



Rule of the Month

February 1, 2018

To Speak or Not to Speak? That is the Question

Answers:

1. **False.** Rule 8-1 restricts a player from asking advice from anyone other than his or her partner or either of their caddies. Therefore, asking advice from a spectator is a breach of the Rules and would result in a loss of hole penalty in match play or two strokes in stroke play.
2. **False.** When a player declares their ball unplayable under Rule 28, or decides to take relief from a water hazard under Rule 26, they may do so without any announcements. However, see question #3 for a small caveat in match play.
3. **True.** Rule 9-2 requires a player in a match to inform their opponent when they have incurred a penalty but only if the opponent did not witness the situation. Failure to inform the opponent of a penalty as soon as practicable results in a loss of hole penalty.
4. **True.** Under Rule 27-2, intention of the player is not sufficient for the play of a provisional ball. An announcement must precede the stroke at the provisional ball. The announcement must include the word "provisional" or make it very clear that the player is proceeding under Rule 27-2. Making a stroke at the second ball, without announcing it as a provisional ball, renders the original ball lost and the second ball is in play under stroke and distance.
5. **False.** The "one ball" condition of competition (See Appendix) requires a player to use the same brand and model of golf ball throughout the round but there is no requirement that the player announce which brand or any markings placed on the ball.
6. **True.** Most players know that when in doubt of a procedure they may complete the hole with two balls in stroke play. However, the majority of golfers fail to announce which ball they want to have counted in their score. This results in the Rule deciding their score and often producing an undesirable score. Rule 3-3 doesn't require an announcement, but makes it a suggestion and would be generally advantageous for the player to do so.
7. **True.** Under Rule 9-2 a player has the right to know the status of the hole being played as it might influence decisions regarding his or her own play. See question # 8 for further clarification.
8. **False.** The player may withhold the information requested if it is the player's turn to play. He or she must give the answer before the opponent makes their next stroke. See Decision 9-2/4.
9. **False.** Although no authorization was made, Rule 17-1 Note 2 states that if the flagstick is attended with the player's knowledge, he or she is deemed to have authorized it.
10. **False.** Failure to inform the Committee of playing two balls results in disqualification of the player regardless of the recorded score. Anytime a player plays two balls under Rule 3-3 (Doubt as to Procedure) or Rule 20-7 (Correction of a serious breach of playing from wrong place) the player is required to inform the Committee of the procedure.