

DIVOTS

Dec 1, 2009

**From the Pro
Kim Griggs, PGA**

Christmas is almost here!! Please do not forget to get that special someone a gift from the Pro Shop. Our Open House is Dec 8th from 5-7 pm. This year we will have a Prize Wheel for you to spin to reveal your discount!! There will be Chips and Salsa, Christmas cookies and punch available at the Cafe.

As a reminder, the pro shop **will be closed** on Christmas Day, and open only until 1:00 PM on Dec. 24, Dec. 31 and Jan 1st

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Beginning December 1ST, the Pro Shop hours will be as follows:

9:00 am to 5:00 pm – Mondays
7:30 am to 5:00 pm – Tuesday thru Sunday

Short cuts are NOT allowed!

We continue to have an issue with people cutting through the golf course during play. I know it is shorter and more convenient, but it is against the rules. It distracts and annoys the players and is unsafe. Thank you for your cooperation.

Dec. Golf Specials

We are planning a short holiday special for you and your guests. This special is scheduled to begin on Dec. 21ST and run through Dec 30th. Look for a rate of \$45 for 18 holes and \$25 for 9 holes. Make your reservations seven days in advance on line or call the Golf Shop.

Golf Shop Staff

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the golf shop staff (Ken, Frank, Jim and John) for their patience and dedication to the new Point of Sale System and the upgraded Chelsea system. This was a huge transition and I feel they all have done an outstanding job during this transition period. These changes have been very beneficial to everyone involved.



I would like to ask a favor of our members. Please be aware of when we are checking in a Shotgun or we are very busy behind the counter. Please be patient and either write down your tee time requests or save them for a less busy time. We are here to assist you in any way possible and will always maintain our excellent customer service.

Groups (i.e. Roughriders, Dingbats, BMW etc)

I ask the organizer of any groups that are playing to PLEASE provide the golf shop staff with an accurate list of players 24 hours in advance. This is very helpful and will speed up the check in process and accuracy of our records. I do understand that there are times when the lists will change at the last minute. Thank-you in advance for your cooperation.

**From the Assistant
Ken Steinke, PGA Apprentice**

Imagine getting a two-stroke penalty for just saying "Yes" to this question..."Should I use an extra club since the green is elevated?" If the person asking the question is a fellow-competitor you would be in breach of Rule 8-1. Of course, your fellow-competitor would also be in violation of the rules and would receive a two-stroke penalty for simply asking the question. Had you not answered, he would still receive a two-stroke penalty. However, because you're such a kind person you innocently replied with a simple "Yes". This momentary lapse just cost you two strokes and put you out of the money.

In this article I'd like to briefly touch on Rule 8-1. A rule I believe may be often overlooked or possibly misunderstood.

First, I should remind everyone what is meant by advice. The Rules of Golf defines "Advice" as follows:

"Advice" is any counsel or suggestion that could influence a player in determining his play, the choice of a club or the method of making a *stroke*.

Information on the *Rules*, distance or matters of public information, such as the position of hazards or the *flagstick* on the *putting green*, is not *advice*.

Second, I've included the verbage for Rule 8-1 which specifically prohibits giving or asking for *advice*. The following is straight out of the Rules of Golf handbook:

8-1. Advice

During a *stipulated round*, a player must not:

(a) give *advice* to anyone in the competition playing on the *course* other than his *partner*, or

(b) ask for *advice* from anyone other than his *partner* or either of their *caddies*.

A player needs to be aware of their comments on the course that could be interpreted as advice by fellow competitors. You can ask if the pin is blue and toward the back of the green, but you cannot ask if you should use one more club to reach it. During a casual round with your friends no one will probably call you on it. However, during league play or a tournament the rules must be enforced. So the next time you're out playing see if you can catch your fellow-competitors asking for or giving "advice"...it could win you the match!

I've included several Decisions pertaining to Rule 8-1 that you might find interesting and to hopefully give you a better understanding of what is allowed and what is not.

8-1/1 Seeking Information About Length of Hole

Q. A player asks his opponent or fellow-competitor the length of the hole about to be played. This information was not displayed on the teeing ground. Was the player in breach of Rule [8-1](#), which prohibits asking for advice?

A. No. Information on distance is not advice – see the Definition of "Advice." (Revised)

8-1/2 Exchanging Distance Information

Information regarding the distance between two objects is public information and not advice. It is therefore permissible for players to exchange information relating to the distance between two objects. For example, a player may ask anyone, including his opponent, fellow-competitor or either of

their caddies, the distance between his ball and the hole.

