

THE EVOLUTION OF THE PUTTING GREEN RULE

by

KEN LINDSAY
Head Professional, Colonial Country Club
5635 Old Canton Road
Jackson, Mississippi 39211

THESIS

Presented to the Professional Golfers'
Association of America
in partial fulfillment
of the requirements
for

MASTER PROFESSIONAL

© 1983 KEN LINDSAY

Not to be copied or reprinted
without written consent

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS	v
PREFACE	vi
CHAPTER I. HISTORY AND BACKGROUND	
INTRODUCTION	1
A HISTORY OF GOLFING ASSOCIATIONS	3
The Royal Burgess Golfing Society of Edinburgh	
The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers	
The Royal and Ancient Golf Club	
THE DEVELOPMENT OF UNIFIED RULES	4
The Honourable Company develops the "Articles & Laws"	
The Royal and Ancient takes over as rules authority	
The development and growth of the USGA	
The USGA and the Royal and Ancient join forces	
THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE PUTTING GREEN	11
A description of modern greens	
Definition of the term "putting green"	
A description of the "hole" green	
The rules define the putting green	
THE HOLE	17
The original condition	
Stories behind the standard dimension	
THE FLAGSTICK	19
A definition	
Following the rule through the years	
CONSOLIDATION OF THE PUTTING GREEN RULES	21
Following the rule numbers as they change	
All rules consolidated into one rule	

MATCH PLAY AND STROKE PLAY AS RELATED TO THE RULES	22
--	----

Days of match play only
Stroke play gains popularity
Rules expanded to cover both types of play

THE 1983 PUTTING GREEN RULE	23
---------------------------------------	----

The rule as it reads today

CHAPTER II. THE PUTTING GREEN, RULE 35-1 - GENERAL

INTRODUCTION TO RULE 35-1	25
TOUCHING LINE OF PUTT [35-1a]	25
LOOSE IMPEDIMENTS [35-1b]	27
REPAIR OF HOLE PLUGS AND BALL MARKS [35-1c]	30
LIFTING AND CLEANING BALL [35-1d]	32
DIRECTION FOR PUTTING [35-1e] :	33
TESTING SURFACE [35-1f]	36
OTHER BALL TO BE AT REST [35-1g]	37
BALL IN MOTION STOPPED OR DEFLECTED [35-1h]	38
BALL OVERHANGING HOLE [35-1i]	40
BALL ON A WRONG PUTTING GREEN [35-1j]	41
BALL TO BE MARKED WHEN LIFTED [35-1k]	43
STANDING ASTRIDE OR ON LINE OF PUTT PROHIBITED [35-1l]	44

CHAPTER III. THE PUTTING GREEN, RULE 35-2 - MATCH PLAY

INTRODUCTION TO RULE 35-2	47
BALL INTERFERING WITH PLAY [35-2a]	47
PLAYING OUT OF TURN [35-2b]	50
OPPONENT'S BALL DISPLACED [35-2c]	51
CONCEDING OPPONENT'S NEXT STROKE [35-2d]	53

CHAPTER IV. THE PUTTING GREEN, RULE 35-3 - STROKE PLAY	
INTRODUCTION TO RULE 35-3	54
BALL INTERFERING WITH PLAY [35-3a]	55
BALL ASSISTING PLAY [35-3b]	56
BALL STRIKING FELLOW-COMPETITOR'S BALL [35-3c]	57
BALL LIFTED BEFORE HOLED OUT [35-3d]	59
CLOSING REMARKS	62
APPENDIX	64
SOURCES CONSULTED	79

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

1. The "Articles & Laws in Playing at Golf" recreated in exact words and style from the first minute book of the Company of Gentlemen Golfers	6
2. Possibly the first golf photograph taken in America, taken in the cow pasture in Yonkers, New York, which was to become the St. Andrews course	7
3. A view of the vast eighteenth green and clubhouse of the Royal and Ancient	10
4. One of the earliest known photographs of golf, dated 1858	14
5. The pioneers. A sketch emphasizing the closeness of tee and green	16
6. A picture of Sam Snead's putting stance, before and after Rule 35-1L	46
7. A copy of the advertisement for the twenty yard tape that never got the chance to measure up	60

PREFACE

The rules of golf are dull and uninteresting to most golfers. I once fit into this category. After a successful junior, collegiate, and military career, I thought I knew the rules better than most people.

Little did I know when I went to the Mississippi Gulf Coast in September, 1970, to play in a tournament, that my entire life was about to change. To sum it up in a few phrases -- I got a bad ruling. I thought it was a bad ruling, but did not know how to handle it. It cost me two strokes and the difference in coming in second and tying for first.

As fate would have it, national officer, Warren Orlick, was at this tournament. He gave me a challenge that rang in my ears for days. He informed me that few people were knowledgeable in rules and urged me to "get involved."

A few months later, I attended my second PGA business school. Here I encountered Joe Black, who once again echoed the call to "get involved." His knowledge of the rules gave me the initiative and desire I needed. I resolved then that no rules official would ever again give me a bad ruling.

My interest in rules started with an unfortunate episode that turned into one of the best things that ever happened to me. I have never once regreted my involvement in rules and hope that I can help create that same desire in at least one young professional somewhere. The rules are rewarding, and it

is my desire to continue to learn. The lesson the rules of golf teaches is that "the more you learn, the more you realize how little you actually know."

I would be very remiss if I did not give credit where credit is due. The assistance and support of the following men have been invaluable to this work: Tournament Director of the PGA, Mr. Don Smith; Past PGA Presidents, Mr. Warren Orlick, Mr. Harold Sargent, Mr. Bill Clarke and Mr. Joe Black; PGA Officers, Mr. Mark Kizziar and Mr. James Ray Carpenter; USGA Rules Committee, Mr. Joe Dey and Mr. C. McDonald England; USGA Rules Staff, Mr. Tom Meeks; PGA Tour Officials, Mr. Clyde Mangum and Mr. Jack Tuthill. Gentlemen, your assistance and encouragement are deeply appreciated. A special word of thanks goes to Mr. David Fay of the USGA, who graciously and patiently provided so much of the history. David, it would not have been possible without you.

At the conclusion of this paper, my efforts will be rewarded if this history whets the appetite of someone to delve deeper into the rules of golf, so that they may understand and appreciate them to their fullest.

CHAPTER I

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Introduction

Rules! Don't we all get tired of rules. It seems there are rules for everything these days. For some reason, we usually have a negative reaction to the word "rule." If we take a moment to think it through, however, this should not be the case. A good rule provides much more protection and benefit than the inconvenience it may carry. If nothing else, it protects us from the other guy. After all, where would we be without rules? Anyone will agree that rules are a necessary part of a civilized society.

The same fact applies to sports. The rules of a game are as important to the enjoyment of the game as is proficiency in playing. Golf is no exception. One may be an excellent player with a perfect swing and a natural "feel" for the green, but unless he has adequate rules to protect him, the game can become pointless and defeating. Rules override personalities. They are always the same, whoever the player. They are never intimidated and never waiver because of uncertainty. They should always be strong, near perfect, and all-inclusive.

The rules of golf fit all these standards. Golfers rarely stop to think about the rule book -- where it came from, why it says what it says, who made it all fit together, who protects and

continues to perfect it. Most players, amateur and professional, think the rule book is nice when it helps and a nuisance when it interferes.

We will direct our thoughts toward only one rule of golf. As we expand on this one rule and follow its evolution through the years, hopefully we will understand this rule thoroughly, feel comfortable with it, and know why it reads as it does. Upon completion of this paper, we should feel confident and comfortable toward this rule and regard it as a friend and supporter.

The putting green rule was chosen for a number of reasons, primarily its familiarity. Hopefully, each reader will have a natural interest in it. A player may never encounter certain situations covered in the rule book. Every player, however, gets his ball on the putting surface every time he completes a hole. A great deal of emphasis is directed toward the shots a player makes while on the green, particularly from the gallery and from TV commentators. Consequently, most players are under added pressure while on the green. The green requires more finesse and a natural intensity exists because this is where "you win it or lose it."

It would be far too abrupt to begin a thesis on the putting green without first giving a brief background on golf and the rules of golf. It would be impossible to know when the "rule" began without knowing when the "rules" began. Likewise, we must know the origin of "the putting green" before we can know the origin of "the putting green rule." To take it one step further, we must know the origin of the game before we can know the origin

of the putting green, for as unbelievable as it may seem, there was not always a putting green. We might go so far as to say that the hole is the only part of the putting green that has always existed, and even it was not always the same as we know it today.

Therefore, it stands to reason that in order to give a proper evolution of the putting green rule, the best place to start is the beginning.

A History of Golfing Associations

Many years ago in a distant country, a new game was originated. Without much speculation the reader will correctly presume we are referring to the game of golf. According to the Encyclopedia of Golf, the game is known to have been played in Scotland at Edinburgh's Bruntsfield Links before 1450, with a round consisting of five or six holes. Let's take a moment to observe this "new" game as it developed and gained momentum.

In 1735, a group of gentlemen in Scotland formed the Edinburgh Golfing Society. In 1787, it became the Edinburgh Burgess (although by no means confined to 'burgesses'), and in 1929 'Royal' was added to the title in recognition of the Duke of York (later King George IV), who played there several times. Here we have the Royal Burgess Golfing Society of Edinburgh, the longest continually established golfing society or club in the world.

The Gentlemen Golfers of Edinburgh officially dated their origin as May 1, 1744, although there are grounds for

supposing that they probably existed before that time. It was not until 1795 that they adopted their now familiar title of the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers.

Ten years passed before the Gentlemen Golfers spawned a new club. In 1754, twenty-two gentlemen formed themselves into the Society of St. Andrews Golfers. Eighty years later, in 1834, the club took the name of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club by permission of King William IV, the reigning monarch.

Here we can see the game beginning to develop with the establishment of some of the more noble and historic golf clubs. Follow closely, now, because we find that with golf beginning to emerge from its three century infancy, the need for established rules will be recognized.

The Development of Unified Rules

As golf continued to grow in popularity, each club had its own unwritten tradition of golf law and procedure. Understandably, there was variance from club to club. Disputes were usually settled by one or two of the oldest players.

The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers decreed in 1744 that there should be presented an annual challenge trophy, the Silver Club, for open competition. They wished to forestall controversy among entrants who were unfamiliar with local practice. Therefore, they formulated the first set of rules. These "Articles & Laws in Playing at Golf" were thirteen in number. A further result of this first tournament was the appointment of the first

official rules chairman, for the winner of the Silver Club would settle "all disputes touching the Golf among golfers." These thirteen "Articles & Laws" were almost identical to the code that was later adopted by St. Andrews, which would eventually become the first rules authority. Figure 1 lists the original "Articles and Laws in Playing at Golf."

Because of difficult playing conditions at Leith Links, the Honourable Company was forced into a period of dormancy for six years, from 1830 to 1836, until it could find a new home. This setback caused the club to lose ground.

During this dormant period, St. Andrews, with its quality turf and pleasant surroundings, began to attract the elite of the game. Clubs turned more and more to St. Andrews for leadership and guidance. Golf's popularity and competitiveness began to produce a demand for a single code of rules. The Encyclopedia of Golf states:

After being approached by several leading clubs the Royal and Ancient Club agreed in 1897 to become the governing authority on the rules of golf.¹

Meanwhile, on the other side of the ocean in America, similar things were happening. The game had caught on and was spreading in popularity. America now had its own St. Andrews. Figure 2 shows the cow pasture that would later be the home of the St. Andrews Golf Club, named after St. Andrews of Scotland.

¹Encyclopedia of Golf, 1975 ed., s.v. "Royal and Ancient Golf Club".

Figure 1. "The Articles & Laws" recreated in exact words and style from the first minute book of the Company of Gentlemen Golfers.²

Articles & Laws in Playing at Golf

1. You must Tee your Ball, within a Clubs length of the Hole
2. Your Tee must be upon the Ground
3. You are not to change the Ball which you Stroke off the Tee
4. You are not to remove Stones, Bones or any Break Club, for the sake of playing your Ball, Except upon the fair green ^{that only} within a Clubs length of your Ball.
5. If your Ball come among Matter or any wattery filth, you are at liberty to take out your Ball & bringing it behind the hazard and Teeing it, you may play it with any Club and allow your Adversary a Stroke, for so getting out your Ball.
6. If your Balls be found any where touching one another, You are to lift the first Ball till you play the last.
7. At Holling, you are to play your Ball honestly for the Hole, and, not to play upon your Adversary's Ball, not lying in your way to the Hole.
8. If you should lose your Ball, by it's being taken up, or any other way, you are to go back to the Spot, where you struck last, & drop another Ball, and allow your adversary a Stroke for the misfortune
9. No man at Holling his Ball, is to be allowed, to mark his way to the Hole with his Club or any thing else.
10. If a Ball be stopp'd by any person; Horse; Dog, or any thing else, The Ball so stop'd must be played where it lyes.
11. If you draw your Club, in order to Strikes & proceed so far in the Stroke, as to be bringing down your Club; If then, your Club shall break in any way, it is to be accounted a Stroke.
12. He whose Ball lyes farthest from the Hole is obliged to play first.
13. Neither French, Ditch or Dyke, made for the preservation of the Links, nor the Scholar's Holes or the Soldiers Lines, shall be accounted a Hazard, But the Ball is to be taken out ^{Tied} and play'd with any Iron Club.

John Rattray L^{ft}.

²USGA, Golf House, Display (Far Hills, New Jersey)

Figure 2. Possibly the first golf photograph taken in America. Left to right (excluding the boys) are Harry Holbrook, A. Kinnan, John B. Upham and John Reid on the cow pasture at Yonkers, New York, which was to become the St. Andrews course.³



³Henry Cotton, A History of Golf, with a Foreword by Sam Snead (Philadelphia & New York: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1975) p.31.

