



General Membership Meeting Notes

July 2, 2024

- Judy Brooke, President, opened the meeting at 1:45 p.m., and thanked everyone for staying for the July General Membership Meeting.
- A big thank you was given to both Jeanine Felix and Margaret Fay for once again creating the *Proud to be an American* theme to celebrate Independence Day.
- We celebrated the following July Birthdays: Jill Bellamy, Anne Marie Neacy, Samantha Oland, Carla Rueff, Mary Stephans, Karen Fox, Janet Brown, Ursula McManus, Claudia Meyer, and Rhonda Moore.
- Congratulations to Dianne Ford who met one of her golfing goals this month. She successfully played a round without going into a water hazard.
- A note from Sandy Trainer was read: *"Thank you for including me in the Golf Gossip. It was good to see the pictures and to see who was playing and winning some things. I appreciate being included. Tell the gals "HI!" for me. I miss you all. I am playing 3 times a week. We tee off at 5:30 am and finish by 8am. By then the temp is about 94. We have had triple digits temps most of June. Up to 113, several 110's July and Aug will be hotter. So far it is manageable. We just stay inside from about 9:30 am until the next morning. Thanks for the tips on chipping and pitch shots. I need that. Thank you and hit "em straight and long. Sandy"*
- Fire season is something we need to be aware of and what the club rule is that pertains to this season. If, at the golf course, the AQI is 200 or above, then golf will be cancelled. There are several apps you can download to your phone to check on the AQI when needed. Judy will send out an email blast to everyone by no later than 6:00 a.m. (but hopefully at least 12 hours in advance of play) to let everyone know if we're on or off. If you are concerned about whether we are playing or not, be sure to check your emails beforehand. Or, if you check your app and the AQI is over 200 then you can assume we're not playing. Judy will also contact the golf course by 7:00 a.m. (when they open) to let them know we are canceling play.
- As a reminder, for pace of play, we play **READY GOLF**. Simply put, "ready golf" is a replacement for the traditional farthest-from-the-hole system of determining order of play in golf. When implementing ready golf, the first person ready to play their shot is free to play. Ready golf coincides with the USGA and R&A's (Royal & Ancient Golf Club) new pace of play rules and stays within golf etiquette practices. Playing ready golf is intended to help maintain proper pace of play, but in a safe way. With this in mind, don't just approach your ball and whack it; make sure your playing partners and any other groups are out of the way first. Ready golf applies everywhere, including on the tee, in the fairway, and on the green.

- **Hole #11**—A question came up recently about your ball landing on the hillside. I went and surveyed the hole and found that the red stakes were not aligned properly with some up on the hillside while others were at the bottom of the hillside. The golf course has subsequently removed all the red stakes on the hillside, and it is now considered part of the fairway and a ball that lands on the hillside should be treated the same as a ball that lands in the fairway. Since this creates a safety concern, the Club will be putting in place a local course rule creating an “imaginary” red stake line at the bottom of the hillside. That means the whole hillside would be considered a penalty area. To summarize how you play your ball in a red penalty area (If your ball lands on the hillside):
 - First, you can elect to hit your ball out of the penalty area/hillside, playing it as it lies, and this might be your option if you’re not too far up the hill and you have a decent lie. You may touch or move **LOOSE** impediments near your ball, but a word of warning—if your ball moves in the process of moving a loose impediment, you will be penalized one penalty stroke so do it very carefully. An impediment which would **not** be considered loose could be anything that you pull out of the ground or bend to help you take your shot. That’s a no-no! Bottom line, if you think you can hit your ball out of a hazard area, you can do so without taking an extra penalty stroke.
 - However, if your ball is buried in the bushes or too high up the hill and is considered unplayable or you are unable to locate it in the red penalty area (and you know it went into the red penalty area) you can take the second option which is lateral relief and that comes with a one-stroke penalty. Drop your ball within two club-lengths **of the point where the ball entered the penalty area**, but not nearer the hole, and then play it. This may put you in the dirt, but that’s how it works.
- If the sprinklers are on in the fairway and your ball lands inside the sprinkler’s watering area, you have two options for play, and neither of them incur a penalty:
 - Wait for the sprinkler to cycle away from your ball and then play it as it lies. This is the preferable choice.
 - The second option would apply only in cases of pace of play (for instance, your group is running behind schedule, or you’re not keeping up with the group in front of you). In that instance, you can take lateral relief away from the sprinkler’s water arc, but **NO** closer to the hole. Note: This may put you in the rough or dirt, so choose your option carefully.

