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ASAA 2024 PROVINCIAL GOLF COMMON RULES SHEET

Coaches should inform their players of the proper rules and golf etiquette. Here is a list of the most common violations;

- Play is governed by the current Golf Canada rules and its decisions and where applicable, by the following Local Rules and definitions.
- If your ball enters a water hazard with yellow stakes, under one penalty stroke, you can keep the spot it entered and the flagstick in a line and drop anywhere along that line no closer to the hole than where your ball entered. You may also play from where your previous stroke was played.
- If your ball enters a water hazard marked by red stakes, you have the same options as yellow stakes, but can also choose to take two club lengths from the spot where the ball crossed into the hazard.
- Once the ball is hit from the tee, the ball cannot be lifted off the ground by the hand or moved on the fairway to better your lie. This is a violation and a one stroke penalty.
- Provisional ball rule-golfers that suspect they lost a ball off the tee should hit a provisional ball before searching for the first ball. If the ball is lost, the golfer then can play the provisional ball from where it lands. A lost ball is a one stroke penalty.
- If your ball is out of bounds (indicated by white stakes) you must play again from your previous spot and add one penalty stroke.
- Unplayable lies: Ball may be placed two club lengths no closer to the green in either direction by dropping the ball with your hand from knee height. One stroke penalty. Also can go back in line, or replay shot from previous locations while taking a 1 stroke penalty.
- The ball must be played as it lies. Ball must be played from any part of the fairway and not moved.

- Golfers must mark their ball on the green if requested by another player. A player putting from on the green and hitting another player's ball in the process is penalized two strokes. The ball hit must be placed back in the location of the impact as best as possible to the player's judgment.
- Ball must be teed off between the tee markers and not in front. The ball can be placed back behind the markers up to a maximum distance of two club lengths. Violation of this rule is a two stroke penalty.
- If you are unsure of how to proceed with a rule, you may invoke rule 3-3 which enables you to play a second ball. You must declare which ball you think is the correct ruling. You must play both balls out and must report for an official ruling before signing your scorecard. You must report to the tournament committee for a ruling, even if both balls resulted in the same score.
- **GROUND UNDER REPAIR:** Is defined by white lines. The lines define the margin of the GUR and the line itself is in the GUR. Free relief can also be taken from seams in newly sodded areas.
- The maximum score on any hole will be a score of 12. Once a participant hits their 12th stroke, that participant will pick up their ball if they have not already putted out. If a player does pick up their ball, an asterisk will be placed beside their score on the scorecard. The score of ten can still be used for team scoring purposes, if needed.

Rule Clarifications

1. SEARCH TIME (RULE 18)

The maximum search time is only three minutes.

2. EMBEDDED BALL (RULE 16)

You can take a free drop from all embedded balls in the "general area", including in the semi-rough and rough. Balls embedded in a bunker or in penalty areas still have to be played as they lie.

3. CLUB-LENGTH (DEFINITION)

A club-length is defined as the longest club in your bag, except for the putter. Using extra-long, "broom handle" putters for measuring is thus no longer allowed.

4. DROPPING (RULE 14)

You have to drop from knee height. If you drop from shoulder height out of habit don't worry, just pick the

ball up and drop it again correctly, without penalty.

5. WRONG GREEN (RULE 13)

If the ball lands *on* the wrong green, playing it from there is not allowed, as this would most likely damage the green. However, if the ball only lands *near* the wrong green the player was previously permitted to stand on the wrong green to play his ball. You also have to take a free drop if you would have to take your *stance* on the wrong green. The spot for dropping is therefore now usually a bit further away from the green.

6. BALL HITS THE PLAYER OR EQUIPMENT (RULE 11)

Previously, a penalty stroke was incurred if the player hit himself or his own equipment. Now, this is without penalty provided it happened accidentally. You are therefore not allowed to use your equipment or your foot as a ball stopper.

7. DOUBLE HIT (RULE 10)

Previously, a penalty stroke was incurred if the club got stuck when a stroke was played and, as a result, the ball was hit more than once. Now, a mishap such as this is without penalty. A double hit therefore just counts as one stroke.

8. TOUCHING THE SAND IN THE BUNKER (RULE 12)

Previously, touching the sand in the bunker before the stroke was not permitted, except for very few exceptions. Now, touching the sand incidentally is basically allowed, i.e. you are permitted to lean on your club. However, you are still not allowed to test the condition of the sand before the stroke is played, improve the line of play, ground the club in front of or behind the ball or touch the sand during practice swings. A two stroke penalty should be added if this occurs.

9. LOOSE IMPEDIMENTS (RULE 15)

Previously, touching leaves, twigs, stones, branches and other loose impediments in bunkers and water hazards was not allowed. Now, you can remove them anywhere without penalty, including in bunkers and penalty areas (new name for water hazards). Please bear in mind that the ball is still not allowed to move when removing loose impediments.

10. UNPLAYABLE BALL IN THE BUNKER (RULE 19)

Previously, the player had three dropping options – each incurring one penalty stroke – if he declared his ball in a bunker unplayable. Now, a fourth option is available. You can also drop the ball directly behind the bunker. However, this option costs two penalty strokes instead of just one. You can use this to avoid playing a bunker shot at all but in most cases it will not be worth it.

11. TOUCHING THE GROUND AND WATER IN PENALTY AREAS (RULE 17)

If you decide to play a ball from a water hazard as it lies, you were previously not allowed to touch the ground or the water before your stroke. Now, you are allowed to ground the club in or out of the water when you play the ball out of a penalty area.

12. BALL MOVES ON THE GREEN AFTER BEING MARKED AND PUT BACK (RULE 13)

Previously, the ball had to be played from the new spot if it moved either by itself or due to the wind after being marked and put back. Now, you have to put the ball back. Most players already used to put the ball back out of reflex – even though this was incorrect. The new rule is thus in line with natural instinct.

13. BALL ON THE GREEN MOVED ACCIDENTALLY BY THE PLAYER (RULE 13)

Previously, accidentally moving the ball on the green was only without penalty with certain exceptions. Now, a mishap such as this is without penalty in all cases. If, for example, your club slips out of your hand or you make a practice swing too close to the ball and your ball moves as a result – just put the ball back without penalty.

14. REPAIRING DAMAGE ON THE GREEN (RULE 13)

Previously, repairing the line of putt was not allowed, apart from a few exceptions such as pitch marks and old hole plugs. Now, you are permitted to repair nearly all damage on the green, including spike marks. But this is not free licence to smooth out the entire line of putt, as natural imperfections are part of the game.

15. NO POSITIONING THE CLUB TO HELP LINE UP THE SHOT (RULE 10)

Previously, laying the putter down on the green to line up your shot, for example, was permitted. Now, you are no longer allowed to position your club to help you line up your stance. The same applies to other objects that could help you to line up.

16. HITTING THE FLAGSTICK (RULE 13)

Previously, the flag had to be tended or removed as the ball was not allowed to hit it when putted. Now, hitting

the flagstick is without penalty, which means you can always leave the flag in the hole. Statistically speaking, it is better to always leave the flag in the hole as the flagstick helps to hole out.

17. BALL WEDGED ON THE FLAGSTICK (RULE 13)

Previously, the flag had to be removed in this case to let the ball fall into the hole. Now, the ball is classed as having been holed if part of the ball is below the lip. A ball wedged on the flagstick is therefore virtually always classed as holed.

18. IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTION (RULE 24)

If your ball lies on or near the cart path or when the obstruction interferes with your stance or the area of intended swing you may take free relief – you must determine the nearest point of relief no closer to the hole within one club length and the ball must be dropped.