WWGA RULES TOPIC – JANUARY 2025

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What to do if you have a rules question?

Most golfers, including professionals, don't always know the correct procedures under the rules. This month's topic aims to guide you on what to do when you have a rules question during a round, after a round, or just have a general question about golf rules.

During a round

Unlike professional golfers, we at WWGA don't have the luxury of a referee on the course to guide us on rules



questions. Researching the rules can take time, and it's important not to delay play. Fortunately, the Rules of Golf provides a solution: you can play two balls without penalty when you're unsure of the correct procedure. This is an essential rule to know!

Rule 20.1c(3): Playing Two Balls When Uncertain What to Do is shown below. This video also gives a good illustration on how to apply this rule.

The procedure requires you provide the facts of the situation to the "Committee" which in the case of WWGA is the Rules Chair <wwgarules@gmail.com> and the organizer of the competition; the Weekly Games Chair <wwgaweeklygames@gmail.com> or the organizer of the major tournament, whichever is applicable.

- (3) <u>Playing Two Balls When Uncertain What to Do</u>. A player who is uncertain about the right procedure while playing a hole may complete the hole with two balls without penalty:
- The player must decide to play two balls after the uncertain situation arises and before making a stroke.
- The player should choose which ball will count if the Rules allow the procedure used for that ball, by announcing that choice to their *marker* or to another player before making a *stroke*.
- If the player does not choose in time, the ball played first is treated as the ball chosen by default.
- The player must report the facts of the situation to the *Committee* before returning the *scorecard*, even if the player scores the same with both balls. The player is **disqualified** if they fail to do so.
- If the player made a stroke before deciding to play a second ball:
 - » This Rule does not apply at all and the score that counts is the score with the ball played before the player decided to play the second ball.
 - » But the player gets no penalty for playing the second ball.

A second ball played under this Rule is not the same as a provisional ball under Rule 18.3.

After a round

If a player disagrees with another player's score, follow the Scoring Dispute procedure on Page 4 of the www.aww.aww.edu.. The dispute can be due to a disagreement on how to apply the rules or simply not counting strokes correctly. Here is the relevant portion of the rule as it stands the day this article was written.

- 2. Scoring Disputes
 In the event a player disagrees with another player's score the following steps are recommended:
 - a. Ask the player if she's certain her stated score is accurate (she will revisit her strokes taken and confirm or adjust).
 - b. If no adjustment is made the questioning player will revisit the strokes taken and demonstrate that an error has been made.
 - c. The other members of the foursome should weigh-in and affirm either the stated score or the revised score.
 - d. Upon reaching a concensus a score is agreed upon.
 - e. If a concensus can not be reached the group will continue to play. Scorecard will have the score in question circled and those objecting to the score used will sign the scorecard with U.P. (under protest) after their name. The score card will be submitted to the Rules Chair at wwgarules@gmail.com. The rules chair will discuss the matter with all players involved and make a determination of the score to be used. The Handicap Chair will modify posted score if necessary.

Here is an example on how to fill out the scorecard in the case of a scoring dispute.

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	IN	тот	100	(Roy to 2)	9-60	_	
Par	3	4	3	3	4	4	4	3	4	32		4	3	3	3	3	5	3	4	4	32	64		0			
Back	108	317	176		267	287	286	141	336	2063	· co	340	160	148		-	-	160	344	318	2202 4246					^	
Forward	100	307	166	135	255	277	276	133	314		INITIALS	330	149	138	135	125	485	125	325	300	2112	4075	Chip-in /				
Last, First Handicap	16	2	12	18	6	10	8	14	4		Ī	3	13	17	15	11	1	9	5	7			НСР	NET	ADJ	GAM	
Carter, M	4	6	8	4	7	6	(3)	5	6	49	MC	6	5	3	4	5	6	4	7	5	45	94	20	70	92	32	
			-2																	0							
Kern, J	5	10	5	4	5	5	7	6	7	54	JK	5	5	4	4	5	10	4	6	6	49	103	30	73	100	27	
		-2															-1						1	1,3			
McCannell, D	4	6	4	4	6	6	7	5	7	49	DM	5	5	4	4	5	8	5	6	5	47	96	26	70	96	27	
Noonan, P	6	7	6	6	6	7	7	7	8	60	PN	9	6	5	5	5	12	6	7	7	62	122	36	86	119	28	
												-1					-2						1000	100			
SCORER Mazie Carter(UP)	J. Kern								ATTEST AND WATER						(up) ATTEST				Da -up					3/18/24			

Other times you have rules questions

The official USGA Rules of Golf can be found at on the <u>USGA Rules website</u>, which contains not just the Rules, but also Definitions and Clarifications. It is also a good idea to download the free USGA Rules of Golf on your mobile device for easy access.

For WWGA golf rules, reference the back of the scorecard or the WWGA Rules page: wwga.net/rules

Admittedly, it can sometimes be challenging to find what you're looking for in the rules. It's okay to search the internet for applicable rules but be aware that online information might not be accurate. **Be particularly cautious with Al-generated results, as they have been found to be incorrect on many occasions.** Instead, use your searches to help identify a rule(s), then read the Rule itself and any available clarifications.

You can also send an email to the <u>WWGA Rules Chair</u> or even contact the USGA directly.

If you have questions on this Rules Topic or a suggestion for a future topic, please contact the WWGA Rules Chair at wwgarules@gmail.com