In a general meeting of golf clubs on December 22, 1894, five clubs met and formed the Amateur Golf Association of the United States. The organization, which was established as a national body to establish and standardize play, was later to become the United States Golf Association. The handful of men who conceived this organization had no idea of the giant it would grow into over the next fifty years. According to Will Grimsley:

The first rules in the United States were published November 7, 1893 - five years after the St. Andrews Club was founded in Yonkers, New York. The rules applied to play for the John Reid Championship Medal Tournament. They were:

1. Competitors shall note each other's scores, checking same at each hole.
2. If a ball be lost, the player shall return as nearly as possible to the spot where the ball was struck, tee another ball and lose a stroke.
3. All balls shall be holed out, and when play is nearest the hole shall have the option of holing out first. Through-out the green, a competitor can have the other competitor's ball lifted, if he finds that it interferes with his stroke.
4. A ball under penalty of two strokes may be lifted out of a difficulty of any description and teed behind the same.
5. Competitors may not discontinue play because of bad weather.
6. The penalty for a breach of any rule shall be disqualification.
7. The ordinary rules of golf, so far as they are not at variance with these special rules, shall apply to this match. With two different, but not drastically contrasting, codes the British and Americans continued to go their individual ways.⁴

As the sport continued to grow in worldwide popularity, a universal code became a necessity. After several conferences that never got farther than the talking stage and months of correspondence, a conference in 1951 resulted in a joint revision

⁴Will Grimsley, Golf: Its History, People & Events, with section by Robert Trent Jones (Englewood Cliffs, N. J.: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1966), p. 295.

in the rules of golf in which the primary considerations were that the perspective was to be worldwide. This conference was attended by twelve men representing the Royal and Ancient, the Australian Golf Union, the Royal Canadian Golf Association, and the United States Golf Association. Among those in attendance was Joseph C. Dey, Jr. He recalls:

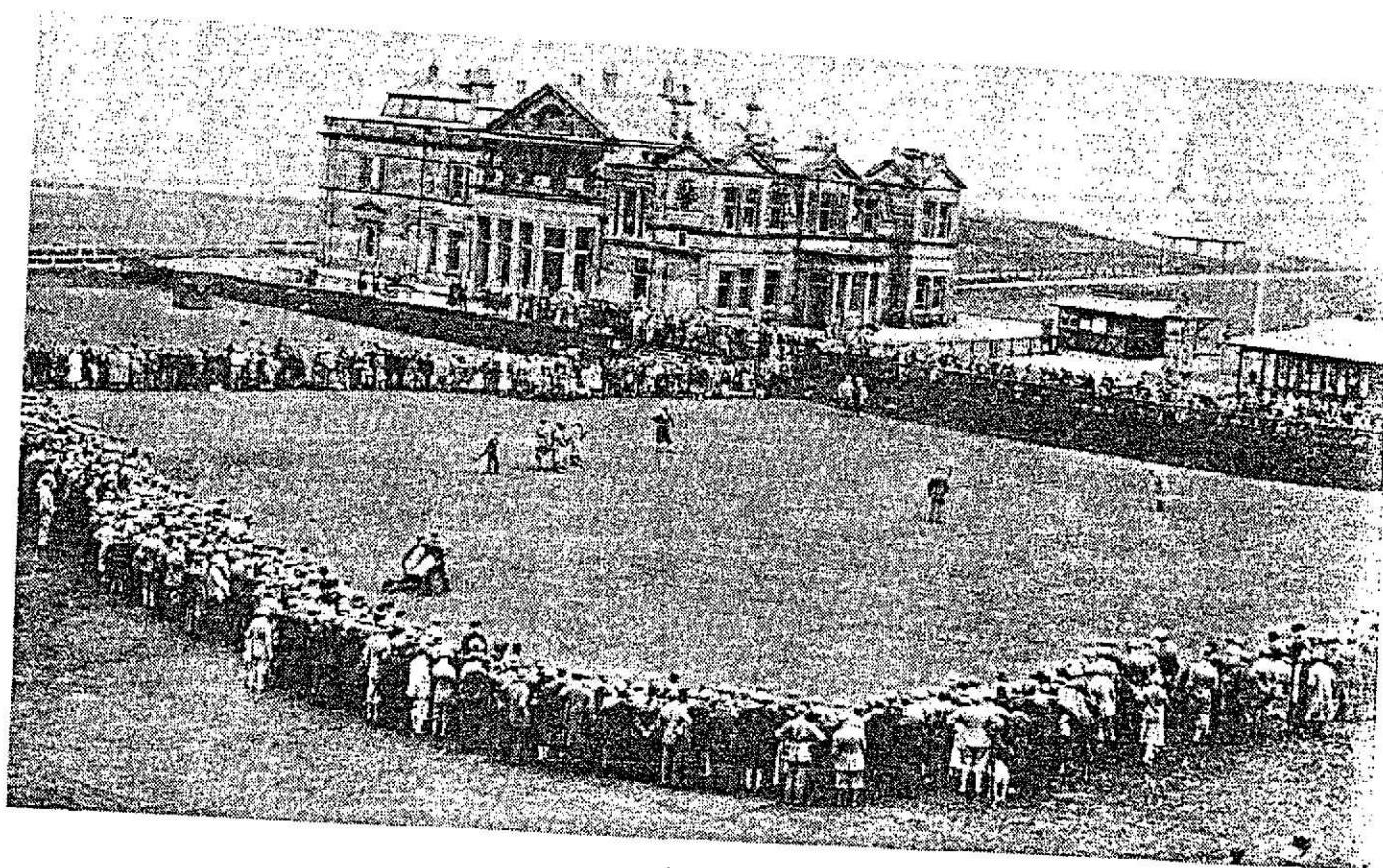
Twelve men sat around a large conference table. They were in a committee room of the House of Lords in London. The twelve men represented the governing authorities of golf in Great Britain, Australia, Canada and the United States. They were trying to develop a code of Rules of Golf which could be used uniformly throughout the golf world. In the main, this meant trying to reconcile the differences between the British and American codes, in substance and form. At the moment of which we write, the conferees were in a deep discussion of a point. After full consideration, the British view prevailed. At lunch, the British representatives decided it would be preferable to change their position because of possible complications for the USGA. "That," said Lord Brabazon of Tara, "is the way to negotiate: you win your point and then concede it." This symbolized the spirit of the meetings. For four days those twelve men explored every phase of the Rules. There were no axes to grind, no ultra-nationalistic views. They were just golf-lovers, and they worked together in complete harmony. They reached full agreement on a uniform code. They had a wonderful experience together, and a memorable one.⁵

At last "A 'United Nations' of the Rules of Golf" had arrived at a unified universal code. This historic conference will forever be an important part of golf rules history.

The authority of the Royal and Ancient and the United States Golf Association has continued to increase, and today they are considered the golf rules authorities for all times. Figure 3 shows a view of the prestigious Royal and Ancient clubhouse where it all began.

⁵ Joseph C. Dey, Jr., "A World Code of Rules," USGA Journal, June 1951, p. 5.

Figure 3. Bobby Jones putting on the vast eighteenth green at the clubhouse of the Royal and Ancient.⁶



⁶Charles Price, *The World of Golf*, with a Foreword by Bobby Jones (New York: Random House, 1962) p. 183.

There have been many far-reaching changes in methods of play, implements used, and greenkeeping in the past hundred years, but perhaps one of the major changes has been in the golfer's attitude to the game. The length and apparent complexity of the present rules reflect this change of attitude.

Hence, we see that the evolution of golf as a game has necessitated the evolution of the rules of golf. Obviously, it would take several volumes to write a comprehensive history of the game of golf or the history of the rules of golf. This brief summary of golf and its rules only scratches the surface of a long and interesting history. With this background information in mind, we will select one particular rule, the putting green rule, and see how it comes into being, grows stronger and takes on more character as it evolves from its earliest days to the present time. By tracing this one rule through the years, we shall gain insight into the overall rules-making procedures which have so effectively enhanced the enjoyment of golf.

The Advancement of the Putting Green

What comes to the mind of the modern golfer when he thinks of the putting green? Probably he would think along these lines:

- the most precisely manicured and prepared portion of a course
- the most protected area in which all unnecessary traffic is prohibited
- "Holy Ground" for the golfer; a sacred area in which silence and concentration are afforded his golfing efforts

- intensity in attitude and frame of mind, for this is the area in which all of his skills come together to determine the success or failure of the hole.

From the viewpoint of the gallery, the green must carry a lot of importance, because it is where they tend to congregate. Television coverage centers more on the green than any other area of the course. The evening news usually portrays the great money winners sinking a thirty foot putt; rarely does it show them hitting a perfect drive 300 yards down the middle of the fairway.

In the book Golf: Its History, People & Events, Robert Trent Jones devotes an entire section in describing ten great courses. This is his idea of the putting green:

The green, of course, is the ultimate target. What is more enjoyable than to play a shot to a well-placed, beautifully designed green where the guarding traps, as well as the contours, are in harmony, and with a subtle pin position demanding from the golfer the greatest possible shot? The variety of green design is infinite. Elevated greens, terraced greens, tilted greens, mounded contours, flanked trapping on the sides, direct trapping in the front, creeks or water ponds to carry--these many varied green designs contribute to the joy of playing a golf course and to the miseries of failing to meet the persistent demands.⁷

Now that we have firmly planted in our minds a description of modern putting greens, let's travel back through history and take a look at the original putting green.

In the first place, the term "putting green" was not known in old golf. The word "green" meant the entire golf course. This still survives today in the phrases "green committee," "greenkeeper," and "through the green." The original Royal

⁷Grimsley, Golf: Its History, People & Events, p. 251.

and Ancient reference to the prepared area around the tin was the "hole" green.

So how did we come up with the term putting green?

Robert Browning has an interesting idea:

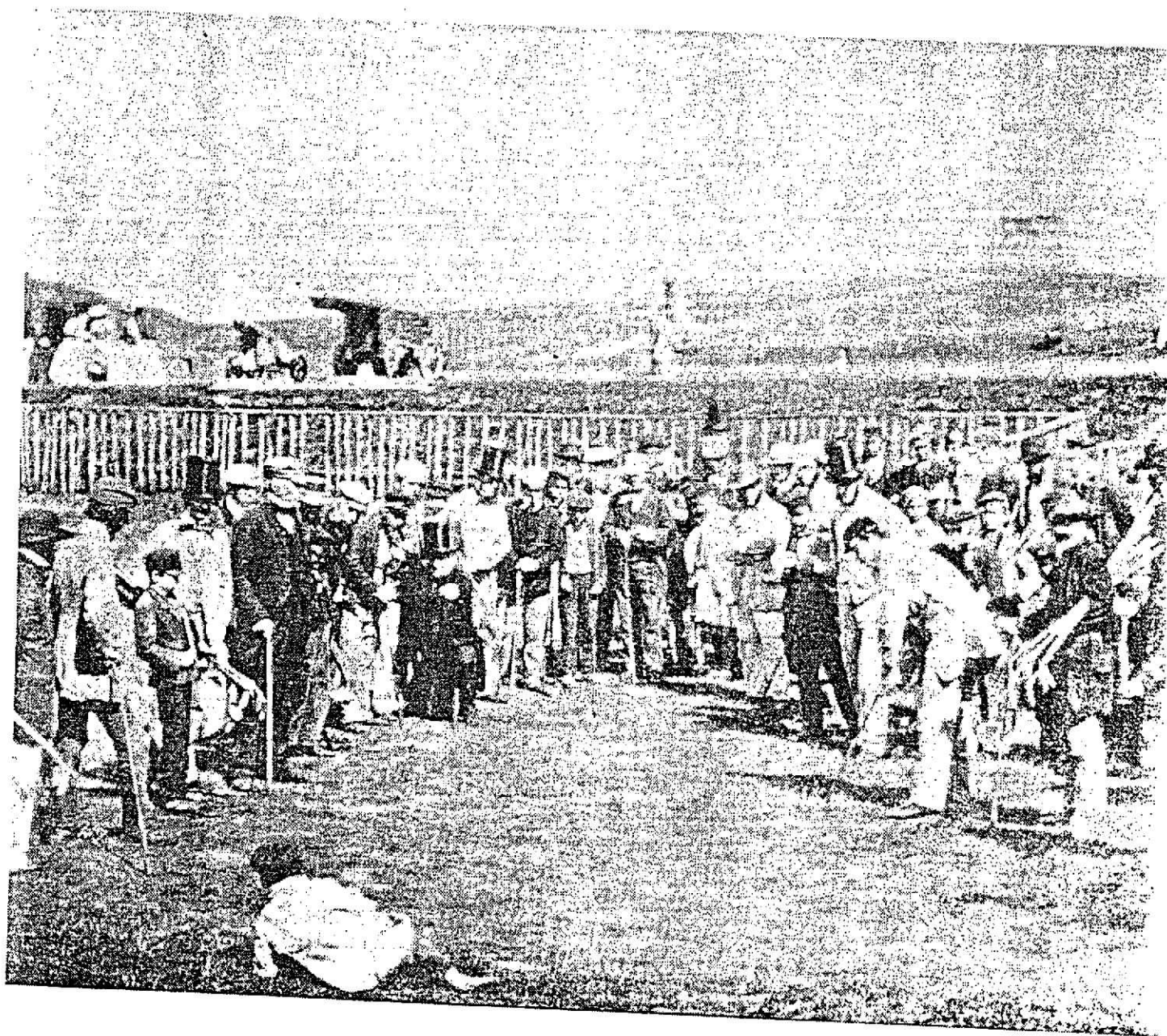
In my opinion the words "putt" and "putting" were originally used in golf in precisely the same sense as in the sport of "putting the weight." Any shot that aimed at keeping the ball low was a putt. The golfer of the feathery days holed out with his putter because its straight face made it the ideal club for the low shot by which the ball was tossed towards the hole. The modern idea of the putt as a shot in which the ball is rolled into the tin was not entirely applicable, because greens in the early days were not especially tended and prepared, and a purely rolling shot could not always be trusted to roll straight.⁸

The putting green in the early days of golf was actually an area not noticeably different from the rest of the course. Not only were players, caddies and spectators allowed on the green, but also cows, sheep and any other animals or varments that happened along. Just imagine the footprints, divots (we'll talk about that in a moment), sticks, and stones that could get in a player's line of putt. We politely will not draw attention to the animal refuse and dung that were liberally and appropriately placed. Figure 4 illustrates spectators just a few feet from the golfer attempting to hole out.

