

# THE AMERICAN GOLFER

AN ORGAN OF THE "ROYAL AND ANCIENT"  
GAME  
CONDUCTED BY GOLFERS FOR GOLFERS

Monthly October to June. Bi-weekly July, August,  
September. Application made for entry at Post  
Office at New York as Second Class Matter.

ONE YEAR \$3.00. SINGLE COPIES 25c.

Postage *prepaid* United States, Canada and Mexico.  
To other foreign countries, 50 cents per year,  
extra. Remit by Express Money Order, Post  
Office Order, Registered Letter or Check pay-  
able to THE AMERICAN GOLFER, Inc.

Walter J. Travis, Editor  
Jason Rogers, Associate Editor

PUBLISHED BY  
THE AMERICAN GOLFER, Inc.

WALTER J. TRAVIS, President  
W. M. H. MILLS, Treasurer CHASE MELLEEN, Secretary  
49 Liberty Street  
NEW YORK

The Editor will be glad to receive for publication,  
schedules of club fixtures, announcements of special  
events and competition results as well as items of  
news from Club Secretaries and others.

---



---

## THE NEW RULES

Golf has been characterized as a selfish game. This is merely a half-truth, and like all half-truths is utterly misleading. Rather than a purely selfish game, it would be more proper to describe it as an individualistic game. Individualism and selfishness are separated by a very wide gulf. To play golf properly a man must necessarily be self-centered, but this is not to say that he is selfish. In the actual execution of the stroke in hand he may—and should be—utterly oblivious of his competitor, or opponent. But there selfishness should, and generally does, cease. Golf is one of the few games—if not the only one—of individualism, pure and simple, on both sides. There is no interchange,

no interference. Each man plays his own ball independently of the other. That is the very essence of golf. But that is not selfishness. Consideration for one's opponent, in a score of little things, may, and usually does, go hand in hand with the playing of the game as a whole—at all events, among sportsmanlike players.

These ruminations, our readers may possibly say to themselves, have nothing to do with the Rules, whether old or new. They have, however—and a great deal.

The application of these thoughts is simply this. No one, in going carefully over the new Rules, can fail to be profoundly impressed with the prodigious amount of thoughtful care bestowed on their compilation and the vast fund of practical knowledge and widespread experience of all technical details which the framers possessed to enable them to present such a comprehensive code. And all done gratuitously, out of a pure love of the game. No longer may golf be called a selfish game when such a monument of unselfishness exists!

The new Rules, as a whole, will, we feel sure, be hailed with delight and universal approval by all loyal supporters and true lovers of the "royal and ancient" game, and their thanks will go forth not only to the Rules of Golf Committee of St. Andrews but also to the present officials of the U. S. G. A., which organization, for the first time in its history, has been officially recognized and represented in the councils of the governing body.

The ratification and adoption of the new Rules by the U. S. G. A. is a foregone conclusion, and early in 1909 they will undoubtedly go into effect.