



Rule of the Month: Beg, Borrow or Steal

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By Sr. Rules Officials: Pete Scholz and Terry McEvilly

Rule 4 - The Player's Equipment: Clubs and Balls

Equipment of the player is defined as "anything used, worn, held or carried by the player or the player's caddie." Literally, the shirt off your caddie's back is your equipment. Additionally, objects such as rakes are also the equipment of the player while they are being carried by the player or his or her caddie. Rule 4, which covers Rules regarding the player's equipment, expands this definition by classifying equipment into three categories: Clubs, Balls and Other Equipment. This month we focus on the clubs and balls and next month we will cover a player's other equipment.

Test your knowledge of the Rules regarding a player's clubs and golf balls with the following questions.

Questions: True / False

1. A player may never start or carry more than 14 clubs during a round.
2. A player may borrow a club from another player in match play only.
3. Golf balls may be borrowed from another player.
4. If a clubhead comes loose during the play of a hole, the player may repair the club or have it repaired but must restore it as near as possible to its condition before the damage occurred.
5. During a stroke at a ball near a tree, the player bends the shaft of his or her club. The player may continue to use the damaged club for the remainder of the round, but must not replace it.
6. After starting a round with only 12 clubs, a player is prohibited from adding clubs during the round.
7. A player may not change brands of golf balls during a round.
8. If a player becomes aware that they are carrying more than 14 clubs in breach of Rule 4.1b during the play of a hole, he or she must declare the extra club or clubs out of play after completing the hole and before teeing off at the next hole.
9. Partners in a four-ball or foursome competition may not share clubs unless the total number of clubs between them is no more than 14.
10. If a club is designed to be adjustable, a player may change the settings during the round and use it provided that play is not delayed.