On the original thirteen "Articles & Laws in Playing at the Golf," four specifically refer to the area that we would today define as the putting green.

⁸Robert Browning, A History of Golf (New York: E. P. Dutton and Company, Inc., 1966), p. 23.

Figure 4. One of the earliest known photographs of golf, dated 1858. Twenty-year-old Robert Chambers is shown at St. Andrews winning a tournament that was a forerunner of the British Amateur Championship.⁹



⁹Price, The World of Golf, p. 39.

Two of these rules emphasize the lack of a defined putting surface. Rule 1 states: "You must tee your ball within a club length of the hole." Imagine the nature of the putting surface where golfers made it a rule to tee their ball for their next hole within a club length of the hole they had just completed. Figure 5 illustrates the closeness of tee and green. Rule 4 states: "You are not to remove stones, bones, or any break-club for the sake of playing your ball except upon the fair green and that only within a club length of your ball." With these two rules, we will rest the case concerning the condition of the original putting green.

A few years later the rules would be changed to afford a meager protection of the putting surface by changing the "one club length" of Rule 1 into "two club lengths." In 1851, St. Andrews went a trifle farther and made it "four club lengths."

The putting green was only loosely described until 1851, when it was defined as "the tableland on which the hole is placed and which is considered not to exceed twenty yards from the hole." This definition was made more precise in 1888 by specifying that this twenty yard area must be devoid of hazards.

This remained the official definition with slight variations until 1952, when the following definition was adopted: "The putting green is all grounds of the hole being played which is specially prepared for putting or otherwise defined as such by the committee."

Figure 5. This sketch illustrates the closeness of tee and green. Note the player teeing off a few feet from the player holing out.¹⁰



¹⁰Price, The World of Golf, p. 9.

Ironically, several years prior to the adoption of this definition, two of the putting green rules (Direction for Putting, and Ball On a Wrong Putting Green) defined the green as "surface especially prepared for putting." It seems the rules themselves led to the current definition.

As you can readily see, the putting green has been defined as ground especially prepared for putting for only thirty-one years of the 239 year history of golf rules. We are to discover that a lot has happened in these thirty-one years to develop the putting green rule as it now exists.

The Hole

While discussing the putting green in the previous section, reference was made to the original rule which stated that the ball must be teed up within one club length of the hole. Considering the fact that early golfers did not have multi-colored, wooden tees, this rule was very convenient for the golfer. After "holing out," he simply removed his ball from the hole, took a large handful of sand or dirt from the same hole, formed a mound to serve as a tee, and proceeded to tee off for the next hole. As the week progressed, sinking a putt became easier and easier because the hole became bigger and bigger. In reference to the size of the hole, Golfer's At Law states:

First mention of standard dimensions for the hole was in the code of 1891 which laid down the diameter as 4½ inches and the depth as 4 inches.¹¹

¹¹Geoffrey Cousins, Golfer's At Law (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1959), p. 158.

No one really knows the source of these measurements, but they have persisted to this day. One story has it that a couple of St. Andrews golfers stuck a piece of drain-pipe in a badly worn hole to protect it and form a permanent "cup." The pipe just happened to be $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter. Another similar story has it that someone stuck a tin can into the hole. Whatever the case may be, and we will probably never really know, the truth is that we are stuck with a $4\frac{1}{4}$ inch hole whether we like it or not. (The next time you have a putt hover a quarter inch from the hole, perhaps you will wonder why those two fellows couldn't have picked a six inch pipe!)

In 1934, at the Year-Round Open at the Miami Biltmore course in Coral Gables, Florida, Gene Sarazen actually convinced the officials to enlarge the hole to an eight inch diameter. The incident served to prove that the good putters would still sink them and the weaker putters would still miss them. Therefore, it seems that our mysterious $4\frac{1}{4}$ inch hole is not such a bad idea, after all.

In early United States Golf Association Rule Books Definition 11 describes the hole in this way: "The hole shall be $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter and at least 4 inches deep. If a metal lining be used, it shall be sunk below the lip of the hole, and its outer diameter shall not exceed $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches." In the late 1940's the definition was incorporated into the rule itself. By this time the definition had been expanded to say that a metal lining shall be sunk at least one inch below the putting green surface

unless the nature of the soil made it impractical to do so. It further stated that linings must be of metal, but may be any color. After only a few years, the stipulation requiring metal was eliminated.

In 1952, the definition was again put in the front of the Rule Book under Definition 14 with the following wording: "The hole shall be $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter and at least 4 inches deep. If a lining be used, it shall be sunk at least one inch below the putting green surface unless the nature of the soil makes it impractical to do so; its outer diameter shall not exceed $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches." The definition has remained the same to this day.

It is interesting to note that the hole is the only common standard of the golf course. The size of the course, the number of holes, the size of the greens, even the flagstick varies from course to course, but the $4\frac{1}{4}$ inch hole is always consistent.

The Flagstick

Definition 12 states: "The 'flagstick' is a movable straight indicator provided by the Committee, with or without bunting or other material attached, centered in the hole to show its position. It shall be circular in cross-section."

The flagstick of early golfing days was a far cry from what we have become accustomed to today. A branch with a piece of cloth tied to the top served the purpose well.

As the flagstick became more sophisticated, it is interesting to note that spiral springs were developed, not only for protection

from the wind, but also so the flagstick would not be broken if a clumsy cow happened to bump into it.

Many varying factors in the flagstick are found from course to course -- bunting materials and colors, length of the stick, and thickness, to mention a few. The generally accepted standard today in America is seven feet in height, but this is not a requirement.

The flagstick came into the rules in 1888 as a part of the putting green rules as follows: "If in holing out, the ball shall rest upon the flagstick in the hole, the player shall be entitled to have the stick removed; and if the ball fall in it shall be considered as holed out; but either party is entitled to have the flagstick removed when approaching the hole."

In 1899, the rule was expanded to cover stroke play by requiring that the competitor not play until the flagstick was removed, if his ball lay within twenty yards of the hole. The penalty for violation was one stroke. This somewhat vague rule was made clearer in 1908 by adding that if the ball was played and struck the flagstick a two stroke penalty would be incurred.

The flagstick was covered in Rule 32 under the topic of the putting green in the early United States Golf Association Rule Books. It was made a separate rule in 1947. Although it has been misunderstood by golfers and produced many decisions, the original concept of the rule has remained basically the same.

Consolidation of the Putting Green Rules

The current rule book varies a great deal in format and organization from the rule book of thirty-five or forty years ago. As we have previously stated, the original "Articles and Laws" contained four rules (numbers 1,4,7,9) which pertained specifically to the putting green. The St. Andrews Rules of 1896 contained a section of five rules (numbers 30 through 34) which also pertained specifically to the putting green. The early United States Golf Association Rule Books also had a section of five rules (numbers 28 through 32) with the heading "putting green," including the flagstick rules, which were at that time classified under this topic.

For the first time in 1948, the rules were consolidated into one rule (number 18). This one rule remained for four years, until the major revision of 1952. At that time, the putting green rule was changed to Rule 35, with three subdivisions: general, match play, and stroke play. (The appendix of this paper includes the putting green rules in their entirety during selected years. This reference material should assist the reader in reconstructing the "rules" or "rule" during each phase of its development.)

Rule 35 is the longest rule in the book, which should give some indication of the emphasis and importance placed on this area of the course. The current decision book has sixty-four

decisions for this one area of the course. This shows how the putting green rules have grown to meet the improvements in putting surfaces and the requirements of today's golfer.

Match Play and Stroke Play as Related to the Rules

In the early days, match play was the only method used. This made for simpler rules, because the player was playing one opponent or "adversary" (to quote early terminology), and the traditional rule was that the ball must be played as it lies. When competition was extended to several matches at one time, the scoring became involved and complicated. Therefore, in 1759, the first stroke play was introduced.

The introduction of stroke play naturally complicated and extended the rules a great deal. Richard Tufts says:

The principal is that in match play only you and your opponent are involved, but in stroke play every competitor in the field has an interest in the results of your play. To further elaborate on this principal, it is obvious that in match play your opponent, being present, can protect his interests whenever they may be jeopardized by any of your actions. However, in stroke play, since the other competitors in the field cannot be present to protect their rights, it is essential that the rules serve as a safeguard to their interests.¹²

The rules themselves recognize the vast difference in stroke play and match play. Robert Browning states:

One of the difficulties in the establishment of a universal code of rules was that while the St. Andrews code was designed for match play with an addendum of

¹² Richard S. Tufts, The Principles Behind the Rules of Golf (Pinehurst, N.C.: Pinehurst Publishers, 1961), pp. 25-26.

modification for stroke competitions, the rest of the world regarded stroke play as the basis of the game and would have preferred a code of rules primarily designed for that.¹³

There was a tendency to reconcile the rules governing the two forms of play in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The result is that the putting green rule today has divisions for stroke play and match play, which adapt the rules to the mode of play.

The 1983 Putting Green Rule

The preceding background information and history should leave us with a general understanding of how the putting green and the putting green rules developed in relation to the game and its rules as a whole.

In subsequent chapters we will take the 1983 rule as it now exists and trace it back to its roots, topic by topic.

The following is a verbatim list of the topics covered under the January 1, 1983, putting green rule as approved by the United States Golf Association and the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland:

1. General

- a. touching line of putt
- b. loose impediments
- c. repair of hole plugs and ball marks
- d. lifting & cleaning ball
- e. direction for putting
- f. testing surface
- g. other ball to be at rest

¹³Browning, A History of Golf, pp. 173-174.

- h. ball in motion stopped or deflected
- i. ball overhanging hole
- j. ball on a wrong putting green
- k. ball to be marked when lifted
- l. standing astride or on line of putt prohibited

2. Match Play

- a. ball interfering with play
- b. playing out of turn
- c. opponent's ball displaced
- d. conceding opponent's next stroke

3. Stroke Play

- a. ball interfering with play
- b. ball assisting play
- c. ball striking fellow-competitor's ball
- d. ball lifted before holed out

We shall discover some interesting stories behind the dull, dry language of this rule that should enlighten and entertain us as we now begin our journey across " the putting green".

CHAPTER II

THE PUTTING GREEN, RULE 35-1 - GENERAL

Introduction to Rule 35-1

Rule 35-1, which carries the title "general," has twelve topics and is really the meat of the putting green rule. It covers every possible aspect of the "dos and don'ts" while on the putting green. It has had an interesting life, with its family tree dating back to the prestigious "Articles and Laws." There have been vast changes and additions, as we will discover. The penalty for a violation of this rule is loss of hole in match play and two strokes in stroke play.

As we begin to discuss each topic under this rule and Rule 35-2 and Rule 35-3, our standard scenario will be to begin each topic by quoting the January 1, 1983 rule as it now exists. We will then start at the earliest form of the rule and follow it through the years to its present form.

Touching Line of Putt [35-1a]

"The line of the putt must not be touched except as provided in Clauses 1b, 1c and 1d of this Rule, or in measuring (Rule 20-1), but the player may place the club in front of the ball in addressing it without pressing anything down."

This rule, which carries the honor of being the first to be mentioned under the putting green rule, dates all the way back

to 1744. Rule 9 of the original "Articles and Laws" states: "No man at holing his ball is to be allowed to mark his way to the hole with his club or anything else." The St. Andrews Rules of 1896 refer to this topic in the last sentence of Rule 34. It reads basically the same as the early United States Golf Association rule on this topic, which mentioned it after loose impediments and removal of dung, etc. Apparently, in the 1952 revision, the decision was made to move it ahead of these topics chronologically. Should the planned reorganization of the rules be adopted, it appears that "touching line of putt" will lose its prestigious position of being first.

In the early 1900's, this rule, which at that time was Rule 28-3, stated that the line of putt must not be touched, except by placing the club immediately in front of the ball in the act of addressing it. Exceptions were made for the removal of loose impediments and removal of dung, etc. The penalty for a breach of this rule was the loss of hole. It was later expanded to cover stroke play by stating that the penalty would be two strokes for a violation of the rule.

In 1948, the United States Golf Association incorporated a Royal and Ancient stipulation stating that it was not permissible to touch the ground behind the hole in order to point out the line of putt. This clause was short-lived, for it was removed four years later.

In 1952, the rule was further expanded to state that nothing could be pressed down when the club was placed in front of the ball in the act of addressing it.

In 1960, two additional times were added for touching the line of putt. One was in the repair of damage to the putting green caused by the impact of the ball. The other was in the permission to clean the ball at any time on the putting green.

The 1972 rule book expanded this rule again by allowing the line of putt to be touched in measuring.

The final expansion came in 1980, when removing movable obstructions became an accepted reason for touching the line of putt.

We can see through the years, that exceptions for touching the line of putt have been expanded from two to six. This expansion is a perfect example of how the rules have matured to meet the needs of the day.

