



Rule of the Month

April 1, 2016

When DQ does not mean a frosty treat.

Every golfer, at some point in time, will come face to face with the possibility of incurring a disqualification penalty. After all, it is part of the game of which every golfer must accept. It is not a reflection of character but rather only a means for the Committee to keep the playing field as level as possible. Most disqualifications occur as a result of an inadvertent mistake by the player and thus, should not be taken personally.

Each of the following situations occur during a stroke-play competition with no Local Rules in place and involve a possible disqualification of the player. Your task this month is to determine if the player has incurred a disqualification or two-stroke penalty.

QUESTIONS: Disqualification / Two-Stroke Penalty

1. During play of the first hole, a player prepares to play a pitch shot but notices that the shaft of his wedge is bent. He has not made a stroke with the club and immediately declares it out of play.
2. In a shotgun start format, a player, who is starting his round on a par 3 uses a distance measuring device prior to making his first stroke. His shot is off-line and prior to making his second shot he again uses the device.
3. During play of the first hole two competitors agree that any putt that is "inside the leather" is good and may be picked up. Both competitors know that the ball must be holed out but neither player has the opportunity to lift their ball without holing out on the first hole. They decide to cancel the agreement before teeing off on the second hole.
4. A player, unable to find a tee, makes a stroke at his ball raised off the ground with a bottle cap.
5. After searching for seven minutes, a player finds her ball and continues play of the hole. Her actions are questioned when she returns her score card to the Committee.
6. During play of the first hole a player uses a distance measuring device. He is advised of the breach and accepts a two-stroke penalty. On the third hole, the player uses a fiberglass rod to check his alignment.
7. A player finds a ball he believes is his in a water hazard and plays it onto the green. When he arrives on the green he discovers that it is not his ball. He returns to the hazard and finds his original ball. He continues play with his original ball.
8. After playing two balls when the player was uncertain of how to proceed, he scores a four with both balls. He returns his score card with a four on the hole but neglects to inform the Committee that he played two balls.
9. A player's first stroke from within the teeing ground hits a cart path and the ball breaks into pieces. The player properly cancels the stroke and returns to the teeing ground to play another ball. He tees it up outside of the teeing ground and makes a stroke. He completes the hole and tees off on the next hole.
10. On the final hole of the round a player's tee shot is struck 200 yards towards an area of extreme rough and a lateral water hazard. He is uncertain of the location of the ball but assumes the ball entered the lateral water hazard. He drops a ball within two club-lengths of where he judges it last crossed the margin of the hazard and completes play of the hole. As he walks to the club house his actions are questioned.

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