

THE NEW RULES

IMPORTANT CHANGES MADE IN PRESENT RULES
BRIEFLY ANALYZED

By THE EDITOR

There are many very important, not to say radical, changes in the Rules, all, or nearly all, of which will, after having been fully digested, be frankly admitted as distinctly in the line of improvements over the former code. About the only exceptions are those involving the necessary local definitions and limitations of "hazards" and the question of a lost ball played "out of bounds," referred to herein.

In respect to classification, indexing and lucidity in phraseology, there is little left to be desired.

Let us refer briefly to some of the more material alterations.

"Hazard," definition 6—No longer are "railways" and "fences" hazards. See "Recommendations for Local Rules." But "permanent grass within a hazard" is part of the hazard. The omission of this sentence in the old Rules (definition *e*), read in conjunction with new Rule 25, simply means that at present, when a ball is in a hazard, whether it be on grass or not, the club shall not be soled under penalty of the loss of the hole. Which means that now all hazards will require to be carefully defined—a very difficult undertaking—otherwise trouble will result.

Rule 3—Indicating Line of Play—No one shall stand to mark the line of play through the green or from a hazard. Penalty, loss of hole.

Rule 7—"When the balls are in play, the ball farther from the hole shall be played first." Comparison

with old Rule 5 shows that provision has specifically been made whereby stymies *must* be played, and this is emphasized in "Special Rules (1-2 and 3) for Match Play Competitions." Penalty, disqualification of both competitors.

Rule 8—It is no longer necessary to drop a ball from the head. Face the hole, stand erect, and drop behind over the shoulder.

Rule 9—Comparison with old Rule 8 shows clearly the difference—residing in the addition to new Rule of the words, "or in a hazard."

Rule 15—The omission from old Rule 11 of the words, "near the ball," simply means that in no circumstances shall a practice swing be taken *anywhere* (except on the tee, when the ball is not in play) under penalty of loss of the hole.

Rule 22, Sec. 3—Explains itself.

Rule 23, Secs. 1, 2 and 3—All plain sailing except in regard to a ball not being clearly established as out of bounds. It is capable of but one interpretation, the opponent may claim the hole if the ball can not be found, whether out of bounds or not. The omission from old Rule 32 of the provision that "a ball played out of bounds need not be found," also new Stroke Competition Rule 13, would appear to confirm this. A change—but not an improvement—and one which will cause lots of trouble—unless more clearly defined by the U. S. G. A.

Rule 26—Self-explanatory.

Rule 27, Sec. 3—Casual water on a putting-green is now practically non-existent. When a ball is on a green a clear putt to the hole is permissible, free from intervening water.

Rule 28, Secs. 1, 2 and 3—Loose impediments may be lifted from a putting-green, and dung, worm-casts, snow and ice may be lightly scraped aside with a club, but otherwise the line of putt must not be touched. Brushing with the hand means the loss of the hole. A very important change—and a most excellent one.

Rule 36—Explains itself.

Conceding Putts—"The Rules of Golf Committee recommends that players should not concede putts to their opponents" in match play.

STROKE COMPETITIONS.

Rule 7—Explains itself.

Rule 12—It is compulsory now to search five minutes for a "lost" ball.

Rule 14—Sec. 5 should be read carefully, in conjunction with sections 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Etiquette—It is gratifying to note the reinstatement of the Rules of Etiquette in the regular Code, and also the addition of several desirable features such as are embodied in Secs. 1, 2, 8 and 9; also the duties of players looking for a lost ball in Sec. 5. In this connection it will be observed that the section has been amplified. It is worth quoting in full: "Players *looking* for a lost ball should allow other matches coming up to pass them; they should *signal* to the players following them to pass, and having given such a signal, *they should not continue their play* until these players have passed and are out of reach." [Ed. Note—The italics are ours.]

It will also be noticed that three-ball and four-ball matches are now conditionally recognized in the Rules, instead of in the Code of Etiquette, as formerly,—*vide* Rule 1, Sec. 3.

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Foundation

SOME DIETARY SUGGESTIONS

To get "birdies," avoid larks and do not use a ball that ducks.

Angel cake is recommended for those of unsaintly language.

When you are up against a crackerjack, uneda bisque-t or two.

When in a bunker, take plenty of the sand which is there.

Pullets for the slicers and sliced peaches for the pullers.

To improve your putting, try some baked greens.

Use a little sand in your tee.

A ginger-snap is helpful to the short player.

When you get licked, don't wine but beer good sportsman.

If you're "easy meat," confine yourself to a small stake.

Never eat crow.