



Rule of the Month

February 1, 2018

To Speak or Not to Speak? That is the Question

What to say, when to say it or does anything need to be said? These are questions we have all asked ourselves in the midst of life's situations and now every golfer must ask themselves the same questions when applying the Rules. A few Rules require a golfer to have a verbal conversation with either his or her opponent, a marker, a fellow-competitor or the Committee. Still other Rules prohibit having certain conversations with any of the above. This month we look at the Rules that require a golfer to either hold his tongue or verbally announce his intentions or actions.

Questions: True/False

1. A player may ask a spectator for a club suggestion but must not ask another golfer playing in the same competition.
2. Prior to declaring a ball unplayable and lifting it, a player must announce their intentions to another golfer playing in the same group.
3. In match play, if a player incurs a one stroke penalty for relief from a water hazard, he or she is not required to inform the opponent of the penalty if the opponent observed the procedure.
4. After hitting a ball towards an out of bounds fence, a player intends to play a provisional ball but doesn't announce it as a provisional ball before making a stroke. The original ball is now out of play and must not be played even if found on the course.
5. In a competition where the "one ball" condition is in effect, players must announce or at the very least show their fellow players what ball they are playing and any markings prior to teeing off on the first hole.
6. In stroke play, a player unsure of a procedure may complete the hole with two balls. If the player fails to announce which ball he or she wishes to have count before taking further action, the Rule will determine which ball the player must count.
7. A player in match play may ask their opponent during play of a hole how many strokes the opponent has taken on the hole.
8. In match play, when asked by an opponent how many strokes he or she has taken on a hole, the player must answer before any player makes another stroke.
9. Before putting, a player sees a fellow-competitor attending the flagstick. The player putted without ever verbally requesting that the flagstick be attended. As the player has not verbally authorized that the flagstick be attended, the fellow-competitor is in breach of Rule 17-2 for unauthorized attendance.
10. A player who is uncertain of how to proceed plays two balls scoring the same with both balls. Because the score was the same, the player isn't required to report the procedure to the Committee.