closest point which is off the putting surface and not closer to the hole
 - proceed under stroke and distance
19. A player's ball is embedded in rough. The local rule allowing relief in this situation is in effect. The player lifts his ball, drops it in accordance with the rules, and the ball rolls almost two club lengths, coming to rest in the fairway. The ball:
- is in play
 - must be re-dropped, and must remain in the rough
 - such a local rule is not allowed; the player must replace his ball in its original pitch mark and add one penalty stroke.
20. Player A's ball lands short of the green and spins backward, making a pitch mark in the fringe between the ball and the hole. Player B's ball subsequently lands on A's line, also making a pitch mark in the fringe. Player A is entitled to:
- fix both pitch marks
 - fix neither pitch mark
 - fix B's pitch mark, but not his own

ANSWERS can be found on page 50.

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ANSWERS to the Wisconsin Golf Course Quiz on page 43.

1. (c) The rules of golf do not define a "legal" hole location. In fact, technically, the hole doesn't have to be on the green! However, a minimum of four paces from any fringe and a reasonably level area of six or more feet in diameter is a well accepted rule of thumb for hole selections.

2. (b) The five lateral hazard options are (1) play it as it lies, (2) stroke and distance, (3) keeping point where the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard between you and the hole, drop behind the hazard in line with the hole, (4) using the point of last entry as reference, drop a ball within two club lengths of that point no closer to the hole, and (5) on the opposite margin of the hazard, find the point equidistant to the hole from the point of last entry and drop within two club lengths of that point, not closer to the hole. (Rule 26)

3. (b) A hole made by a greenkeeper is "ground under repair", whether or not so marked. (Rule 25)

4. (b) This doesn't directly relate to the rules, but in stroke play, mowing between groups changes the playing characteristics of the course, and is inequitable. In match play, there would be no problem because each match is a separate competition.

5. (c) Tournament officials should be called in to assess the damage and make repairs. Often a cup cutter is called in to assist. In the absence of an official, the players may attempt to fix the cup. In an extreme case, the hole may be repositioned in a similar area. (Rule 16; Dec. 16-1a/6)

6. (b) Lateral hazards are water hazards. (Rule 26). Wooded or overgrown areas may not be marked as lateral water hazards unless they carry water. Losing your ball is, unfortunately, sometimes part of the game. The provisional ball rule helps to alleviate the slowdown of play.

7. (b) It is important to note that tee markers of the hole being played are fixed parts of the golf course, just like an O.B. stake. Tee markers on other holes are moveable obstructions. (Rule 11)

8. (b) The rules may apply differently in each of these areas. (Definitions)

9. (a) Other possible in course O.B. situations include the clubhouse area and the driving range. Although discouraged, in course O.B. can protect golfers and force the player to play the hole as it was designed. (Dec. 33 - 2a/12 and 14)

10. (b) "Ground under repair" is an abnormal ground condition. Generally poor conditions, regardless of the cause, are simply that—poor conditions which the golfer must deal with. (Rule 25)

11. (c) The player should always have the option to play the game under the rules. The only exception is for "ground under repair" from which play is not permissible. This may refer to flower beds or newly seeded or sodded areas. (Dec. 33 - 8/34)

12. (b) Grass clippings or other material which is abandoned (i.e., will not be removed) is not "ground under repair"; it is in play. (Rule 25)

13. (a) In USGA championships, we avoid using stakes where possible.

14. (b) Attached divots are deemed to be fixed or growing. Therefore, the ball must be played as it lies, and the divot may not be fixed. The player should repair the damage after making his shot. (Dec. 13 - 2/5)

15. (b) In order to get relief, from casual water, a player must be able to see water around his feet or the ball at

address. Soft or muddy ground without visible water is not casual water. (Definitions)

16. (b) "Ground under repair" extends vertically downward but not upward. Since the piled material interferes only with the players follow through, which is above ground, the player is not entitled to relief. (Definitions)

17. (c) Relief is granted only if the ball lies outside the water hazard. There is no relief from immovable obstructions if the ball lies in a water hazard. (Rule 24)

18. (b) The player must take relief from the wrong putting green. Wrong putting greens include practice greens, but not turf nurseries. The player may stand on a putting green to play a shot from off the green. A local rule requiring dropping away from a fringe area may be adopted. (Rule 25; Dec. 33 - 8/33)

19. (a) Both rough and fairway areas are "through the green" thus, the ball is in play. The ball must be re-dropped if it rolls more than two club lengths, or comes to rest in a hazard, on a putting green, or out of bounds. (Rule 25 - 2; Appendix 1 "Lifting an Embedded Ball"; Rule 20)

20. (c) A player is entitled to the lie and shot which is the natural consequence of the preceding shot. Since A's ball created a pitch mark off the green, A cannot repair that pitch mark. However, B's ball altered the conditions of A's next shot. Thus, A may repair B's pitch mark. (Dec. 13 - 2/8) ♣



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