

Decisions On The Rules Can Be Sleeping Pill

In the event you jumped into last week's Rule Quiz Number 3 with high expectations, I hope the following discussion of the decisions involved in each of the cases meets with your approval.

It may be of interest to clarify the difference between "The Rules of Golf" and "Decisions on the Rules of Golf." Most golfers have seen the small, red, white and blue pocket-sized book on the rules of golf. The Rules of Golf are an annual publication of the United States Golf Association. The rules are jointly approved by the USGA and the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland. They are reviewed and, if necessary, revised every two years.

Many golfers carry a copy of the rules book in their golf bag and have more than a passing familiarity with the contents of the rules. These are golfers who know that the words "fairway," "rough" and "line of flight" do not appear in the rules. They also know there is a clear distinction between a water hazard and a lateral water hazard in the rules. Such golfers also know how to identify casual water and how to proceed when their ball comes to rest in ground under repair. It is even possible that some of them know that left and right handed golfers may proceed differently when their balls are identically located on or near an obstruction.

Many golfers know that "Decisions on the Rules of Golf" books also exist, but not many have seen one, and fewer still have ever read one. The "Decisions" book is also a joint publication of the USGA and the R&A which is edited and updated each year. The decisions contained in this remarkable book number more than a thousand interpretations of the rules based upon honest and sensible questions of how to proceed when the rules alone do not provide clear and unequivocal guidance. The questions in Rule Quiz Number 3 pose just such questions.

Question number 1 related a situation where a golfer hit a ball that he cannot find. He returns to the spot of the previous shot and drops a ball. Before he hits that ball and also before the allotted five minutes have been exhausted in a search, one of his companions finds the original ball. Thus the question: which ball is in play? The Rules of Golf do not provide an answer, presuming instead that the player will use the full five minutes to search for his "lost" ball before putting another ball in play. In the "Decisions" book such circumstances decree that once the substituted ball is dropped it becomes the ball in play and the original ball must be abandoned.

Question number 2 examined when a provisional ball becomes the ball in play. In the case described, a player hit his tee ball far left of a par three hole in deep woods. He plays a provisional ball from the tee which stops one foot from the hole. The player taps the provisional ball in the hole for a score of four. Before the five minute search period is up, an opponent finds the player's original ball in a bad location and insists that the player continue play with the original ball. Rule 27-2b, provides the answer and the "Decision" confirms that the player had played a stroke with the provisional ball from a spot nearer the hole than the location of the original ball, causing the original ball to be declared "lost."

In question number 3 a player has hit a ball beyond a white stake which he believes to be a boundary stake. He plays a provisional ball to the collar of the green and hits a subsequent shot up close to the pin. Then he goes to retrieve his original ball and discovers that the white stake is not a boundary stake. Since the chip shot from the collar of the green occurred at a point nearer the hole than the location of the original ball, the provisional ball became the ball in play and the original ball is deemed lost.

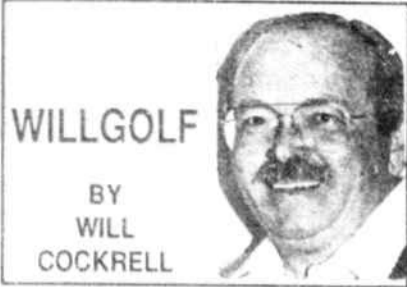
Player A and player B both hit their drives in the rough in question number 4. Player B's ball was the shorter of the two. All four players are originally involved in the search for Player B's ball. After a few minutes Player A's partner starts to go forward to search for Player A's ball. Player A stops his partner, asking him to wait until everyone can join in the five minute search. "Decisions" confirms that Player A is correct and may use this procedure to look for his ball.

I am aware that some of you will find one or more of the above situations to be "nit pickin' questions." It is a comfort to me that the two principal ruling bodies of the sport are willing to entertain such questions regarding their rules. What is more important, they are also willing to make interpretations of the rules and publish their decisions on confusing or questionable circumstances.

As a matter of fact, if you ever run across a set of circumstances which do not seem to be covered clearly by the rules or an existing "Decision," you may take those circumstances to your PGA Professional and he will help you phrase an appropriate question to the USGA. If the USGA agrees with you, they will publish a new decision in their next edition of "Decisions on the Rules of Golf."

If you are like me and resist any use of medicinal drugs which are not absolutely necessary, let me make a suggestion. If your problem is one of having difficulty falling asleep, just pick up a copy of "Decisions" and begin to read them over to cover. I will absolutely guarantee that you will be asleep before you reach Rule 4.

Pleasant dreams and Happy New Year!



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Kohler Wins Shotgun

Bobbie Kohler of Shallotte (center) won a Remington 11-87 12-gauge shotgun given away by Brunswick County Lodge 53 of the Fraternal Order of Police. The drawing was Dec. 10. Flanking the winner are Police Chief Curt Prichard of Ocean Isle Beach (left) and Police Chief Art Roberts of Long Beach (right).

Coleman Wins Sweeper With 1,901

One point gave Quincey Coleman a handicap division win in the 8-game sweeper tournament at Little River Lanes, Little River, S.C., this month.

Donald Taylor finished a close second with 1,900. Other top finishers were Matt Maleno, 1,867, and Tim Mahaffey, 1,840. In the scratch division, Mike Dowless won with a score of 1,645, followed by Kenny Shoulars at 1,581.

