



## What's the Rule? Got a rule query - send us an email!

[8-7-10](#)

**Q:** A player returns a card where the hole by hole scores are correct, but the addition of the gross score is incorrect. (Note: The Committee is responsible for all arithmetic.) The player should have won the competition. However, the player was disqualified, and another winner was announced. – What is the ruling?

**A:** Under 34 1b/6 There is no time limit on errors by the Committee. Rule 34-1b (exceptions) does not apply. The Committee should retrieve the prize, and award the win, to the rightful player. (Related decisions: 6-2b/3 and 33-5/2)

[7-7-10](#)

**Q:** When can a loose impediment (stones, leaves, twigs, worms, insects, etc) be removed from the green.

**A:** Rule 23-1 At anytime, provided the loose impediment is not growing or fixed, and provided it is not solidly imbedded. (Dew and Frost are not loose impediments, and cannot be removed)

*Definition of solidly imbedded = not easily removed*

**Q:** Can a hole or mark on the green, made by a loose impediment be repaired?

**A:** Rules 16- 1 - No, only damage caused by the impact of a ball, or an old hole plug, can be repaired, no other repair can be done if it might assist the player in his subsequent playing of the hole. Repair to the green may be carried out when the hole is completed, or if it does not assist the player.

[10-6-2010](#)

**Q:** Lost Ball - is a player entitled to spend 5 min looking for his original ball, then a further 5 min. to search for his provisional ball.

**A:** **Decision 27.4:** If a players' original and provisional ball are lost in the same general area, then the search is deemed to be looking for both balls, **and only 5 minutes is allowed.** Otherwise, a 5 minutes search is allowed for each ball.

[12-5-2010](#)

**Q. Item 1 – Immovable obstructions:**

The course manager is well within his rights to insist on Local Rules concerning moveable and immovable obstructions, provided they are not in breach of the rules of golf.

**Q. Item2 – Advice from fellow player.**

In pennant, a player cannot seek or receive advice from another player in his team – he can only seek/receive advice from the team manager, or his caddie. Breach of this rule is loss of hole to the player who seeks advice, or, loss of hole to the player who gives advice, or both. This issue should have been brought to the attention of both team managers immediately before playing the next hole. If the hole was conceded, then that concession cannot be changed or withdrawn.

[11-5-2010](#)

**Q:** Can a Committee make a local Rule giving relief from exposed tree roots.

**A.:** **Decision 33.8.8 clearly prohibits a local rule from giving relief without penalty,** from tree roots.

A local rule is authorized only if an abnormal condition exists – **Exposed tree roots are not to be considered abnormal.**

The Committee may mark an area, around tree roots, and call that area GUR then anything growing within that area is part of the GUR. **Or, a player may take relief (unplayable) under penalty of one stroke.**

[5-5-2010](#)

**Q. Pennant Managers & their role?**

A Pennant manager's role in a match between two players is certainly passive. He can, (like a caddy) give advice to his player. He can also, if requested, get involved with disputes between players, offering his own player, advice on the disputed issue. He should not address the opposition player. It is the role of the two managers, to jointly resolve disputations. Should a pennant manager see an opposition player break, or about to break a rule, He may advise his own player of this, and then the players can discuss the issue. The Manager should at no time, instigate a dispute with an opposition player. Only if the players can't resolve the issue between themselves, then jointly, the two pennant managers should reach a resolution.

**(I have my phone switched on every Sunday of Pennant, and if a pennant manager requires Advice on a rule, I am only too pleased to field that enquiry.)**

### **23-3-2010**

**Q: If a player is putting and resting the flag on him with the flag touching the ground is that classified as assistance and does it accrue penalty?**

A player may hold the flag in one hand and putt with the other hand provided the flagstick has been removed from the hole – therefore resting the flagstick against the body while putting is also permitted.

Please see decision 17- 1/5

### **4-3-2010**

**Q: It has been only noticed today the one of our players from Sunday, played off 6 instead of 5 – (a current handicap sheet was available for all members to check prior to round as it was VGL medal day) hoping you can advise what the ruling is on that – is it too late to disqualify him from the event given that the round has concluded?**

WTR: Rule 34 1B (ii) A penalty of disqualification must be imposed after a competition has closed if a competitor: Returned a score card on which he had recorded a handicap that, before the competition has closed, he knew was higher than that to which he was entitled (see rule 6-2b)It is the players responsibility to know his handicap, and if there is a procedure in place to know his handicap, ie Sheets or board, or swipe card, and the player knows the procedure, then he has knowingly played off the wrong Handicap and is disqualified.

**PS: A committee should always check the winning card to avoid the embarrassment of recinding a decision and retrieving prizes etc**

### **18-1-2010**

**Q: Can a Committee make an Internal out-of-bounds, applying to a stroke from the Teeing Ground Only**

WTR: Decision 33 2a/14, The Committee can make a local rule under 33-2a declaring part of an adjoining hole to be out of bounds, when playing a specific hole, but cannot make a local rule placing a part of the course OOB to a stroke played from the teeing ground only.

### **18-1-2010**

**Q: A player has a medical problem that means he has no power in his right thumb and he is unable to hold it on the club, when making his swing. He uses an elastic band on the club and places his thumb under the band, to hold it in place. Is this against the rules?**

A: The player needs the Committees approval to use the device.

Rule 14-3 States a player may not use an artificial device, or unusual equipment, that might assist him in gripping the club. Unless it is a glove, resin or powder, or towel / handkerchief wrapped around the grip.

Exception: A player is not in breach of this rule if

- (a) the equipment or device is designed to alleviate a medical condition
- (b) the player has a legitimate medical condition
- (c) the committee are satisfied that it does not give the player an unfair advantage

### **1-1- 2010**

**The new decisions book effective Jan 1 2010 announces 30 new rule decisions and 50 revised decisions. I would recommend everyone read these new and revised decisions in the front of the decisions book – However, there is one change which is significant, and I would like to draw your attention to it.**

- (a) Decision 30-3f/13 A Partner stands on an extension of a player's line of play behind the ball. (NEW RULE)
- (b) A & B are partners in a four ball competition. A is on the green 30 feet from the hole and B is 20 feet along a similar line to the hole. B stands on an extension of the line behind A's putt.
- (c) What is the ruling? ...
- (d) A is in breach of rule 14. 2b. by allowing his partner to position himself on or close to an extension of the line of putt, when A made the stroke.
- (e) B is now in breach of the same rule. (see decision 30-3f and 31-8)
- (f) Penalty: Match play -loss of hole – Stroke Play -each player receives a 2 shot penalty.

### **1.12.2009**

**Q: In a four-ball match played on a handicap basis A&B are playing C&D.**

**The Course Handicap of each player involved is as follows: player A has a 12, player B has a 27, player C has a 15, and player D has a 24. How should Handicaps be allocated for the match?**

A: player "A" receives no strokes, player "B" receives 15 strokes, player "C" receives 3 strokes, and player "D" receive s 12 strokes.