



Rule of the Month, Foursome Stroke Play

March 1, 2015

February's Rule of the Month article focused on Four-Ball Stroke Play, due in part because many clubs hold Four-Ball competitions. Another commonly used form of play at the club level, as well as the Ryder Cup, is Foursome Stroke Play. Sometimes referred to as Alternate Shot, an easy way to remember this format is that "some" of the players play "some" of the time. It is important to note that this form of play is quite different than Four-Ball where each player plays their own ball. In Foursome play, the partners will have only one ball in play between them.

For the purpose of this True/False quiz, Players A and B are partners in a Foursome Stroke Play competition.

1. The partners may share clubs using just one set of clubs for the entire round.
2. On the 4th hole, Player A is in a deep greenside bunker and is not aware that Player B is attending the flagstick. Player A makes his stroke and the ball strikes the flagstick. The side is not penalized because the stroke was not made from the putting green.
3. On the 6th hole, Player A plays a wrong ball. They resume searching and find their original ball within 5 minutes of starting to search. It is Player B's turn to play.
4. Player A fails to pay attention on the 7th hole and plays a tee shot when it was Player B's turn to play from the teeing ground. The side is disqualified unless they correct the error before teeing off on the next hole.
5. On the 8th hole, Player A tees a ball and makes a stroke but he misses the ball. It is still Player A's turn to play.
6. On the 11th hole, Player B's tee shot is hit towards the out of bounds. Side A/B elect to play a provisional ball. Player A must play the provisional ball.
7. On the 14th hole, Player A's tee shot finds the deep end of a water hazard. When dropping a ball under Rule 26 for water hazard relief, Player A, the player of the original stroke, must drop the ball that will subsequently be played by Player B.
8. Player B emphasizes how he thinks a putt by Player A will break by touching the green with his putter head to show Player A where to hit the ball. Since Player A did not touch the green or his line of putt the side is not penalized.
9. On the 15th hole, Player A makes a stroke from a bunker but fails to extricate the ball from the bunker. In anger he hits the sand with his club. The side incurs no penalty for touching the sand with a club because it is now Player B's turn to play.
10. Only one of the players must sign the score card before it is returned.

Senior OGA Rules Officials: Pete Scholz and Terry McEvilly