The USGA Rules have a lot to say about golf course watering. One thing they said if the sprinklers are on, there’s usually a very good reason for it. There’s a science to golf course watering, and there’s a lot written about the science of golf course watering not only by the USGA, but by many other sources.

- Following is the rule for standing water on the golf course. The Rule that applies is Rule 16.1 – Abnormal Course Conditions (Including Immovable Obstructions.) The Rule covers free relief that is allowed from interference from animal holes, ground under repair, immovable obstruction and – key for us here – “Temporary Water.”

Temporary Water is defined as “any temporary accumulation of water on the surface of the ground (such as puddles from rain or irrigation or an overflow from a body of water) that:

- Is **not** in a penalty area, and

- Can be seen **before or after** the player takes a stance (without pressing down excessively with their feet).

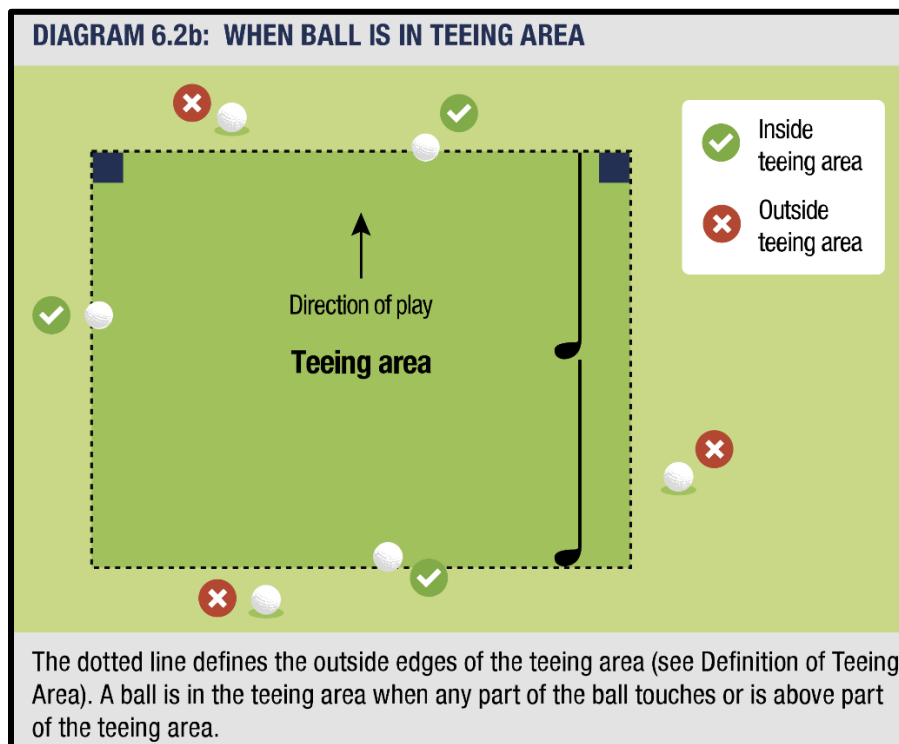
It is not enough for the ground to be merely wet, muddy or soft or for the water to be momentarily visible as the player steps on the ground; an accumulation of water must remain present either before or after the stance is taken. So, it has nothing to do with depth, rather whether it is present or not.

You get a free drop if your ball touches or is in or on the abnormal course condition – in this case the standing or temporary water. However, if you're in standing water in a penalty area, you do not get free relief.

You also get a free drop if the temporary water physically interferes with your stance or area of intended swing. Basically – if you're standing in the water or if your club is going to hit the water when making a stroke.

On the putting green you are also entitled to a free drop if the temporary water is in your line of play. (Whether it's on or off the green).

- Lorna Johnston, Secretary, and Debbie Steele, Treasurer, did a short presentation on how to properly mark your ball on the green. Notes from their presentation start on page 6.
- There was discussion about the teeing area and if you “duff” your ball when teeing off. It was suggested that in order to tee up your ball again for your second hit that you tee up at least one foot behind the tee box markers. USGA defines the tee box as shown in this diagram. The two black squares are the tee box markers (red, white or gold). You are allowed to tee off no more than two club lengths behind those markers. If—when you hit your ball and it lands **INSIDE** that square—you can re-tee it and hit again for your second hit (no additional penalty strokes). If your ball lands outside that area, you cannot re-tee it, you must simply hit it again for your second stroke.



- Reminders:
 - When you sign up in Golf Genius for next week’s play, you will receive a confirmation email. Once you’ve signed up, check your email to be sure you have that confirmation. If you don’t receive a confirmation email, you can go into Golf Genius and check the tee sheet to see if your name is on the tee sheet. If it’s not on the tee sheet, then you need to make another attempt at signing up and you can do that right in Golf Genius.
 - We are going to leave the clubhouse area at 8:20 a.m. so that everyone is on their tee box no later than our shotgun start time of 8:30 a.m. Please be at the golf course no later than **30 minutes** prior to the shotgun start time to give yourself ample time to pay your fees, load your cart, and be ready to take off with your partner at 8:20 a.m.
 - If you must cancel your attendance on Tuesday after 1pm on Saturday, please contact Vickie Rutledge directly. Please do **NOT** contact the golf course. They do not control our foursomes and we often don’t get the information from them in a timely manner. Here is Vickie’s phone number for texting or calling: (775) 450-5622.
- The Board will be reviewing our Club’s Bylaws at the Board Meeting in August. The last time they were updated was in 2019. If you have any input, please email Judy that information by mid-August so it can be include in the Board’s discussion. The revised Bylaws will be reviewed at a General Membership Meeting and then sent out for voting and membership approval.
- What does it mean to be gracious? Merriam Webster defines it as “marked by kindness and courtesy”. The Yahoo dictionary defines it as: courteous, kind, and pleasant. That’s what we all need to be, especially to our members who are newer to the game of golf. Ask yourself, how many rules did I know the first year or two I played golf? Kindly and courteously tell them what a rule is and then let them slide on applying the rule the first time around, don’t just arbitrarily load them up with penalties. Extend a little bit of grace the first time around, and then the next time they will know what the rule is and can apply it themselves. Let’s be a club that is marked by kindness and courtesy while we all do our best to improve our own game.
- Judy shared the newly designed “*Teeing Up For The Cure*” logo. Judy challenged everyone with the slogan: **EACH ONE DROP ONE!** If everyone in the club could drop off a letter at just one business that they frequent that would be a huge help. Be sure to check the Excel file she sends out that includes a list of businesses indicating which ones have been contacted and what, if anything, they have donated. If you do drop off a letter at a business, please email Judy the name of the business so we don’t duplicate efforts. All members were encouraged to do this one simple thing when they’re out and about.

We already have five hole-sponsorships thanks to Jan Lieberman, Vickie Rutledge, and Lorna Johnston (who is responsible for three of those hole sponsorships! The holes that have been assigned are Holes #2, #4, #6, #10 and #18. We are also accumulating a number of raffle prizes including two free rounds of golf at Edgewood and four free rounds of golf at Genoa Lakes! Judy wants the Club to raise \$10,000 through the golf tournament to help improve the lives of those who are in their cancer recovery journeys.

- Judy thanked the following members who donated a drawing prize for this month: Kathy Emanuel, Mary Milligan, Margaret Fay (2), Vickie Oland, and Jeanine Felix.
- Next month the following members have signed up to bring in the additional drawing prizes: Kelly King, Julie Marraccini and Joan Sciarani.
- D-D Woodruff conducted the drawing.:
 - Kelly King won the pot of gold \$101.00
 - 1st Drawing: Debbie Knapp
 - 2nd Drawing: Margaret Fay
 - 3rd Drawing: Joan Sciarani
 - 4th Drawing: Mary Milligan
 - 5th Drawing: Kathy Emanuel
 - 6th Drawing: Michelle Cline
- Card sharks get ready! Next month's theme is **Hot August Nights**, that includes:
 - An on-course poker run
 - Theme colors to wear are playing card colors: **red, black and white**
 - Judy will bring the prizes for the winners with the best three poker hands
 - Gail Ellingwood is unable to be there due to a family emergency. Bev Hefferly volunteered to replace her and to work with Lorie McMahon for decorating.
- The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Marking Your Ball

USGA Rule 14 describes the Procedures for Ball: Marking, Lifting and Cleaning, