

## **BASIC MATCH PLAY RULES**

### **Rule 2-6: General Penalty**

The penalty for a breach of a *Rule* in match play is loss of hole except when otherwise provided. There are **no 2-stroke penalties** in match play. There are loss-of-hole penalties and 1-stroke penalties **only**.

### **Rule 2-4: Concessions**

A player may concede a match at any time prior to the start or conclusion of that match.  
A player may concede a hole at any time prior to the start or conclusion of that hole.  
A player may concede his opponent's next *stroke* at any time, provided the opponent's ball is at rest. The opponent is considered to have *holed* out with his next *stroke*, and the ball may be removed by either *side*.  
A concession may not be declined or withdrawn.

### **Rule 2-5: Doubt as to Procedure**

In match play, if a doubt or dispute arises between the players, a player may make a claim. If no duly authorized representative of the *Committee* is available within a reasonable time, the players must continue the match without delay. The *Committee* may consider a claim **only** if the player making the claim notifies his opponent (i) that he is making a claim, (ii) of the facts of the situation and (iii) that he wants a ruling. The claim must be made before any player in the match plays from the next *teeing ground* or, in the case of the last hole of the match, before all players in the match leave the *putting green*.

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### **Rule 9-2: Information as to Strokes Taken**

**a.** An opponent is entitled to ascertain from the player, during the play of a hole, the number of *strokes* he has taken and, after play of a hole, the number of *strokes* taken on the hole just completed.

**b. Wrong Information**--A player must not give wrong information to his opponent. If a player gives wrong information, he loses the hole.

A player is deemed to have given wrong information if he:

- (i) fails to inform his opponent as soon as practicable that he has incurred a penalty, unless (a) he was obviously proceeding under a *Rule* involving a penalty and this was observed by his opponent, or (b) he corrects the mistake before his opponent makes his next *stroke*; or
- (ii) gives incorrect information during play of a hole regarding the number of *strokes* taken and does not correct the mistake before his opponent makes his next *stroke*; or (iii) gives incorrect information regarding the number of *strokes* taken to complete a hole and this affects the opponent's understanding of the result of the hole, unless he corrects the mistake before any player makes a *stroke* from the next *teeing ground* or, in the case of the last hole of the match, before all players leave the *putting green*.

A player has given wrong information even if it is due to the failure to include a penalty that he did not know he had incurred. **It is the player's responsibility to know the Rules.**

### **Rule 10-1: Order of Play**

**a. When Starting Play of Hole**--The *side* that has the *honor* at the first *teeing ground* is determined by the order of the draw. In the absence of a draw, the *honor* should be decided by lot. The *side* that wins a hole takes the *honor* at the next *teeing ground*. If a hole has been halved, the *side* that had the *honor* at the previous *teeing ground* retains it.

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### **Rule 10-1: Order of Play (continued)**

**b. During Play of Hole**--After both players have started play of the hole, the ball farther from the *hole* is played first. If the balls are equidistant from the *hole* or their positions relative to the *hole* are not determinable, the ball to be played first should be decided by lot.

### **Rule 18-1: Ball at Rest Moved**

**a. During Search**--If, during search for a player's ball, an opponent, his *caddie* or his *equipment* moves the ball, touches it or causes it to *move*, there is no penalty. If the ball is *moved*, it must be replaced.

**b. Other Than During Search**--If, other than during search for a player's ball, an opponent, his *caddie* or his *equipment* moves the ball, touches it purposely or causes it to *move*, except as otherwise provided in the *Rules*, the opponent incurs a penalty of one stroke. If the ball is *moved*, it must be replaced.

### **Rule 19-3: Ball in Motion Deflected or Stopped By Opponent, Caddie or Equipment**

If a player's ball is accidentally deflected or stopped by an opponent, his *caddie* or his *equipment*, there is no penalty. The player may, before another *stroke* is made by either *side*, cancel the *stroke* and play a ball without penalty, as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played (see Rule 20-5) or he may play the ball as it lies. However, if the player elects not to cancel the *stroke* and the ball has come to rest in or on the opponent's or his *caddie's* clothes or *equipment*, the ball **must** *through the green* or in a *hazard* be dropped, or on the *putting green* be placed, as near as possible to the spot directly under the place where the ball came to rest in or on the article, but not nearer the *hole*.

**Exception:** Ball striking person attending or holding up *flagstick* or anything carried by him--see Rule 17-3b.

### **ONE-STROKE PENALTIES: MATCH OR STROKE PLAY**

- 5-3 Ball Unfit for Play (Procedure)
- 6-8c Lifting Ball When Play Discontinued (Procedure)
- 12-2 Identifying Ball (Procedure Unnecessary Cleaning)
- 14-4 Striking the Ball More Than Once
- 16-2 Ball Overhanging Hole
- 18-2a Ball at Rest Moved by Player, Caddie, or Equipment
- 18-2b Ball Accidentally Deflected by Player, Caddie or Equipment
- 19-2 Lifting and Marking (Procedure)
- 20-1 Dropping (Procedure - By Whom and How)
- 20-2a Ball Placed or Replace (Procedure-By Any Other Person)
- 20-3a Cleaning Ball (When Not Permitted)
- 24-2 Interference by Immovable Obstructions (Relief Outside Bunker)
- 25-1 Ball in Abnormal Ground Condition (Relief Outside Bunker)
- 26 Ball in Water Hazard (Relief Outside Water Hazard)
- 27 Ball Lost or Out of Bounds, Provisional Ball
- 28 Ball Unplayable (unplayable lie)

### **ONE-STROKE PENALTY: MATCH PLAY ONLY**

- 18-3B Ball at Rest Moved By Opponent (Other Than During Search)

### **AGREEING TO PLAY READY GOLF IN MATCH PLAY**

If the players agree to play ready golf, they are agreeing to waive the rules. Agreeing to waive the rules carries the penalty of **disqualification**.

