



Rule of the Month

April 1, 2018

Taking Responsibility

The Committee

The vast majority of the topics we present in the Rule of the Month articles deal with what a player may or may not do on the golf course. However the Committee in charge of a competition is also bound by the Rules of Golf. While some rulings may seem unreasonable, the Committee is often times limited by the Rules and the officials are there to interpret the Rules, not create new ones.

Rules that pertain to the Committee are largely unfamiliar to the average golfer. The Committee expects every golfer to adhere to the Rules, while every golfer should also expect the Committee to administer the competition using the guidelines and authority provided by the Rules.

This month we take a look at the Rules pertaining to the Committee that is in charge of the competition.

Questions: True/False

1. After the first player in a stroke play competition has begun the round, the number of holes in that round may not be reduced or increased.
2. Once play has begun, the number of rounds in a tournament may not be reduced.
3. The Committee must establish the out of bounds margin around the entire course.
4. The Committee may conduct a competition combining match and stroke play simultaneously.
5. Several groups have played the third hole when a player's ball comes to rest in an area that warrants being marked as ground under repair. Because several groups have already played the hole, the Committee is prohibited from giving relief and marking the area as ground under repair for the remainder of the players.
6. The Committee is not responsible for warning a player, who is in danger of a pace of play breach, prior to the player incurring a penalty.
7. Cart paths may be declared integral parts of the course (no free relief) by the Committee's use of Local Rules for the competition.
8. A player may be disqualified for a single breach of etiquette.
9. For pace of play, the Committee may enact a Local Rule allowing a player to pick the ball up after two putts adding one more stroke for the hole.
10. Making a practice putt on the putting green of the hole just completed may be prohibited by the Committee.