Loose Impediments [35-1b]

"The player may move sand, loose soil or any loose impediments on the putting green by picking them up or brushing them aside with his hand or a club without pressing anything down. If the ball be moved, it shall be replaced, without penalty."

It may be said that progress brought this rule into being. The "hole green" of 1744 was so rough that little thought was given to the removal of loose impediments. This rule could have easily turned the players into a grounds crew, for there were certainly plenty of loose impediments lying around to demand their attention. Rule 4 of the "Articles and Laws" states: "You are not to remove stones, bones, or any break-club for the

sake of playing your ball except on the fair green, and that only within a club length of your ball."

To expand on this thought we quote Browning:

For the full rigour of the game you have to go to the Aberdeen Code of 1783, which laid down that: "No stones, loose sand, or other impediments shall be removed when putting at the hole. No person shall be at liberty to vary or better his stance in playing, by breaking the surface of the green, placing or removing stones, sand or any substance: damping his feet with water excepted."¹⁴

As putting surfaces improved in condition and became larger, golfers learned to expect special provisions for various contingencies. Therefore, in 1851, the first rule to cover loose impediments was introduced. Unfortunately, this rule did not define the term, so interpretation was ambiguous and a matter of much argument. In 1888, players had to decide before they began their match how they were going to play ice and snow in their line of putt on the green. Until 1952, a topic, Playing Out of Turn, which was under the putting green rules, referred the player to Rule 27-3, which offered relief for casual water. Today, Definition 17 explicitly defines loose impediments. It states that snow and ice may be played as casual water or loose impediments, at the option of the player.

The rules concerning the removal of loose impediments, as those rules concerning the definition, have changed considerably through the years. Rule 31 of the St. Andrews Rules of 1896 states: "All loose impediments may be removed from the putting green, except the opponent's ball, when at a greater distance

¹⁴Ibid, p. 173.

from the player's than six inches." Rule 34 states: "The player or his caddie may remove (but not press down) sand, worm casts or snow lying around the hole or on the line of his putt. This shall be done by brushing lightly with the hand only across the putt and not along it. Dung may be removed to a side by an iron club, but the club must not be laid with more than its own weight upon the ground."

It is interesting to note the special provision for removing dung with a club, rather than the hand. An example of the need for such a provision in this country occurred at Pebble Beach concerning the removal of sea gull dung. This task would be unpleasant enough with a club, not to mention with the use of the hand!

The early United States Golf Association version of this rule allowed removal, irrespective of the position of the player's ball. At this time Rule 28-1, Loose Impediments, and Rule 28-2, Removal of Dung, etc., covered this topic. It included a one stroke penalty if the ball moved while removing loose impediments within six inches of the ball. The penalty was not removed until 1960.

As the condition of the putting green continued to improve, Removal of Dung disappeared as a topic heading for Rule 28-2. Although provision was still made, the problem had apparently lessened.

In 1949, a change which granted permission to brush the club across the line of putt, but not along the line of putt was made.

The loose impediments rule protects the golfer by assuring him an unencumbered shot at the hole. The development of this rule for the protection of the golfer is a good example of how beneficial rules can be.

Repair of Hole Plugs & Ball Marks [35-1c]

"The player or his partner may repair an old hole plug or damage to the putting green, caused by the impact of a ball. If the player's ball lie on the putting green, it may be lifted to permit repair and shall be replaced on the spot from which it was lifted; in match play the ball must be replaced immediately if the opponent so requests. If a ball be moved during such repair, it shall be replaced, without penalty."

This rule is an infant compared to the ones we have previously studied and several that we shall subsequently study. Once again, this rule is a result of the progressive improvement of the putting surface. As the green grew more delicate and well-groomed, it was only natural that the player would begin to demand more protection and allowance once his ball was on the green.

An example of the need for such a rule as this occurred in 1958. During the second round of the PGA Championship, Jack Fleck got into a predicament on the first green. Because of heavy rains the night before, the ground was exceptionally soft. When Fleck hit his ball into the green, it embedded in its own pitch mark. Since no existing rule covered this situation, he was denied relief and told he must play the ball as it lay. Never having practiced this particular shot, Fleck took several

practice swings with his wedge, leaving a few divots. Although everyone questioned his actions, he made his point. Consequently, the 1960 Rule Book covered this subject by stating that damage to the putting green, caused by the impact of a ball, could be repaired by any method except stepping on the damaged area. It provided that the ball could be lifted to make such repairs.

A few years later, in 1964, the prohibition against stepping on damaged area was eliminated, but an addition was made stating that a ball lifted for repair of ball marks must be replaced immediately at the opponent's request.

The final expansion of this rule came in 1980, when permission was granted to repair an old hole plug as well as damage caused by the impact of a ball. There is also an interesting story which points out the need for this change. Prior to this, repair of an old hole plug could be done only by the rules committee. On the 16th green at Augusta in 1978, Tom Weiskopf was faced with this situation. He called for an official to repair the area, but apparently Tom was not satisfied. He asked the official to declare the area as "ground under repair." When the official denied this relief, Tom appealed the decision to the committee, who had to be called together. Eight members of the committee went to the 16th green, where Weiskopf was still waiting to play. They also denied relief and told Tom to putt. He did so and finished the round. The loss of time indicated the need for giving the player more freedom in repairing the area between him and the hole. Consequently, today golfers can repair their own hole plugs without getting eight or ten people involved.

Lifting & Cleaning Ball [35-1d]

"A ball lying on the putting green may be lifted, without penalty, cleaned if desired, and replaced on the spot from which it was lifted; in match play the ball must be replaced immediately if the opponent so requests."

This rule was born in 1960. At this time, it was entitled "Cleaning Ball." Before 1960, the ball on the putting green could not be lifted for the purpose of cleaning except as provided by a local rule. The 1960 rule stated that the ball could be lifted and cleaned without penalty. It stipulated that in match play the ball must be replaced immediately if the opponent requested.

A few years later, a local rule was introduced which stated the ball could be lifted for cleaning on the putting green only once. According to C. McDonald England, some interesting interpretations came about because of this local rule:

A case in which I was directly involved concerned efforts to speed play by prohibiting multiple cleaning of the ball on the putting green. As I recall, the first time this was used in a USGA tournament was the U.S. Amateur in 1965, which was the first stroke play amateur. A local rule was published to the effect that the ball could only be lifted once for the purpose of cleaning. I was assigned as the Rules Official on the first hole at Southern Hills. The first group of players raised the question of whether or not the owner of the ball could elect when to clean the ball. For example, the player who was away had about a forty foot putt and wanted to make his approach putt and then lift for cleaning when he was closer to the hole. I told him that in my opinion he would be allowed to do that. Soon word spread all over the course -- "Save your clean." Phil Strubing, who was then Chairman of the Championship Committee and the author of the local rule, almost had a fit when he realized that the wording of his local

rule permitted such an interpretation. The 1965 Rule Book included suggested language for a local rule to save time on the putting green by requiring continuous putting in stroke play and specifying that the ball could be lifted for cleaning only before the first putt.¹⁵

The 1968 Rule Book added the one-clean phrase to the rule, stating that the ball could be lifted for cleaning only before the first putt. A note to the rule provided for cleaning of a ball lifted in accordance with other rules.

In 1970, the one-clean rule was abolished, allowing the player to lift and clean his ball before any putt.

Although this rule has only been in existence for twenty-three years, it has made an entire revolution from cleaning, to cleaning only once, to unlimited lifting and cleaning. It is a perfect example of the ever-changing rules of golf.

Direction for Putting [35-1e]

"When the player's ball is on the putting green, the player's caddie, his partner or his partner's caddie may, before the stroke is played, point out a line for putting, but the line of the putt shall not be touched in front of, to the side of, or behind the hole. While making the stroke, the player shall not allow his caddie, his partner, or his partner's caddie to position himself on or close to an extension of the line of putt behind the ball. No mark shall be placed anywhere on the putting green to indicate a line for putting."

This rule is one of the senior members of the putting green rules, for it has been around since the St. Andrews Rules of 1896. At that time, it was Rule 33 and read as follows:

¹⁵England, personal letter, October 21, 1982.

"When the ball is on the putting green, no mark shall be placed nor line drawn as a guide. The line of the hole may be pointed out, but the person doing so may not touch the ground with the hand or club. The player may have his own or his partner's caddie to stand at the hole, but none of the players, nor their caddies, may move so as to shield the ball from, or expose it to the wind. The penalty for any breach of this rule is the loss of the hole."

The early United States Golf Association version covered this topic under two rules: Rule 29-1, Direction for Putting, and Rule 29-2, Shielding Ball from Wind. With basically the same meaning, Rule 29-1 added that no mark could be placed anywhere on the putting green, and Rule 29-2 added that a player was always entitled to send his own caddie to stand at the hole while he putted. There was also a stipulation allowing either side to refuse a person not engaged in the match to stand at the hole, but it was later removed.

In 1947, Shielding Ball from Wind became Rule 18-5, and in 1949, the title was changed to Exerting an Influence Upon the Ball. By now the rule read as follows: "Any player or caddie engaged in the match may stand at the hole, but no player or caddie shall take any action to influence the position or the movement of the ball." It was later shortened to state that no player or caddie could take any action to influence the position or movement of the ball. The rule was eliminated in the early 1960's.

Meanwhile, Rule 29-1, Direction for Putting, stayed the same. In the 1940's, a prohibition against testing the surface was added to this rule. It remained a part of the rule until 1952, when it was established as a separate rule. Also, in 1952, the rule was expanded to prohibit touching the line of putt in front of, to the side of, or behind the hole.

The final expansion of this rule came in 1976, when a clause was added that prevented the player's caddie from positioning himself on or close to an extension of the line of putt behind the ball. Johnny Miller and Dave Hill were two of the first players to station their caddies right behind them as they were putting. The two players said that it helped them with concentration, because the caddie blocked out movement and some noise from the gallery. The United States Golf Association decided, however, that the caddie could also assist the player with putter alignment at address and observe the stroke for flaws that could affect putting for the remainder of the round.

Six different decisions have been rendered on this rule. Three of the decisions came before the last amendment and dealt with ways people pointed out the line of putt. The other three decisions dealt with what the caddie can and cannot do when standing on or behind the player's line of putt as he makes his stroke.

The principle behind this rule is that information should always be available to the player, but not advice. The purpose

of a round of golf is to test the player's ability and judgment. According to Richard Tufts:

The player must play his own game the caddie is considered to be a member of the player's side.¹⁶

Anything that falls under the heading of advice is a direct violation of the Rules of golf.

Testing Surface [35-1f]

"During the play of a hole, a player shall not test the surface of the putting green by rolling a ball or roughening or scraping the surface."

Here again, we have a rule that is the child of progress. As putting surfaces continued to improve, many new types of grass were developed. Many players played on different types of grass every week. The lack of weed control in the greens still played a big part in the condition of the putting surface. Knowing which direction the grass grew could have meant the difference in sinking or missing a putt.

As we have already stated, this rule was originally a part of Direction for Putting when it came into existence in the 1940's. In 1952, it became Rule 35-1f and has held its position through the years.

The United States Golf Association has rendered only five decisions concerning this rule. Two of these deal with water or wet grass.

¹⁶Tufts, The Principles Behind the Rules of Golf, pp. 46, 62.

This rule has been a good one with little change or controversy in its short history. It is an example of the changing attitude of the golfer. Now that he can expect the putting surface to be of high quality, more pressure is put on the player to produce the perfect putt. A hundred years ago, it would probably have never occurred to the player to test the surface of his putt, because the surface was so unpredictable.

Other Ball to Be at Rest [35-1g]

"While the player's ball is in motion after a stroke on the putting green, an opponent's or a fellow-competitor's ball shall not be played or touched."

In the early United States Golf Association rule books, this topic was covered by Rule 30, Opponent's Ball to Be at Rest. It read as follows: "When the player's ball lies on the putting green, he shall not play until the opponent's ball is at rest. The penalty for a breach of this Rule shall be the loss of the hole." The penalty was later expanded to include a two stroke penalty for stroke play.

In 1947, it became Rule 18-6. No change was made in the wording of the rule until 1952, when it became Rule 35-1g, and the title was changed to Other Ball to Be at Rest. It read as follows: "The player shall not play until his opponent's or fellow-competitor's ball is at rest." Note the addition of "fellow-competitor" to make it more adaptable to stroke play. At the same time, another rule was created, Rule 35-1f, Lifting Other Ball Prohibited. It read: "While the player's ball is in

motion, an opponent's or fellow-competitor's ball shall not be lifted or touched." In 1968, this rule was eliminated, and Other Ball to Be at Rest incorporated the rule by stating that the opponent's or fellow-competitor's ball could not be played or touched. It is interesting to note that the 1968 change applied the rule to a different player. Prior to this, the "player" was not to play until the other ball was at rest. Now the "opponent" was not to play while the other ball was in motion. The rule carries the same meaning with a reverse approach.

Ball in Motion Stopped or Deflected [35-1h]

"If a ball in motion after a stroke on the putting green be stopped or deflected by or lodge in, any moving or animate outside agency, the stroke shall be cancelled and the ball shall be replaced.

NOTE: If the referee or the Committee determine that a ball has been deliberately stopped or deflected by an outside agency, including a fellow-competitor or his caddie, further procedure should be prescribed in equity under Rule 11-4."

Surprisingly enough, this rule has been in existence for only fifteen years. It seems that there would have been even greater need for this rule in the days of the undefined putting green, when spectators were actually on the putting surface. Certainly, instances must have occurred throughout the history of golf rules that could have used this rule. Actually, the "Articles & Laws" took the opposite position of this rule, for Rule 10 stated: "If a ball be stopp'd by any person, horse, dog or anything else, the ball so stop'd must be played where it lyes."

