



# OGA

Rule of the Month, October 2015

## Of “Pin”terest... The Flagstick, Rule 17

OGA Senior Rules Officials: Pete Scholz and Terry McEvilly

By definition, the “flagstick” is a movable straight indicator, with or without bunting (cloth) or other material (wicker basket or otherwise) attached, centered in the hole to show its position. The flagstick must be circular in cross-section and padding or shock absorbent material that might unduly influence the movement of the ball is prohibited. It is also considered a movable obstruction and may be removed prior to a stroke and to avoid penalty there are times when it must be removed prior to a stroke. How good is your knowledge of the flagstick?

### TRUE/FALSE

1. After leaving a putt just short of the hole, the player removes and holds the flagstick with one hand and taps in the putt with the other hand. There is no penalty.
2. A player putts and misjudges the speed of the green. His ball rolls and strikes the flagstick which had been removed and was lying on the ground behind the hole. There is no penalty and the player must play the ball as it lies.
3. The player asks his fellow-competitor to attend the flagstick and the player’s ball strikes the fellow-competitor on the foot coming to rest in the hole. The stroke must be cancelled and replayed.
4. A player uses his putter from the fringe and his ball strikes the flagstick in the hole. There is no penalty.
5. A player makes a stroke from off the putting green and as his ball is rolling towards the hole his fellow-competitor, who was not attending the flagstick, quickly removes the flagstick thinking the player will incur a penalty if his ball strikes the flagstick. There is no penalty.
6. The flagstick may never be held up to indicate the position of the hole during a stroke.
7. A player putts too hard and the ball is rolling toward the removed flagstick lying on the ground behind the hole. A fellow-competitor quickly lifts the flagstick to prevent the ball from striking it. There is no penalty to either player.
8. A ball comes to rest against the flagstick positioned in the hole but all of the ball is not below the lip of the hole. The player removes the flagstick and the ball falls into the hole. The player incurs a one stroke penalty for moving his ball in play and must replace the ball.
9. A putt comes to rest one inch from the hole. There is no penalty if the player taps in the short putt without removing the flagstick.
10. The flagstick may not be attended for a stroke from a hazard.