In sweeper action Dec. 7-9, scores were as follows: Mike Stanley, 203; Mike Dowless, 211, 220, 202, 238, 224, 202; Tim Mahaffey, 200; Kenny Shoulars, 210, 248; Johnny Johnson, 255, 201.

High bowling scores for the week of Dec. 10 were as follows:

Wednesday Nite Classic: Johnny Johnson, 249, 621; Mark Shriner, 224, 578; Buddy Stone, 230, 566; Milton Williams, 278, 610; Bob Fluegel, 508; Donald Erickson, 531; Robbie Robinson, 518; Chris Chappell, 516; Rupert Bellamy, 560; Martin Nelson, 525; Mike Stanley, 548; Gene McKelvey, 501; Steve Smith, 574; Lindsey Walton, 583; Howard Hudson, 577; Tom Kennedy, 563.

Windjammer: Arty Karlson, 509; Pete Daniels, 508.

Tee Time: Paul Fulford, 539.

Town Criers: Ken Freeman, 220, 592; Doug Mehne, 540; Nancy Mehne, 506; Kelly Todd, 546; Arty Karlson, 522; Douglas Comer, 600; Joyce Freeman, 554.

Carolina Shores: Bill Allen, 203, 510; Ken Shafer, 508; Tom Kennedy, 534; Betty Kibblehouse, 504; Jim Partridge, 504; Frank Vogler, 551.

Coffee/Donut: Bob Krause, 203, 500; Randy Vereen, 205, 561.

Mama's and Papa's: Dick Anzelone, 540; Ginny Anzelone, 509, 504; Mike Kilpatrick, 524, 547; James Hewett, 510; Fred Baer, 502; Baron Medlock, 512; John Hill, 522; Jerry Hagewood, 506.

River Rollers: Ginny Anzelone, 519.

Survivors: Martin Nelson, 527; Bob Krause, 539; Chuck Dugan, 521; Arty Karlson, 512; Bill Prugel, 500; Frank Tedesco, 508; Harvy Schield, 543; Pete Callahan, 544.

Dixie Men: Rupert Bellamy, 235; 569; Steve Smith, 224, 512; Frank Marvaso, 516; Dick Loester, 518; Bill Zerfass, 520; Richard Stein, 596; Mark Evans, 236, 601; Buzz Campbell, 528; Mal Evans, 518; Johnny Johnson, 515; Bill Day, 501.

Monday Madness: Gordon Leroy, 238, 586; Bill Cramer, 509; Joey Vereen, 522; Buddy Stone, 549; Art Vella, 527; Eddie Platt, 506; Joseph Livingston, 581; Bruce

Anderson, 567; Teresa Morton, 549; Barbara Evans, 510; Gene Welson, 530; Frank Healy, 506; Donald Erickson, 545; Tom Goggin, 535; Charles Chestnut, 501; Phil Urban, 505; Chuck Black, 514; Ricky Watts, 563; Gordon Leroy, 586; Gloria Adams, 524.

State of Confusion: Bob Hassler, 235, 588; Myron Cumbee, 245, 521; Gary Roman, 221, 563; Kelly Todd, 529; Gene Jones, 525; Bob Krause, 548; Ray King, 539; Mark Shriner, 515; Joe Mayo, 598; Tammy Haynes, 521; Karen Moshoures, 557; Rick Stanley, 522; Doug Scott, 523; Richard Stein, 531; Larry Hiter, 517; Mike Goodwin, 546; Joe Spautzs, 506; Wilbert Batten, 562; Lindsey Walton, 601; Wanda Evans, 503.

Vamps: Johnny Johnson, 238, 258, 675; Randy Tankersley, 513; Tony Whitaker, 602; Scott Jenkins, 278, 601; Howard Hudson, 234, 566.

Wholly Bowlers: Gerald Weber, 530; George Wendel, 501; Frank Steiner, 504; Bob Peterson, 502; Wilbert Batten, 507; Mike Stanley, 516; Howard Hudson, 518; Michael findlay, 507; Eddie Rowell, 544; Bob Davis, 526; Robbie Robinson, 526; Lois Dalgliesh, 549.

TGIF: Ray Neat, 222, 540; Leo Moreau, 523.

Mama's Nite Out: Ozzie Schaefer, 501.

YABA Superstars Junior/Major: Ross McGillicuddy, 158, 157, 422; Robert Siau, 160, 155, 447; Joshua Palmer, 157, 188, 456; Jeff Ballou, 188, 156, 159, 503; Eric McGillicuddy, 158, 172, 467; Tammy Adams, 151.

Bantam/Prep: Brian Livingston, 141, 346; Kelvin Bellamy, 301.

Bumper: Kitt Gore, 104.

Brierwood Golfers Win Event With 33

The team of Hank Culp, Sharon Martin, Morris Hall and Rita DuGan fired a three-under-par 33 to win the Brierwood Men's Golf Association nine-hole mixed scramble last Wednesday.

Two teams tied for second place. Ed Rockstroh, Ann Causer, Bill Allen and Margaret Pingo shot 34 to tie the team of Bob Tompkins, Barbara Baxter, Chuck DuGan and Jan Loflin.

On Dec. 17, the foursome of Odie Johnson, Morris Hall, Howard Bayne and Hal Schuler won a three best ball tournament with a net score of 190.

Finishing seven strokes back in second place was the team of Bill Rose, Harold Grier, Keith Curry and Jerry Smith.

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