Nevertheless, a decision did not appear until 1966, when two decisions were rendered. Both dealt with a dog deflecting a

ball in motion on the green.

Arnold Palmer was involved in a situation in 1964 in Phoenix that probably aided in the development of this rule. At this particular tour event, the greens were not very smooth, causing the players to have trouble marking and replacing their balls. Palmer's ball was at rest, and just as he was about to address it, a bumble bee, who probably traveled this route every day at exactly this same time, decided to make an emergency landing on his ball. The size of the bee, coupled with the roughness of the green, caused the ball to move several inches. After searching the rule book, the official decided the ball had been at rest and had been moved by an outside agency. Palmer was allowed to replace his ball and continue with no penalty.

This rule appeared in print for the first time in 1968. The original rule read the same as today's version with two minor exceptions. The original wording simply stated "any outside agency," and the words "moving or animate" were not added until 1976. The final change was made in 1980, when "stopped or deflected" was expanded to include "or lodge in." The note was not added to the rule until the early 1970's.

This rule was a necessary addition to the putting green rules. It enhances the rule itself, and certainly, the protection the rule provides the player is welcomed by all.

Ball Overhanging Hole [35-1i]

"When any part of the ball overhangs the edge of the hole, the owner of the ball is not allowed more than a few seconds to determine whether it is at rest. If by then the ball has not fallen into the hole, it is deemed to be at rest."

In order to trace this rule, we must first go to the late 1940's and look under Rule 18-9, Ball on Lip of Hole. The title of this rule was later to be changed to Conceding Opponent's Next Stroke. Therefore, we are actually tracing the roots of this rule to what is now a match play rule. At that time Rule 18-9, Ball on Lip of Hole, carried a note that read: "Whether a ball has come to rest is a question of fact. If there be reasonable doubt, the owner of the ball is not allowed more than a momentary delay to settle the doubt."

In the mid 1950's, it was determined that this note deserved its own rule, so Rule 35-1f, When Ball At Rest, was created. The wording was exactly the same as the previous "note."

The fact that the rule was ambiguous caused problems. An incident that occurred in 1963 at the Phoenix Open caused a more explicit definition of this rule. Don January hit a putt that went to the edge of the cup and stopped. After a short period of time had elapsed, his fellow-competitor, Gary Player, suggested that the ball was at rest. January examined the ball from all sides, decided that it was moving, and refused to hit a moving ball. Tour official, Joe Black, verified that from his

vantage point, January waited over seven minutes for the ball to fall. Black declared the ball at rest, and January completed the hole. The problem upset Player and disrupted the pace of play as well. The result was Decision 66-5, which defined a few seconds to be "a very short period of time, certainly no more than ten seconds."

In 1964, When Ball At Rest, which was now Rule 35-1h, was changed to Ball Overhanging Hole, with exactly the same wording as today.

It is interesting to note that the first to be penalized on the PGA Tour under this decision was Tommy Bolt, who later made the statement that he was the first person to be penalized for "wishing the ball in." This rule has come into play on the entire course, for once the ten second definition was established, it was naturally applied to other situations, such as a ball at rest after a drop.

Ball on a Wrong Putting Green [35-1j]

"If a ball lie on a putting green other than that of the hole being played, the point nearest to where the ball lies shall be determined which (a) is not nearer the hole and (b) is not in a hazard or on a putting green. The player shall lift the ball and drop it without penalty within one club-length of the point thus determined on ground which fulfils (a) and (b) above.
NOTE: Unless otherwise stipulated by the Committee, the term 'a putting green other than that of the hole being played' includes a practice putting green lying within the boundaries of the course."

Although this rule was not added to the book until 1947, there are indications that this situation was usually covered

by the local rule sheets for the purpose of protecting the putting surface. It was added as Rule 18-10.

While playing in the 1966 PGA Championship at Firestone, Bob Rosburg put his second shot at the ninth hole on a practice putting green, which was only about thirty feet from the ninth green. Since there was nothing between the two greens but a paved path, Rosburg wanted to putt from the practice green to the ninth green. The official on the spot deemed the practice green to be a wrong putting green and required Rosburg to drop off and play. When notified of this decision, the United States Golf Association added the note to this rule in the 1968 Rule Book. It appears today with exactly the same wording.

The rule itself has had only two changes since 1947. Until 1976, the rule required that the ball be dropped "as near as possible to where the ball lay but not nearer the hole and not in a hazard." At this time it was changed to require the ball to be dropped within two club-lengths of the nearest point, which was still determined the same way. In 1980, "two club-lengths" was shortened to "one club-length."

The only decision on this rule by the United States Golf Association deals with a green having two cups for the play of two different holes. This decision declares that no part of the green would be a wrong green unless the Committee had so deemed and properly separated the two by means of stakes or lines.

Ball To Be Marked When Lifted [35-1k]

"Before a ball on the putting green is lifted, its position shall be marked. If the player fail so to mark the position of the ball, the player shall incur a penalty of one stroke and the ball shall be replaced. (Lifting and placing -- Rule 22.)

NOTE: The position of a lifted ball should be marked by placing a ball-marker or other small object on the putting green, immediately behind the ball. If the marker interfere with the play, stance or stroke of another player, it should be placed one or more putterhead-lengths to one side."

This rule might be considered a by-product of the abolishment of the stymie, which we are to study in a subsequent section. Once the distasteful stymie was finally laid to rest, there was indeed a much more liberal attitude toward lifting a ball on the putting green. It is only natural that a rule would evolve to cover the more frequent lifting.

The first reference to this topic came in 1956, four years after the stymie was abolished. At that time, it was only a note under Rule 35, suggesting a ball's position be marked with an object such as a small coin, when lifted. It further stated that, if the object interferes with another player, it should be moved one or more putterhead-lengths to one side.

This note remained until 1976, when Rule 35-1k, Ball to Be Marked When Lifted, became a rule of golf.¹⁷ At this time it simply stated: "When a ball on the putting green is to

¹⁷ Prior to this, Rule 35-1k was Ball Played As It Lies and Not Touched. This was a putting green rule from the mid 1950's through 1975, when it was dropped. The rule referred the player to Rule 16, Ball Played As It Lies and Not Touched, for a ball purposely moved or touched. Rule 16 was drastically changed in 1976, and its contents were moved to other portions of the Rule Book, the bulk being moved to Rule 27, Ball At Rest.

be lifted, its position shall be marked." The reference to Rule 22, Lifting, Dropping, and Placing, was added at this time. The note remained basically the same, adding that if the marker interfere with "the play, stance, or stroke" of another player, it should be moved. It is interesting to note that in this same year, the first reference to a ball-marker was made in this rule. Apparently, by this time, the standard ball-marker was becoming more widely used, so the United States Golf Association issued its stamp of approval by suggesting its use.

In 1980, the rule was once again expanded to state that the ball should be marked "before" lifted and a one stroke penalty would be incurred for failure to do so.

Standing Astride or On Line of Putt Prohibited [35-11]

"The player shall not make a stroke on the putting green from a stance astride, or with either foot touching, the line of the putt or an extension of that line behind the ball. For the purpose of Rule 35-11 only, the line of putt does not extend beyond the hole."

This was a very controversial rule at one time. Dean Refrean and Bob Duden were among the first to putt in competition using the croquet address. This method provided relief for players who were experiencing trouble with their putting strokes. The main concern of the United States Golf Association in the adoption of this rule was that the appearance of this unconventional style of putting might damage the image of golf. In spite of cries of unfairness and threats of legal action, the rule was adopted on January 1, 1968.

Naturally, one of our most noted players, Sam Snead, comes to mind when discussing this rule. He had adopted this croquet method, which was working remarkably well for him. Sam felt this style of putting would prolong his career, if he could only find a way to make it legal. He experimented with several different styles and eventually discovered his present, well-known stance. Sam's simple solution to the problem was to put both feet together to one side of the line of putt and still use the croquet method. Figure 6 shows Sam illustrating his putting stance before and after this rule. Obviously, it has worked well for him, for he still successfully uses this rather unorthodox putting stance.

The United States Golf Association was justified in its concern for the protection of the image of golf, and the rule is a good one. The point may also be made, however, that there is always a way to beat the system!

Figure 6. In picture #1, Sam Snead is putting in the style that would bring about Rule 35-1L. Picture #2 shows his putting stance adjusted for the rule.¹⁸



¹⁸Frank Hannigan, The Rules of Golf, Illustrated by Tom Watson (New York: Random House, 1980), p. 142.

CHAPTER III

THE PUTTING GREEN, RULE 35-2 - MATCH PLAY

Introduction to Rule 35-2

Having completed Rule 35-1, we will now move into Rule 35-2, which covers the putting green specifically during match play. There are four headings under this rule, which we will now investigate. The Rule Book did not include special putting green rules to cover match and stroke play until 1952. The penalty for a breach of any points under Rule 35-2 is loss of hole. The golfers are referred to as either the "player" or the "opponent" throughout this match play discussion.

Ball Interfering With Play [35-2a]

"When the player's ball lies on the putting green, if the player consider that the opponent's ball interfere with his play, he may require that the opponent's ball be lifted. The opponent's ball shall be replaced after the player has played his stroke. If the player's ball stop on the spot formerly occupied by the lifted ball, the player shall first play another stroke before the lifted ball is replaced. If a ball be accidentally moved in complying with this Rule, no penalty shall be incurred and the ball shall be replaced."

Here we have what might be termed "the granddaddy of them all" as far as controversy is concerned. This rule was born with the death of the stymie.

To give the history of the infamous stymie, we must go back to early golf. The original concept was that the ball should be played as it lay -- regardless! "The Articles and Laws" actually has to protect the opponent from a player aiming at his ball even when it was not in his line of putt. Apparently, some players were vicious in their tactics to win. It is no wonder that the opponent was referred to as the "adversary" in those days.

Rule 32 of the St. Andrews Rules of 1896 states: "In a match of three or more sides a ball in any degree lying between the player and the hole must be lifted or, if on the putting green, holed out." This rule provided relief only in a match of three or more sides.

In the early United States Golf Association rule books, Rule 31-1, Ball Within Six Inches Lifted, covered this topic. This rule provided for a ball to be lifted only if the balls lay within six inches of each other.

To lessen the occurrence of stymies, in 1938, the United States Golf Association decided to change the rule for a two-year trial period. They expanded the rule to state that a ball could also be lifted if it lay within six inches of the hole. A note to the rule stated that a player had laid a stymie if the opponent's ball lay in the line of the player's putt and these conditions were not met. The Royal and Ancient adamantly stuck to the stiffer version of the rule, although they had actually adopted a "no stymies" rule in 1833, which was to be restored the following year.

American golfers resented the stymie rule, which they considered unfair, so the change was a popular and welcomed one.

In 1947, when the putting green rules were consolidated for the first time, Rule 18-7, Lifting Ball Six Inches, actually carried a definition of a stymie.

Through the years, the stymie caused international contention. American golfers could see no use for the stymie, while the British golfers hung on to it, mainly because of tradition. Obviously, for all the opponents of the rule, there must have been those who felt it carried a certain merit, for it managed to stay in the rules for a long time. A young golfer, unfamiliar with golf history, might be surprised to know that only thirty-one years ago, this was still a rule of golf.

There are hundreds of cases in which a stymie altered the outcome of a match. It is a well-known fact that a stymie assisted Bobby Jones in winning the British Amateur Championship and ultimately the "Grand Slam." Jones himself admitted that he regretted winning by the aid of a stymie.

Finally in 1952, the United States Golf Association and The Royal and Ancient jointly retired the stymie rule to the "rules hall of fame."

Now that we have reminisced over the famous stymie, we will resume our discussion of Rule 35-2a, which was adopted in 1952. The original rule provided for the lifting of a ball nearer the hole on the putting green at the option of the player or the opponent, if either considered that it might interfere with or assist the player.

A change was made in 1956, which gave the player of the stroke alone the right to require the ball to be lifted and only for interference. A sentence was also added stating that no penalty would be incurred if the player's ball was accidentally touched or moved in compliance.

In 1968, interference was further defined to include the ball striking the opponent's ball or interfering with his stance or stroke, but in 1980, the wording was returned to the original language. Also in 1980, a change was made which eliminated the option of the rule being given only to the player of the ball lying nearest the hole.

Playing Out of Turn [35-2b]

"If a player play when his opponent should have done so, the opponent may immediately require the player to replay the stroke, in which case the player shall replace his ball and play in correct order, without penalty."

It has been a principle of golf from the beginning that the ball farthest from the hole should be played first. Rule 12 of the "Articles and Laws" states: "He whose ball lyes farthest from the hole is obligèd to play first." No one has seriously considered that it should be different.

In the early 1900's the United States Golf Association covered this topic under Rule 31-2, which carried the same title. A note to the rule referred the player to other rules for a ball displaced on the putting green, for a player playing the opponent's ball on the putting green, and for casual water on the putting green.

In 1947, Playing Out of Turn, became Rule 18-8, carrying the same note. The note was dropped in 1952, but the wording of the rule remained the same. From 1947 to 1952, when the putting green rules were first consolidated, there was a note at the end of the rule, which referred the reader to another rule for order of play on the putting green in Three-ball, Best-ball, and Four-ball matches.

It is not unusual for this rule to be waived on the putting green as a matter of courtesy, particularly in the case of the obvious winner of a tournament being in the last group to finish. On the last putt on the last green, it is customary for other players to hole out and allow the winner to make the last stroke of the tournament.

Opponent's Ball Displaced [35-2c]

"If the player's ball knock the opponent's ball into the hole, the opponent shall be deemed to have holed out at his last stroke.

If the player's ball move the opponent's ball, the opponent may replace it, but this must be done before another stroke is played by either side. If the player's ball stop on the spot formerly occupied by the opponent's ball, and the opponent declare his intention to replace his ball, the player shall first play another stroke, after which the opponent shall replace his ball."

In the days that the "Articles and Laws" prevailed, Rule 17, which stated that you could not play upon your adversary's ball, attempted to protect the player's ball while on the green. There was no provision at that time, however, for replacing a displaced ball.

This rule dated back to the early United States Golf Association rule books. At that time it was Rule 32-2, Displacing

and Replacing of Balls, with almost the same language as today. A note under Rule 31-2, Playing Out of Turn, referred the reader to Rule 17, which governed a ball at rest.

From 1947 through 1951, when the putting green rules were first consolidated, this topic was not under the putting green. A note under Playing Out of Turn referred the reader to another rule for a ball which was displaced on the putting green.

In 1952, the title was changed to Opponent's Ball Displaced, and it became Rule 35-2c. A 1956 decision covered the situation of one ball assisting another on the putting green and the options for leaving or replacing both balls.

In 1960, an addition was made which covered Three-ball, Best-ball, or Four-ball match play by referring the reader to Rule 40-1c, which covered these types of play. In explanation, Richard Tufts says:

When more than two balls are in play in a match, as in Three-ball, Best-ball, and Four-ball matches, (Def.28) then the interference of one ball with another or the action of one ball upon another can affect the right of the other players in the match. For this reason the right of only the player to have a ball lifted is broadened and any player in the match is extended this right (Rule 40-1b). For the same reason the right of the opponent to play his ball from where it lies or to replace it, when it has been struck by the player's ball, is eliminated and the ball which has been moved must be replaced (Rule 40-1c). The logic of this arrangement is apparent since otherwise a player who is out of a hole would be free to assist his partner by using his ball as a backstop or by playing against his partner's ball, to move it nearer to the hole. No penalty is incurred for the hitting of another ball since at all times any player in the match has the right to protect his interest by requiring that a ball be lifted.¹⁹

19 Tufts, The Principles Behind the Rules of Golf, p. 59.

There has been no change to this rule since 1960. This is an example of a rule that has remained almost unchanged through the years.

Conceding Opponent's Next Stroke [35-2d]

"When the opponent's ball has come to rest, the player may concede the opponent to have holed out with his next stroke and may remove the opponent's ball with a club or otherwise. If the player does not concede the opponent's next stroke and the opponent's ball fall into the hole, the opponent shall be deemed to have holed out with his last stroke."
If the opponent's next stroke has not been conceded, the opponent shall play without delay in correct order."

Originally, this topic was covered under Rule 32-2, Ball on Lip of Hole. In 1947, it became Rule 18-9, with the same title. At this time, a note was added which vaguely offered an explanation of when the ball had come to rest. This note was later removed from this rule and became Ball Overhanging Hole, which is covered in a previous section.

In 1952, the title was changed to Opponent's Ball Lying on Lip of Hole, and became Rule 35-2d.

In 1956, a change was made, allowing the player to knock away the opponent's ball at any time on the putting green to concede the next stroke. This change required a title change, so the rule became Conceding Opponent's Next Stroke in compliance with the change in the wording of the rule.

Once again, we have a rule that has had little change or controversy in its history. The popular "gimmie" has long been an accepted procedure for the putting green.

CHAPTER IV

THE PUTTING GREEN, RULE 35-3 - STROKE PLAY

Introduction to Rule 35-3

As with Rule 35-2, special rules for stroke play were not added to the putting green rules until the 1952 revision. For this reason, coupled with the fact that stroke play is not as old as match play, we will find that much of the history of this rule has occurred within the last thirty-five or forty years.

It must be remembered that these rules are devised to protect the interests of the absent competitor in the field without relying upon the fellow-competitor to do so. In match play, where only two parties are involved, protection of personal rights is easier. In stroke play, however, special provisions must be made. Since there is no specified penalty for a violation of Rule 35-3, penalties are assessed under other appropriate rules.

We will note that the "player" and "opponent" of match play (the famous Mr. A and Mr. B) will now become the "competitor" and "fellow-competitor." As Definition 10 explains, neither is a partner of the other.

Ball Interfering With Play [35-3a]

"When the competitor's ball lies on the putting green, if the competitor consider that a fellow-competitor's ball interfere with his play, he may require that the fellow-competitor's ball be lifted or played, at the fellow-competitor's option.

If a ball be accidentally moved in complying with this Rule, no penalty shall be incurred and the ball shall be replaced.

NOTE: It is recommended that the interfering ball be played rather than lifted, unless the subsequent play of a fellow-competitor is likely to be affected."

This rule is the kid brother of Rule 35-2a. The purpose of the two rules is the same. The main difference is that this rule is modified for stroke play. The rule allows the fellow-competitor the option of deciding whether to lift or play. As with Rule 35-2a, until 1980, this rule was limited to the ball lying nearer the hole. In 1980, both rules were expanded to include all interference on the putting green.

A 1956 change gave the player of the stroke the option of requiring the ball to be lifted. Prior to this, the option was afforded either player.

The original version of this rule included the following statement: "If the owner of the ball refuse to comply with this Rule when required to do so, the competitor making the request may lift the ball, and the owner of the ball shall be disqualified." This remained a part of the rule until 1980, when it was dropped, primarily because it was not needed. It is simply not in the spirit of the game to fail to comply.

In 1968, an exception for continuous play was added to this rule. The rule at that time referred the reader to Rule 35-3e, a new rule, Play To Be Continuous, which stated: "On the putting green, each competitor shall play continuously until his ball is holed. However, if the fellow-competitor consider that the competitor would stand on his line of play, the fellow-competitor may require the competitor to lift his ball and play in turn." A breach of the rule carried a one stroke penalty. There were also two notes to the rule. The first stated that the rule superseded any conflicting provision of Rules 20-1, 20-3, and 35-3a. The second note stated that the rule did not apply in Four-ball stroke play. The purpose of this rule was to save time on the putting green, but it was never fully understood or accepted by the majority of players, so it was abandoned after only two years.

Ball Assisting Play [35-3b]

"If the fellow-competitor consider that his ball lying on the putting green might be of assistance to the competitor, the fellow-competitor may lift or play first, without penalty."

This is a relatively new rule, for it has been in existence only since 1956. Unlike match play, this rule allows the fellow-competitor to play out of turn if he feels his ball might assist the competitor. This rule originally permitted the fellow-competitor only to play his ball, but in 1964, it was broadened to say that he could either lift or play. The main

reason for this expansion was because of problems caused by footprints and spike marks on the putting green. This is the only change that has been made in this rule in its twenty-seven year history.

The option of disrupting the order of play is unique to the putting green. This rule would have been a welcome addition in 1744, when the rules had to protect the player's ball from being deliberately hit by the opponent.

Ball Striking Fellow-Competitor's Ball [35-3c]

"When both balls lie on the putting green, if the competitor's ball strike a fellow-competitor's ball, the competitor shall incur a penalty of two strokes and shall play his ball as it lies. The fellow-competitor's ball shall be at once replaced."

The first reference to this topic was made in 1947, when Rule 18 had a note at the end referring the reader to Rule 12 for a ball striking a fellow-competitor's ball on the putting green.

This rule was added to the putting green rule in 1952. At that time it stipulated that: "When both balls lie within 20 yards of the hole and neither ball is in a hazard, if the competitor's ball strike the ball of a fellow-competitor, the competitor shall incur a penalty of two strokes and shall play his ball as it lies. The fellow-competitor's ball shall be at once replaced." Here again, we see the "20 yard" measurement appear in the putting green rule. (The reader will recall that the original definition of the putting green included a "20 yard" measurement.)

This measurement caused headaches for rules officials until it was eliminated in 1968. This 1968 rule change eased the load of the official, but perhaps halted a lucrative business. How so? It all revolves around rules buff, C. McDonald England, who tells this story:

I don't know when it first became a Rule, but at least as early as 1961, Rule 35-3c, and Rule 41-1 involved a measurement of "twenty yards" from the hole. There were subsequent changes but the "twenty yards" was a part of the Rule until 1968. Also in 1964 and 1965 and possibly in 1962 and 1963, Rule 34-3c prohibited striking the flagstick, in the hole, unattended when the ball was played from the putting green or within "twenty yards" of the hole. As you can well imagine this created problems for Rules Officials. Not the least of the problems was how to measure sixty feet from the flagstick. Tape measures came in 50 foot and 100 foot lengths. A 100 foot steel tape was quite heavy as I learned first hand in 1962 when I carried one around 18 holes at the Masters during the play-off between Palmer, Player and Finsterwald. It was about that time when Joe Dey, knowing that I was in the hardware business, asked if it might be possible to get a 60 foot lightweight tape. It so happened that a good friend of mine was then the president of the Lufkin Rule Company. He was an enthusiastic golfer and a pretty good one. He put his people to work on the problem and in January, 1964, they produced a special 60 foot tape made of "mylar" which was lightweight, would not stretch and was thin enough so that 60 feet could be contained in a case in which they normally put a 50 foot cloth tape. They put a hook on it which fit the recommended three-quarters of an inch flagstick and the measurement marks then began at the edge of the cup. It was the ideal solution to the problem. Back then, the golf accessory market was booming, so Lufkin and I had visions of making a killing. I was awarded "International Sales Rights." We produced a sample run of 500 tapes. Advertising materials were made up. The Augusta National wanted a supply for the Rules Committee. The United States Golf Association ordered 100 tapes. We gave tapes to the big name pro's Boros, Snead, Palmer, Nicklaus, and Wall who carried them in their bags. Inquiries started coming in from mail order people in this country. Plans were being made for large scale production at Lufkin. However, rumors began to circulate that the Rules Committee of the United States Golf Association was considering changing the Rule. In October news came that I was to be nominated to be a member of the Executive Committee

and in November I was told that I would be made a member of the Rules of Golf Committee and would be expected to attend a meeting of that Committee in January. A day or two before the meeting, I received an order for 25,000 tapes. You guessed it! At the meeting, a decision was made to change Rule 34-3c effective in January, 1966. Since tooling up for mass production of the tapes was going to cost a considerable sum of money, we had to abandon the entire project. Effective January 1, 1968, Rule 35-3c was changed, thus eliminating the last reference to "within 20 yards of the hole," which had also been a part of Rule 41-4. I gave ten tapes to Warren Orlick for use of officials in Ryder Cup matches."²⁰

Figure 7 shows an advertisement of the 20 yard tape that never got the chance to measure up.

The only other change in this rule occurred in 1964, when the stipulation that neither ball be in a hazard was changed to include only the fellow-competitor's ball.

Ball Lifted Before Holed Out [35-3d]

"For ball lifted before holed out, see Rules 7-2, 27-1c, and 35-1k."

This little number carries the honor of being "last but not least." At first glance there really doesn't appear to be much to it, for it is only nine words and a few numbers. If we take a moment to delve a little deeper, however, we will find that there is hidden depth to it.

The first reference to this topic came in 1947, when Rule 18 carried a referral at the end stating: "For lifting ball on putting green in stroke play, except as permitted,

²⁰England, personal letter, October 21, 1982.

Figure 7. A copy of the advertisement for the 20 yard tape that never got the chance to measure up.²¹



THE LUFKIN RULE COMPANY
Saginaw, Michigan

²¹Ibid.

see Rule 11-3c." Ball Lifted Before Holed Out actually became a rule of golf in 1952. The original rule referred the player to Stroke Play Lifted Before Holed Out, which read: "If a competitor or his caddie lift his ball before it is holed out, except as provided for in the rules or local rules, he may replace it under a penalty of two strokes provided he does so before he has played a stroke from the next teeing ground or in the case of the last hole of the round, before he has left the putting green. If he fail so to replace it, he shall be disqualified. (Procedure in discontinuing play - Rule 37-6b)." The rule number later changed, but the meaning remained the same. An additional parenthesis was added referring the reader to Rule 27-1a for Ball Moved by Outside Agency.

The rule remained consistent until 1976, when it was expanded to include a reference to Failure To Hole Out. This rule number changed in 1980. The same year, the reference to Rule 22 was changed to Rule 27-1c, Ball At Rest Moved by Player Purposely, which stated: "When a ball is in play if a player, his partner or either of their caddies purposely move, touch or lift it, except as provided for in the Rules of Local Rules, the player shall incur a penalty stroke and the ball shall be replaced. The player may, however, without penalty, touch the ball with his club in the act of addresssing it, provided the ball does not move." Here we see that the penalty was reduced to one stroke and the player cannot move, touch or lift, whereas the previous rule restricted only the lifting of the ball.

In 1980, one final expansion came, which referred the reader to Rule 35-1k, Ball To Be Marked When Lifted. Since we have already covered this topic, we will not spend any further time discussing it now.

CLOSING REMARKS

We have now reached the other side of the putting green. As we end our evolution of the putting green rule, we might consider that, in one sense, it is an incomplete work, for this rule will continue to evolve. It will change as progress demands. It will become more precise and meet the needs of coming generations, as it has met ours, thus far.

A perfect example of this is the reorganization of the rules of golf that will most likely be adopted in 1984. By this time next year, it is likely that the putting green rule will be "off and running" with a brand new future. First, it will change residence, for it will become Rule 16. It will also be condensed and rearranged. The definition will become a part of the rule itself. It is quite appropriate that this paper should be written on the rule as it now exists, for it appears that it is about to enter a new era.

The people who have protected and perfected the rules of the game of golf deserve a standing ovation for the extraordinary work that has been wrought, not only on this rule, but on the entire Rule Book. It has been no small task to arrive

where we are today, as compared to the first thirteen rules of golf. It took more than hard work. It took people who cared about advancing the game of golf.

We salute the modern technology and ideals of perfection that have allowed the "surface" around the hole to become the "prepared surface" around the hole. Many years of hard labor have gone into the high standard that we can now demand from our putting greens. Imagine what the young golfer of today would think if he were to be presented a membership in the original Leith Links, with its "hole green," complete with "stones, bones, and break-club." For that matter, why not take a reverse approach. Let's imagine what Dr. John Rattray, the first recipient of the famous Silver Club and the very first rules official, might say if he could see the eighteenth green at Augusta today:

"Why, laddie, it's a sight that must have come down from heaven itself. Aye, it is far too fine a thing to touch with a gloved hand, much less lay a spiked foot. To play at the golf there would be a royal honor. Aye, it's too guid to be true."

We agree with you, Provost Rattray. We wholeheartedly agree!

APPENDIX

"THE PUTTING GREEN RULES"

* * * * *

The St. Andrews Rules of 1896

The Rules As Approved by The Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews
and As Amended by the United States Golf Association:

1909

1948

The Rules As Approved by the United States Golf Association and
the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews:

1952

1961

1975

Herein are quoted the rules applying to the putting green from the "St. Andrews Rules of 1896" and selected years of "The Rules of Golf" as approved by the United States Golf Association and the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland. Seeing the putting green rules in their entirety as they went through their major revisions, should help the reader to better visualize the various transitions the rule has made.

St. Andrews Rules of 1896

DEFINITION 16: The "putting green" is that part of the green within twenty yards of the hole (Rule 30). Note: If within twenty yards of the hole the green be intersected by a hazard, such hazard is generally deemed to form a boundary of the putting green, that is to say the green beyond such hazard is not part of the putting green, even if it be within twenty yards of the hole.

RULE 30: The term "putting green" shall mean the ground within twenty yards of the hole, excepting hazards.

RULE 31: All loose impediments may be removed from the putting green, except the opponent's ball when at a greater distance from the player's than six inches.

RULE 32: In a match of three or more sides, a ball in any degree lying between the player and the hole must be lifted, or if on the putting green, holed out.

RULE 33: When the ball is on the putting green, no mark shall be placed, nor line drawn as a guide. The line to the hole may be pointed out, but the person doing so may not touch the ground with hand or club.

The player may have his own or his partner's caddie to stand at the hole, but none of the players or their caddies may move so as to shield the ball from, or expose it to, the wind.

RULE 34: The player or his caddie may remove (but not press down) sand, earth, worm casts or snow lying around the hole or on the line of his putt. This shall be done by brushing lightly with the hand only across the putt and not along it. Dung may be removed to a side by an iron club, but the club must not be laid with more than its own weight upon the ground. The putting line must not be touched by club, hand, or foot, except as above authorised, or immediately in front of the ball in the act of addressing it.

RULE 28

REMOVAL OF LOOSE IMPEDIMENTS (1):

Any loose impediment may be lifted from the putting-green, irrespective of the position of the player's ball. If the player's ball, when on the putting-green, move after any loose impediment lying within six inches of it has been touched by the player, his partner, or either of their caddies, the player shall be deemed to have caused it to move and the penalty shall be one stroke.

REMOVAL OF DUNG, ETC. (2):

Dung, wormcasts, snow, and ice may be scraped aside with a club, but the club must not be laid with more than its own weight upon the ground, nor must anything be pressed down either with the club or in any other way.

TOUCHING LINE OF PUTT (3):

The line of the putt must not be touched, except by placing the club immediately in front of the ball in the act of addressing it, and as above authorized. The penalty for a breach of this Rule shall be the loss of the hole.

RULE 29

DIRECTION FOR PUTTING (1):

When the player's ball is on the putting-green, the player's caddie, his partner, or his partner's caddie may, before the stroke is played, point out the direction for putting, but in doing this they shall not touch the ground on the proposed line of the putt. No mark shall be placed anywhere on the putting-green.

SHIELDING BALL FROM WIND (2):

Any player or caddie engaged in the match may stand at the hole, but no player or caddie shall endeavor, by moving or otherwise, to influence the action of the wind upon the ball.

A player is, however, always entitled to send his own caddie to stand at the hole while he plays his stroke. Either side may refuse to allow a person who is not engaged in the match to stand at the hole. The penalty for a breach of this Rule shall be the loss of the hole.

RULE 30

OPPONENT'S BALL TO BE AT REST

When the player's ball lies on the putting-green, he shall not play until the opponent's ball is at rest. The penalty for a breach of this Rule shall be the loss of the hole.

RULE 31

BALL WITHIN SIX INCHES, LIFTED (1):

When the balls lie within six inches of each other on the putting-green (the distance to be measured from their nearest points), the ball lying nearer to the hole may, at the option of either the player or the opponent, be lifted until the ball is played, and the lifted ball shall then be replaced as near as possible to the place where it lay. If either ball be accidentally moved in complying with this Rule, no penalty shall be incurred, and the ball so moved shall be replaced.

PLAYING OUT OF TURN (2):

On the putting-green, if a player play when his opponent should have played, the stroke may be at once recalled by the opponent, and the ball replaced. Note: For a ball which is displaced on a putting green, see Rule 17(2) and (3). For a player playing the opponent's ball on the putting green see Rule 20(1).

Casual Water -- For casual water on a putting-green see Rule 27(3).

RULE 32

REMOVAL OF FLAG-STICK (1):

Either side is entitled to have the flag-stick moved when approaching the hole; if a player's ball strike the flag-stick, which has been so removed by himself or his partner, or either of their caddies, his side shall lose the hole. If the ball rest against the flag-stick which is in the hole the player shall be entitled to remove the flag-stick, and if the ball fall into the hole, the player shall be deemed to have holed out at his last stroke.

DISPLACING AND REPLACING OF BALLS (2):

If the player's ball knock the opponent's ball into the hole, the opponent shall be deemed to have holed out with his last stroke. If the player's ball move the opponent's ball, the opponent, if he choose, may replace it, but this must be done before another stroke is played by either side. If the player's ball stop on the spot formerly occupied by the opponent's ball, and the opponent declare his intention to replace his ball, the player shall first play another stroke, after which the opponent shall replace and play his ball.

RULE 18. PUTTING GREEN

DEFINITION: The "putting green" is all ground, except hazards, within twenty yards of the hole being played.

The hole shall be $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter and at least 4 inches deep. If a metal lining be used, it shall be sunk below the lip of the hole, and its outer diameter shall not exceed $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

Lining (cups) shall be sunk approximately one inch below the putting green surface unless the nature of the soil makes it impractical to so do. Linings must be of metal, but may be of any color. Card-board, composition or linings other than metal may not be used.

For flagstick, see Rule 7 (7) and (8).

(1) New holes should be made on the day on which stroke competitions begin.

(2) REMOVAL OF LOOSE IMPEDIMENTS:

If the player's ball, when on the putting green, move after any loose impediment, lying within six inches of it has been touched by the player, his partner, or either of their caddies, the player shall be deemed to have caused it to move. The ball must be replaced and the penalty shall be one stroke.

In moving any loose impediment with the club it must not be laid with more than its own weight upon the ground, nor may anything be pressed down either with the club or in any other way.

(3) TOUCHING LINE OF PUTT:

The line of the putt may not be touched, except by placing the club immediately in front of the ball in the act of addressing it and as above authorized.

It is not permissible to touch the ground behind the hole in order to point out the line of a putt.

(4) DIRECTION FOR PUTTING:

When the player's ball is on the putting green, the player's caddie, his partner or his partner's caddie may, before the stroke is played, point out a direction for putting, but they shall not touch the ground on the proposed line of the stroke. No mark shall be placed anywhere on the putting green.

During the play of a hole a player shall not test the surface especially prepared for putting; he shall not roll a ball or roughen or scrape the surface.

(5) SHIELDING BALL FROM WIND:

Any player or caddie engaged in the match may stand at the hole, but no player or caddie shall endeavor to influence the action of the wind upon the ball.

(6) OPPONENT'S BALL TO BE AT REST:

When the player's ball lies on the putting green, he shall not play until the opponent's ball is at rest.

(7) STYMIE:

When the balls are on the putting green and the nearer ball lies within six inches of the hole, or one ball lies within six inches of the other (the distance in both cases to be measured from the nearest points), the ball lying nearer to the hole may, at the option of either the player or the opponent, be lifted until the other ball is played, and the lifted ball shall then be replaced as near as possible to the place where it lay. If either ball be accidentally moved in complying with this Rule, no penalty shall be incurred and the ball so moved shall be replaced. A player is laid a stymie if, on the putting green, the opponent's ball lie in the line of his putt to the hole, provided the balls be not within six inches of each other and the nearer ball be not within six inches of the hole.

(8) PLAYING OUT OF TURN:

On the putting green, if a player play when his opponent should have played, the stroke shall be at once recalled.

NOTE: For a ball which is displaced on the putting green, see Rule 15 (2) and (3). For a player playing the opponent's ball on the putting green, see Rule 13(1). For casual water on the putting green, see Rule 16(2).

(9) BALL ON LIP OF HOLE:

When the player has holed out and the opponent's ball has come to rest, the player may knock away the opponent's ball, claiming the hole or conceding the half as the case may be. If the player does not knock away the opponent's ball and it fall into the hole, the opponent shall be deemed to have holed out at his last stroke. If the opponent's ball has not been knocked away, the opponent shall play any subsequent stroke without delay. NOTE: Whether a ball has come to rest is a question of fact. If there be reasonable doubt, the owner of the ball may require a momentary delay to settle the doubt. There is no specified time limit for determining the fact.

(10) BALL ON A WRONG PUTTING GREEN:

A ball lying on any surface especially prepared for putting other than the one being played to must be lifted and dropped off the prepared surface at the nearest available point not nearer the hole and not in a hazard, without penalty.

For ball striking fellow-competitor's ball on the putting green, see Rule 12(4c).

For lifting ball on putting green in stroke play, except as permitted, see Rule 11(3c).

For order of play on putting green in stroke play, in three-ball, best-ball and four-ball matches, and in a threesome or foursome, see Rule 6(2), (3), (4) and (5).

United States Golf Association & Royal and Ancient - 1952

RULE 35. THE PUTTING GREEN (DEF. 25)

1. GENERAL

a. Loose Impediments

A player may remove any loose impediment from the putting green either by picking it up or brushing it aside either with his hand or a club; nothing may be pressed down, and if a club is used it shall not be pressed with more than its own weight on the ground. If the player's ball move after any loose impediment lying within six inches of it has been touched by the player, his partner, or either of their caddies, the player shall be deemed to have caused the ball to move and shall incur a penalty stroke. The ball shall be played as it lies

b. Touching Line of Putt

Except as provided for in Clause 1a of this Rule, the line of the putt must not be touched. The player shall, however, incur no penalty in placing the club in front of the ball in the act of addressing it, but nothing may be pressed down.

c. Direction For Putting

When the player's ball is on the putting green, the player's caddie, his partner or his partner's caddie may, before the stroke is played, point out a line for putting, but the line of the putt shall not be touched in front of, to the side of, or behind the hole. No mark shall be placed anywhere on the putting green to indicate a line for putting.

d. Testing Surface

During the play of a hole, a player shall not test the surface of the putting green; he shall not roll a ball or roughen or scrape the surface.

e. Other Ball To Be At Rest

The player shall not play until his opponent's or fellow-competitor's ball is at rest.

f. Lifting Other Ball Prohibited

While the player's ball is in motion, an opponent's or fellow-competitor's ball shall not be lifted or touched.

g. Exerting Influence On Ball

Any player or caddie engaged in the match may stand at the hole, but no player or caddie shall take any action to influence the position or the movement of the ball.

h. Ball On A Wrong Putting Green

A ball lying on a putting green other than that of the hole being played must be lifted and dropped off the putting green as near as possible to where the ball lay but not nearer the hole and not in a hazard, without penalty.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 35-1:

Match play--loss of hole; Stroke play--two strokes.

2. MATCH PLAY

a. Ball Interfering With Play

When the ball nearer the hole lies on the putting green, it may be lifted without penalty, at the option of the player or the opponent, if either consider that it might interfere with or be of assistance to the player. The lifted ball shall be replaced after the player has played his stroke. If the player's ball stop on the spot formerly occupied by the lifted ball, the player shall first play another stroke before the lifted ball is replaced.

b. Playing Out Of Turn

If a player play when his opponent should have done so, the opponent may immediately require the player to replay the stroke, in which case the player shall replace his ball and play in correct order, without penalty.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 35-2b: Loss of hole.

c. Opponent's Ball Displaced

If the player's ball knock the opponent's ball into the hole, the opponent shall be deemed to have holed out at his last stroke.

If the player's ball move the opponent's ball, the opponent may replace it, but this must be done before another stroke is played by either side. If the player's ball stop on the spot formerly occupied by the opponent's ball, and the opponent declare his intention to replace his ball, the player shall first play another stroke, after which the opponent shall replace his ball.

d. Opponent's Ball Lying On Lip Of Hole

When the player has holed out and the opponent's ball has come to rest, the player may knock away the opponent's ball, claiming the hole or conceding the half, as the case may be.

If the player does not knock away the opponent's ball and it fall into the hole, the opponent shall be deemed to have holed out with his last stroke.

If the opponent's ball has not been knocked away, the opponent shall play his next stroke without delay.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 35-2d: Loss of hole.

NOTE: Whether a ball has come to rest is a question of fact. If there be reasonable doubt, the owner of the ball is not allowed more than a momentary delay to settle the doubt.

3. STROKE PLAY

a. Ball Nearer Hole

When the ball nearer the hole lies on the putting green, if either the competitor or the fellow-competitor consider that it might interfere with or be of assistance to the competitor, the ball shall be lifted or played, at the option of its owner, without penalty.

