



THE AMERICAN GOLFER will gladly answer any inquiries from subscribers on questions relating to the Rules.

Pocasset, Mass.,
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To the AMERICAN GOLFER,
New York.

A question as to the use of the bisque has arisen several times, and I write to ask if the bisque is recognized by golfing authorities and as to the point in question, if it is recognized.

As I understand the matter, the bisque has come into more or less general use in order to give certain advantages over the ordinary method of giving strokes.

Score cards usually have printed on the back a specified list of where strokes must be taken. That is to say, a player who receives five strokes in match play must take one stroke at, say, the following five holes—3, 6, 9, 14, 17.

The play may be such that the player receiving the five strokes makes either a win or a half, with his stroke, at each of these five holes. Or it may, and frequently does, happen that at one or more of those five holes he is two strokes more than his opponent, thereby gaining nothing from his handicap.

Where bisques are given the player has the option to use his five strokes where he pleases and unless very much out-classed can easily get the full benefit of the handicap.

The writer has always thought that the bisque should be used exactly as strokes are used when given in handicap match play, except that a bisque is optional—that is, one bisque can be used as one stroke at any hole which has been played until the total number of bisques are used, when the game is played out on even terms.

There is a dispute over this point and I find it very generally understood that there is no limit to the number of strokes that can be taken at any hole, where bisques are given, up to the limit of the total bisques remaining at that hole.

Or in other words, A and B are to play and A agrees to give B five bisques. The game is even up at the 16th hole, and B has not had to use any bisque, still having the five to his credit. At the 17th hole A makes a four and B makes a seven. B claims that he can take four bisques at

this hole, leaving him with a three and making him, dormie one. A claims that B can take only one stroke for one of his bisques at any hole and the fact that he has five bisques to his credit at the 17th hole simply means that he cannot use three of them.

Unless a distinct agreement and understanding is made at the first tee that bisques shall be cumulative and that all, or any part of them can be used at any hole, it would seem to the writer that A is right and that only one bisque can be taken at any hole.

A ruling on this point will be much appreciated.

F. M. B.

[ANSWER—The difference between five strokes and five bisques is simply this: the strokes *must* be taken, singly, at certain specified holes, whereas the bisques *may* be taken at any hole, before the next tee-shot is made, either one or more, up to the limit in hand, at the option of the owner—unless otherwise stipulated before the start of the match.

We may add that five bisques are equivalent to seven strokes.—Editor.]

New York, October 14, 1919.

THE AMERICAN GOLFER,
New York.

Dear Sirs:

As a subscriber to your magazine, I write to ask if you will kindly advise me whether, in a stroke competition, two club members (amateurs) can have a professional accompany and play with them on the round of 18 holes without penalty of *disqualification for both*. Yours truly,

E. W. C.

[ANSWER—Rule 1 (2) for Stroke Competition provides that "competitors shall play in couples." The Rules of Golf Committee have decreed that "Stroke Rule 1 (2) does not permit more than two competitors to play together."

Consequently, the two members who played around with a professional in a stroke competition should be disqualified, quite apart from the fact that he was a professional and therefore, not a competitor.—Editor: