

Rhodes Rules School

Series 15

6th November

Question 86:

Sean and John have agreed to play a match at 9.00 am in the morning. John arrives on time but Sean does not make it until 9.15 am, because he has been delayed by fog. As luck would have it, the course is closed and does not open until the fog begins to clear at 10.00 am, but John thinks that Sean has lost the first hole because he arrived after the agreed starting time. They agree to play out the hole while they get a decision from a Committee member. Sean drives his ball into a fairway bunker and then John drives his ball up the right-hand side of the fairway. Sean decides to use a rescue wood from the shallow bunker and as he positions his clubhead behind the ball he accidentally touches it, but without moving it. He makes his stroke and the ball comes to rest just off the putting green. John's ball is lying close to a sprinkler head but it is sitting-up and he decides not to take relief from the immovable obstruction. However, when he makes his stroke he does touch the outside of the sprinkler head with the toe of his club as he follows through. His ball comes to rest on the other side of the hole to Sean's but on the putting green. John thinks that it is Sean's turn to play but Sean is sure that he is closer. After a brief argument Sean angrily picks-up the flagstick and uses it to measure the distances. Unfortunately, in his haste he knocks his own ball with the flagstick, moving it forward several inches. He quickly replaces the ball where it was and tells John that he will play first. His putt stops 12 inches from the hole and John tells him to pick it up, which he does. John then takes two putts to hole out. What is the result of the hole, assuming that the opponents made a valid claim about any breach of the Rules that may have occurred?

(The answer is below)

19th Hole Titbit - Do You Know?

That you may take relief if your ball falls into a hole anywhere through the green if it was definitely made by a greenkeeper (e.g. where a tree stake, hole on a temporary green, or course signage had been). Definition of Ground Under Repair.

Answer 86:

Note: As the course was closed at the time the match was scheduled to start, and Sean arrived before it opened, no penalty was incurred by him (Decision 6-3a/4).

Sean 1 - Drive into the bunker.

John 1 - Drive up right-hand side of the fairway.

Sean 2 - Rescue club from the bunker to the edge of the putting green.

Note: There is no penalty for Sean accidentally touching his ball with his club in the bunker, as it did not move (Decision 13-4/12).

John 2 - Stroke to the putting green.

Note: There is no penalty for touching the sprinkler, an immovable obstruction, during the stroke, as John had chosen not to take relief from it.

Sean 3 - Putt to 12 inches from the hole.

Note: There is no penalty for accidentally moving a ball while measuring and the ball must be replaced (Rule 18-6).

Sean 4 - Conceded putt.

John 3 & 4 - Two putts to hole out.

The hole is halved in 4 strokes.

Question 87:

Damien is going well in the Captain's prize as he reaches the 18th hole. His drive from the teeing ground lands in a fairway bunker, settling underneath a large twig that has fallen from an overhanging tree. His fellow competitor, Morrie, feels that it is wrong that Damien's shot is blocked

by the twig, so he walks into the bunker and carefully removes it, without moving Damien's ball. Damien did not witness the removal, but soon realises what Morrie has done. He reasons that Morrie's probable breach is nothing to do with him and plays out of the bunker. Although he strikes his ball cleanly he hooks it and the ball rolls across the fairway and just drops into the shallow water of a water hazard. He thinks that he can still get a club behind the ball with one foot in the water, so he takes off his right shoe and sock to avoid getting them wet. He takes his stance, remembering not to ground his club inside the water hazard, but as he makes the backswing of his stroke he grazes the surface of the water, creating a few ripples. He completes the stroke splashing his ball out to the side of the putting green. He then holes out with a chip and a putt. What is Damien's score for the hole?

(The answer is below)

19th Hole Titbit - Do You Know?

That you may have the flagstick attended, removed or held up from anywhere on the course. Rule 17-1.

Answer 87:

1 - Drive into a fairway bunker.

Note: Morrie incurs a penalty of two strokes* for his action made with the intent of affecting his fellow competitor's playing of the hole (Rule 1-2(ii)). However, Damien does not incur a penalty, as the twig was removed without his knowledge and he is not required to replace the twig.

*It is likely that the Committee would disqualify Morrie for a serious breach of Rule 1-2.

2 - Stroke from the bunker into the water hazard.

Note: There is no penalty for removing a shoe and sock to take a stance in the water.

3 & 4 - Two penalty strokes for grounding his club by touching the water in the water hazard (Rule 13-4b).
5 - Stroke from the water hazard to the side of the putting green.
6 & 7 - Chip and putt to hole out.
Damien scores 7 for the hole.

19th Hole Titbit - Do You Know?

That you may stand outside the teeing ground to play a ball that is teed within it. Rule 11-1.

Question 88:

Tammy has just played a perfect 4-iron over water to the 140 yards par-3, stopping her ball a few feet from the flagstick. She is particularly pleased as she had correctly accounted for the strong cross-wind that is blowing. Sile, her fellow competitor, congratulates her on a great shot and she replies, "Thanks, I was not sure that my 6-iron would make it", hoping that her reply would confuse Sile in her choice of club. When she reaches the putting green Tammy repairs both her pitch mark and a heel mark left by a player from the previous group close to the hole. She then uses the toe of her blade putter to mark the position of her ball, cleans it and replaces it at the same spot. Her short putt is good and she is delighted with the way she has played a difficult hole. What is Tammy's score for the hole?

(The answer is below)

19th Hole Titbit - Do You Know?

That you may move tee-markers that interfere with an intended stroke, except when playing the first stroke from a teeing ground. Rule 11-2.

Answer 88:

1 - 4-iron from the teeing ground to the putting green.

2 & 3 - Two penalty strokes for making a statement regarding her club selection which was intended to mislead her fellow competitor (Decision 8-1/9).

4 & 5 - Two penalty strokes for repairing a heel mark on the putting green in the vicinity of the hole, which is not permitted (Rule 16-1c and Decision 16-1c/4).

6 - Putt into the hole.

Note: There is no penalty for a player that marks the position of their ball with the toe of their club (Decision 20-1/16), but this practice should be discouraged.

Tammy scores 6 for the hole.

Question 89:

Having addressed her ball on a par-3 teeing ground, Cherie is going through her pre-shot, waggle routine when she accidentally knocks her ball sideways off the tee. The ball still lies within the teeing ground and is sitting-up, so she decides to play it as it lies. Her strike nearly makes the putting green but the ball settles close to a sprinkler head. When Cherie reaches it she sees that if she takes her normal stance the sprinkler head will be immediately between her stance and her ball. She isn't sure if she must take relief in this situation, but quickly decides to play her ball as it lies again. Her chip stops about a metre from the hole. She sticks a long tee into the putting green to mark

her ball, which she then lifts cleans and replaces. She removes the tee and putts confidently into the hole. What is Cherie's score for the hole?

(The answer is below)

19th Hole Titbit - Do You Know?

That you may fill irregularities on the teeing ground with sand or soil before taking your stance on the area you have just repaired. Rule 13-2.

Answer 89:

Note: There is no penalty when a player accidentally moves their ball that is not yet in play on a teeing ground (Rule 11-3).

1 - Tee shot to the side of the putting green.

Note: Cherie did not have to re-tee her ball in teeing ground.

2 - Chip to a metre from the hole.

Note: Cherie was right to play her ball as the sprinkler head was not interfering with the lie of her ball, her stance or area of intended swing and so no relief without penalty was available under Rule 24-2.

3 - Putt into the hole.

Note: There is no penalty for a player that marks the position of their ball with a long tee (Decision 20-1/16), but this practice should be discouraged.

Cherie scores 3 for the hole.

Question 90:

After a heavy downpour Rex is having trouble finding anywhere to tee his ball on the teeing ground. He finds a rake in a nearby bunker and uses the back of it to push water away from that part of the teeing ground where he wants to take his stance. When he does make his tee shot he drives his ball down the middle of the fairway but it stops quickly in a large puddle. On reaching his ball, he picks it up and drops it at the nearest point where the lie of the ball and his stance are clear of the puddle, not nearer the hole. However, as he takes his stance he sees that water is still visible around the soles of his shoes from the same area of casual water. He picks-up his ball again and repeatedly steps sideways until he finds the nearest point to where his ball originally lay in the puddle where the water is not visible around his shoes. He correctly drops his ball about two feet away from this point and then plays a long iron shot just short of the putting green. It is still raining and Rex has his umbrella open. He hands it to his fellow competitor to hold while he takes his first putt, which stops short of the hole. He removes the flagstick, takes back his umbrella from his fellow competitor and holds it open over his head with one hand, as he grips his putter with the other to easily putt out. What is Rex's score for the hole?

(The answer is below)

19th Hole Titbit - Do You Know?

That you may touch any grass, bush, tree or other growing thing during a practice swing, or on the backswing of your club when making a stroke at a ball in a hazard. Note to Rule 13-4.

Answer 90:

1 - Drive down the middle of the fairway.

Note: There is no penalty for removing water from the teeing ground, (Rule 13-2).

2 - Long iron onto the putting green.

Note: Rex followed the correct procedure in taking complete relief from the casual water. Had he played his ball after dropping it for the first time, when there was water visible around the soles of his shoes, he would have incurred a penalty of two strokes in stroke play or loss of hole in match play, for not taking complete relief.

3 - First putt.

4 - Putt into the hole.

Note: There is no penalty for Rex protecting himself from the elements with an umbrella whilst making a stroke (Decision 14-2/2).

Rex scores 4 for the hole.

19th Hole Titbit - Do You Know?

That you may lift a rake out of a bunker with the head of your club, even if you touch the sand while doing so.

Exception 1(b) to Rule 13-4.

Series 16 will be posted November 30.....