If the owner of the ball refuse to comply with this Rule when requested to do so, the competitor making the request may lift the ball, and the owner of the ball shall be disqualified.

NOTE: It is recommended that the ball nearer the hole be played, rather than lifted, unless the subsequent play of a fellow-competitor is likely to be affected.

b. Ball Striking Fellow-Competitor's Ball

When both balls lie within twenty yards of the hole and neither ball is in a hazard, if the competitor's ball strike the ball of a fellow-competitor, the competitor shall incur a penalty of two strokes and shall play his ball as it lies. The fellow-competitor's ball shall be at once replaced.

c. Ball Lifted Before Holed Out

For ball lifted before holed out, see Rule 23-4.

United States Golf Association & Royal and Ancient - 1961

RULE 35. THE PUTTING GREEN (DEF. 25)

1. GENERAL

a. Touching Line of Putt

The line of the putt must not be touched except as provided in Clauses 1b, 1c and 1d of this Rule, but the player may place the club in front of the ball in addressing it without pressing anything down.

b. Loose Impediments

The player may move any loose impediment on the putting green by picking it up or brushing it aside with his hand or a club without pressing anything down. If the ball be moved, it shall be replaced, without penalty.

c. Repair of Ball Marks

The player may repair damage to the putting green caused by the impact of a ball, but he may not step on the damaged area. The ball may be lifted to permit repair and shall be replaced on the spot from which it was lifted.

If a ball be moved during such repair, it shall be replaced, without penalty.

d. Cleaning Ball

A ball lying on the putting green may be lifted and cleaned, without penalty, and replaced on the spot from which it was lifted; in match play the ball must be replaced immediately if the opponent so requests.

e. Direction For Putting

When the player's ball is on the putting green, the player's caddie, his partner or his partner's caddie may, before the stroke is played, point out a line for putting, but the line of the putt shall not be touched in front of, to the side of, or behind the hole.

No mark shall be placed anywhere on the putting green to indicate a line for putting.

f. Testing Surface

During the play of a hole, a player shall not test the surface of the putting green by rolling a ball or roughening or scraping the surface.

g. Other Ball To Be At Rest

The player shall not play until his opponent's or fellow-competitor's ball is at rest.

h. When Ball At Rest

Whether a ball has come to rest is a question of fact. If there be reasonable doubt, the owner of the ball is not allowed more than a momentary delay to settle the doubt.

i. Lifting Other Ball Prohibited

While the player's ball is in motion, an opponent's or fellow-competitor's ball shall not be lifted or touched.

j. Exerting Influence On Ball

No player or caddie shall take any action to influence the position or the movement of a ball.

k. Ball On A Wrong Putting Green

A ball lying on a putting green other than that of the hole being played must be lifted and dropped off the putting green as near as possible to where the ball lay but not nearer the hole and not in a hazard, without penalty.

1. Ball Played As It Lies And Not Touched

For ball purposely moved or purposely touched, see Rule 16.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 35-1:

Match play--Loss of hole; Stroke play--two strokes.

NOTE: When a ball on the putting green is to be lifted, its position should be marked. A recommended method of marking is to place a small coin or similar object immediately behind the ball; if it interfere with another player, it should be moved one or more putterhead-lengths to one side.

2. MATCH PLAY

a. Ball Interfering With Play

When the ball nearer the hole lies on the putting green, if the player consider that the opponent's ball might interfere with his play, the player may require the opponent to lift his ball, without penalty. The opponent shall replace his ball after the player has played his stroke. If the player's ball stop on the spot formerly occupied by the lifted ball, the player shall first play another stroke before the lifted ball is replaced.

If the player's ball be accidentally touched or moved in complying with this Rule, no penalty shall be incurred and the ball if moved shall be replaced.

b. Playing Out of Turn

If a player play when his opponent should have done so, the opponent may immediately require the player to replay the stroke, in which case the player shall replace his ball and play in correct order, without penalty.

c. Opponent's Ball Displaced

If the player's ball knock the opponent's ball into the hole, the opponent shall be deemed to have holed out at his last stroke.

If the player's ball move the opponent's ball, the opponent may replace it, but this must be done before another stroke is played by either side. If the player's ball stop on the spot formerly occupied by the opponent's ball, and the opponent declare his intention to replace his ball, the player shall first play another stroke, after which the opponent shall replace his ball.

(Three-Ball, Best-Ball and Four-Ball match play--Rule 40-1c.)

d. Conceding Opponent's Next Stroke

When the opponent's ball has come to rest (Rule 35-1h), the player may concede the opponent to have holed out with his next stroke and may remove the opponent's ball with a club or otherwise. If the player does not concede the opponent's next stroke and the opponent's ball fall into the hole, the opponent shall be deemed to have holed out with his last stroke.

If the opponent's next stroke has not been conceded, the opponent shall play without delay in correct order.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 35-2: Loss Of Hole.

3. STROKE PLAY

a. Ball Interfering With Play

When the ball nearer the hole lies on the putting green, if the competitor consider that the fellow-competitor's ball might interfere with his play, the competitor may require the fellow-competitor to lift or play his ball, at the option of its owner, without penalty.

If the owner of the ball refuse to comply with this Rule when required to do so, the competitor making the request may lift the ball, and the owner of the ball shall be disqualified.

NOTE: It is recommended that the ball nearer the hole be played, rather than lifted, unless the subsequent play of a fellow-competitor is likely to be affected.

b. Ball Assisting Play

If the fellow-competitor consider that his ball lying on the putting green might be of assistance to the competitor, the fellow-competitor may play first.

c. Ball Striking Fellow-Competitor's Ball

When both balls lie on the putting green or within twenty yards of the hole and neither ball is in a hazard, if the competitor's ball strike the ball of a fellow-competitor, the competitor shall incur a penalty of two strokes and shall play his ball as it lies. The fellow-competitor's ball shall be at once replaced.

d. Ball Lifted Before Holed Out

For ball lifted before holed out, see rule 23-3.

United States Golf Association & Royal and Ancient - 1975

RULE 35. THE PUTTING GREEN (DEF. 25)

1. GENERAL

a. Touching Line of Putt

The line of the putt must not be touched except as provided in Clauses 1b, 1c, and 1d of this Rule, or in measuring (Rule 20-1), but the player may place the club in front of the ball in addressing it without pressing anything down.

b. Loose Impediments

The player may move sand, loose soil or any loose impediments on the putting green by picking them up or brushing them aside with his hand or a club without pressing anything down. If the ball be moved, it shall be replaced, without penalty.

c. Repair of Ball Marks

The player may repair damage to the putting green caused by the impact of a ball. If the player's ball lie on the putting green, it may be lifted to permit repair and shall be replaced on the spot from which it was lifted; in match play the ball must be replaced immediately if the opponent so requests.

If a ball be moved during such repair, it shall be replaced, without penalty.

d. Cleaning Ball

A ball lying on the putting green may be lifted and cleaned, without penalty, and replaced on the spot from which it was lifted; in match play the ball must be replaced immediately if the opponent so requests.

e. Direction For Putting

When the player's ball is on the putting green, the player's caddie, his partner or his partner's caddie may, before the stroke is played, point out a line for putting, but the line of the putt shall not be touched in front of, to the side of, or behind the hole.

No mark shall be placed anywhere on the putting green to indicate a line for putting.

f. Testing Surface

During the play of a hole, a player shall not test the surface of the putting green by rolling a ball or roughening or scraping the surface.

g. Other Ball To Be At Rest

While the player's ball is in motion after a stroke on the putting green, an opponent's or a fellow-competitor's ball shall not be played or touched.

h. Ball In Motion Stopped Or Deflected

If a ball in motion after a stroke on the putting green be stopped or deflected by any outside agency, the stroke shall be cancelled and the ball shall be replaced.

NOTE: If the referee or the Committee determine that a ball has been deliberately stopped or deflected by an outside agency, including

a fellow-competitor or his caddie, further procedure should be prescribed in equity under Rule 11-4.

i. Ball Overhanging Hole

When any part of the ball overhangs the edge of the hole, the owner of the ball is not allowed more than a few seconds to determine whether it is at rest. If by then the ball has not fallen into the hole, it is deemed to be at rest.

j. Ball On A Wrong Putting Green

A ball lying on a putting green other than that of the hole being played must be lifted and dropped off the putting green as near as possible to where the ball lay but not nearer the hole and not in a hazard, without penalty.

NOTE: Unless otherwise stipulated by the Committee, the term "a putting green other than that of the hole being played" includes a practice putting or pitching green lying within the boundaries of the course.

k. Ball Played As It Lies And Not Touched

For ball purposely moved or purposely touched, see Rule 16.

l. Standing Astride Or On Line Of Putt Prohibited

The player shall not make a stroke on the putting green from a stance astride, or with either foot touching, the line of the putt or an extension of that line behind the ball. For the purpose of Rule 35-1L only, the line of putt does not extend beyond the hole.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 35-1:

Match play--loss of hole; Stroke play--two strokes.

NOTE: When a ball on the putting green is to be lifted, its position should be marked by placing an object, such as a small coin, immediately behind the ball; if the object interfere with another player, it should be moved one or more putterhead-lengths to one side.

2. MATCH PLAY

a. Ball Interfering With Play

When the ball nearer the hole lies on the putting green, if the player consider that the opponent's ball might either be struck by his ball or interfere with his stance or stroke, the player may require the opponent to lift his ball. The opponent shall replace his ball after the player has played his stroke. If the player's ball stop on the spot formerly occupied by the lifted ball, the player shall first play another stroke before the lifted ball is replaced.

If the player's ball be accidentally touched or moved in complying with this Rule, no penalty shall be incurred and the ball if moved shall be replaced.

b. Playing Out Of Turn

If a player play when his opponent should have done so, the opponent may immediately require the player to replay the stroke, in which case the player shall replace his ball and play in correct order, without penalty.

c. Opponent's Ball Displaced

If the player's ball knock the opponent's ball into the hole, the opponent shall be deemed to have holed out at his last stroke.

If the player's ball move the opponent's ball, the opponent may replace it, but this must be done before another stroke is played by either side. If the player's ball stop on the spot formerly occupied by the opponent's ball, and the opponent declare his intention to replace his ball, the player shall first play another stroke, after which the opponent shall replace his ball.
(Three-Ball, Best-Ball and Four-Ball match play--Rule 40-1c).

d. Conceding Opponent's Next Stroke

When the opponent's ball has come to rest, the player may concede the opponent to have holed out with his next stroke and may remove the opponent's ball with a club or otherwise. If the player does not concede the opponent's next stroke and the opponent's ball fall into the hole, the opponent shall be deemed to have holed out with his last stroke.

If the opponent's next stroke has not been conceded, the opponent shall play without delay in correct order.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 35-2: Loss of hole.

3. STROKE PLAY

a. Ball Interfering With Play

When the ball nearer the hole lies on the putting green, if the competitor consider that the fellow-competitor's ball might either be struck by his ball or interfere with his stance or stroke, the competitor may require the fellow-competitor to lift or play his ball, at the option of its owner, without penalty.

If the owner of the ball refuse to comply with this Rule when required to do so, the competitor making the request may lift the ball, and the owner of the ball shall be disqualified.

NOTE: It is recommended that the ball nearer the hole be played, rather than lifted, unless the subsequent play of a fellow-competitor is likely to be affected.

b. Ball Assisting Play

If the fellow-competitor consider that his ball lying on the putting green might be of assistance to the competitor, the fellow-competitor may lift or play first, without penalty.

c. Ball Striking Fellow-Competitor's Ball

When both balls lie on the putting green, if the competitor's ball strike a fellow-competitor's ball, the competitor shall incur a penalty of two strokes and shall play his ball as it lies. The fellow-competitor's ball shall be at once replaced.

d. Ball Lifted Before Holed Out

For ball lifted before holed out, see Rule 22-1b.

SOURCES CONSULTED

- Black, Joe. Past President, PGA, Dallas, Texas, Interview, August 1982.
- Browning, Robert. A History of Golf. New York: E. P. Dutton and Company, Inc., 1966.
- Cotton, Henry. A History of Golf. Foreword by Sam Snead. Philadelphia & New York: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1975.
- Cousins, Geoffrey. Golfers At Law. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1959.
- Dey, Joseph C., Jr. "A World Code of Rules." USGA Journal. June 1951.
- Encyclopedia of Golf. 1975 ed., S.v. "Royal and Ancient Golf Club."
- England, C. McDonald. USGA Rules Committee, Huntington, West Virginia. Personal letter, 21 October 1982.
- Grimsley, Will. Golf: Its History, People & Events. Section by Robert Trent Jones. Englewood Cliffs, N. J.: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1966.
- Hannigan, Frank. The Rules of Golf. Illustrated by Tom Watson. New York: Random House, 1980.
- Mangum, Clyde. Deputy Commissioner, PGA Tour, Jacksonville, Florida, Interview, August 1982.
- Orlick, Warren. Past PGA President, Birmingham, Michigan, Interview, December 1982.
- Price, Charles. The World of Golf. Foreword by Bobby Jones. New York: Random House, 1962.
- Smith, Don. Tournament Director, PGA of America, West Palm Beach, Florida, Interview, August 1982.
- Tufts, Richard S. The Principles Behind the Rules of Golf. Pinehurst, N. C.: Pinehurst Publishers, 1961.

Tuthill, Jack. Tournament Official, PGA Tour, Jacksonville, Florida, Interview, August 1982.

Wind, Herbert Warren. The Story of American Golf. 3rd ed. New York: Random House, 1980.

United States Golf Association. The Rules of Golf. 1909, 1921, 1922, 1933, 1939, 1946, 1948, 1951, 1952, 1956, 1961, 1962, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983.