Except when the Local Rule allowing the use of distance-measuring devices has been adopted (see Note to Rule [14-3](#)), information regarding distance must not have been obtained from an artificial device used during the stipulated round. A player who obtains distance information that he knew was measured by anyone with an artificial device during the player's round is disqualified under Rule [14-3](#). (Revised)

8-1/3 Asking If Distance Marker Accurate

Q. A player inquires of another player as to the accuracy of a 150-yard marker. Was the player in breach of Rule [8-1](#)?

A. No.

8-1/5 Seeking Information on Whereabouts of Another Player's Ball

Q. A player preparing to play to a putting green asks a spectator to advise him how far his opponent's or fellow-competitor's ball, which is on the green, lies from the flagstick. Was the player in breach of Rule [8-1](#)?

A. No.

8-1/6 Asking Opponent or Fellow-Competitor What Club He Used at Previous Hole

Q. During play of the 6th hole, A asked B what club he (B) had used on the 4th hole, which is a par-3 of a similar length. Was A in breach of Rule [8-1](#)?

A. No. (Revised)

8-1/7 After Player Has Played to Green He Asks Opponent or Fellow-Competitor What Club He Used in Playing to Green

Q. A plays his second shot which lands on the green. B does likewise. A then asks B what club he used for his second shot. Was A in breach of Rule [8-1](#)?

A. No.

8-1/8 Comment About Club Selection After Stroke

Q. After playing a stroke, a player says: "I should have used a 5-iron." Was the player in breach of Rule [8-1](#)?

A. If the statement was made casually, there was no breach. If the statement was made to another player who had a shot to play from about the same position, there was a breach.

8-1/10 Looking into Another Player's Bag to Determine Club Used

Q. A looks into B's bag to determine which club B used for his last stroke. Is this the equivalent of asking for advice?

A. No. Information obtained by observation is not advice. But see also Decision [8-1/11](#).

8-1/11 Removing Towel Covering Another Player's Clubs to Determine Club Used

Q. Decision [8-1/10](#) states that it is not a breach of Rule [8-1](#) for A to look into B's golf bag to determine which club B used for his last stroke. Suppose a towel was covering B's clubs and A removed the towel in order to determine which club B had used, would that be a breach of Rule [8-1](#)?

A. Yes. A player is prohibited from obtaining such information through a physical act.

8-1/13 Player Giving Opponent or Fellow-Competitor Instruction During Round

Q. During a round a player tells an opponent or a fellow-competitor that he is over-swinging. Is this giving advice in breach of Rule [8-1](#)?

A. Yes.

8-1/16 Suggesting to Competitor That He Deem His Ball Unplayable

Q. B's ball was lying badly. B was deliberating what action to take when A, his fellow-competitor, said: "You have no shot at all. If I were you, I would deem the ball unplayable." Was A giving advice, contrary to Rule [8-1](#)?

A. Yes. A's suggestion could have influenced B "in determining his play." Thus, it constituted advice — see Definition of "Advice." It did not constitute "information on the Rules," which is not advice.

8-1/18 Player Who Has Not Yet Played Seeks Advice from Player Who Has Finished Round

Q. May a player about to start his round seek advice as to clubs used at various holes from a player who has just finished?

A. Yes. Rule [8-1](#) applies only during the play of a round.

8-1/25 Advice Given on Request; Penalties in Various Forms of Play

In singles match play, if A asks for advice from B, it is irrelevant whether B gives advice because A lost the hole as soon as he asked.

In a four-ball match, A and B versus C and D, if A asks for advice from C and C gives advice, A and C are disqualified for the hole. The penalties do not apply to their partners — Rule [30-3f](#).

In stroke play, if A asks for advice from B, a fellow-competitor, A incurs a penalty of two strokes. If B gives advice, he also incurs a penalty of two strokes.

Calendar of Events

- Dec. 1 – Tee Time Change
AM Shotguns start at 8:30 AM
Tee Times begin at 8:00 AM
- Dec. 2 – 1:00 PM - Men's Club Bash
- Dec. 2 – 2:00 PM Golf Advisory Committee
- Dec. 3 – 9:00 AM Ladies 9 Hole Home & Home
With Heritage Highlands
- Dec 8 – 5:00 -7:00 PM Open House / Café
- Dec 9 – Men's 9 Hole Bash. Ladies 9 Hole
Holiday Party
- Dec 24 – 1:00 PM – Pro Shop Closed
- Dec. 25 – Christmas – **All facilities closed**
- Dec. 31 – 1:00 PM – Pro Shop Closed
- Jan. 1 – 8:00 – 1:00 Tee Times
1:00 PM – Pro Shop Closed

