

DECISIONS BY THE RULES OF GOLF COMMITTEE

Corwen Golf Club.—In a stroke competition two competitors agreed that their caddies should mark for them. They corrected the caddies' marking at each hole, and the competitors (not the caddies) signed the cards on the completion of the round. Are the competitors disqualified under Stroke Rule 5?

Answer.—The competitors are disqualified. Stroke Rule 5 (1), states that the scores shall be kept by a marker or by each competitor noting the other's score. A caddie cannot be considered a marker.

Selangor Golf Club.—In a stroke competition, A playing in the morning at the end of his round tore up his card. Learning from some of the other competitors that no better scores had been so far returned, he pinned the card together and copied the score on another card. This was checked and signed by the original marker and put in with a note of the circumstance. There were other competitors to play in the afternoon. Should the card be disallowed?

Answer.—If the card was not handed in as soon as was reasonably possible the player should be disqualified, vide Stroke Rule 5(1).

Birdstall Golf Club.—In a stroke competition A returned a winning score, and her name was posted in the Club House as a winner. Two days afterward she was disqualified by the Committee because her card was not signed. Was the Committee right in disqualifying A?

Answer.—No. It is the duty of the

Committee to examine the cards before posting the names of the winners. After having posted the names the Committee must be held to have accepted the card as in order.

Headingley Golf Club, Ltd.—In a thirty-six hole stroke competition one competitor does not return his card until the end of the thirty-six holes. Should he be disqualified?

Answer.—It is customary to hand in cards on the completion of eighteen holes. The question must be decided by the custom of the Club. If it is the custom of the Club to hand in cards on the completion of the first round, the player is disqualified.

St. Augustine's Golf Club.—What is meant by "water" in the term "casual water?" Is it necessary to be of such a depth that a ball will float in it, or is it any water which interferes with the lie of the ball?

Answer.—It is any water which interferes with the lie of the ball or the stance of the player.

Shanklin and Sandown Golf Club.—In a stroke competition a competitor lifted his ball on a putting-green owing to casual water. Instead of placing it, he dropped it. Should he be disqualified?

Answer.—Yes. Rule 27 (3) directs that the ball is to be placed by hand, so as to be "in the nearest position" which affords a clear putt to the hole.

Haddington Golf Club.—Is casual water on a putting-green in a frozen state treated as casual water, even if frozen solid?

Answer.—Yes, this is the usual

two competitors had completed sixteen holes when one of them was urgently called away, and as there was no other member within call he instructed his caddie to carefully mark his partner's card and hand the same to him afterwards, which the caddie did. It eventually turned out that this was the winning card, but the objection has been raised that as two holes were marked by a caddie the competitor is disqualified. (1) Does the fact that the card was marked by a caddie under these circumstances disqualify the competitor? (2) Does it make any difference that the marker who authorized the caddie to mark the last two holes happened to be the Captain of the Club?

Answer.—On the strict interpretation of Stroke Rule 5 (1), the caddie cannot be considered a "marker." Under urgent and exceptional conditions of the case, however, the Committee would be justified in accepting the card. (2) No, unless the Captain of the Club represented the Committee.

Burhill Golf Club.—A player in a competition drives his ball from a tee into the rough, which consists of longish grass, and in searching for it inadvertently treads on it. Would the Rules Committee kindly say whether the player should be penalised, or whether the incident should be treated as a rub of the green?

Answer.—The penalty is one stroke, see Rule 12 (3). The term "rub of the green" only applies to a ball in motion, see Rule 17 (1).

Sunbridge Park Golf Club.—Hummocks, groups of hummocks and grass bunkers have been artificially formed on this course. May the club be grounded on these hummocks and in

the grass bunkers?

Answer.—A "bunker" is a depression in the ground where the natural soil is exposed, and sometimes top-dressed with softer soil or sand. It is the duty of the Authorities in charge of the golf course to define its hazards by local Rule. In the absence of a Local Rule defining these hummocks and grassy depressions as hazards, the club may be grounded provided Rule 15 is not infringed.

Victoria Golf Club.—In the final round of a tournament by match play. A employs two caddies (the second caddie is not a fore-caddie). It is admitted that A does not ask for, or receive any advice from either of these caddies. At the 8th hole B protests against A having more than one caddie. The referee reserves his decision. The match is played out. A wins. The Committee before whom the matter comes decides that the match shall be played *de novo*. A submits: (1) That it is not contrary to the Rules of Golf to employ two caddies, always provided that no advice is asked for or accepted from these caddies. (2) That there was altogether unreasonable delay on B's part in not making his protest before arriving at the 8th hole. (3) That the point at issue is not on all fours with the decision of the Rules of Golf Committee as reported on page 28 of the Golfer's Year Book, 1905. N. B.—The decision referred to is No. 45, September, 1903—May, 1904.

Answer.—The Rules of Golf are framed on the supposition that a player has only one caddie (see for instance Rules 18 and 19). The Committee of the Victoria Golf Club adopted the right course in deciding that the match should be replayed.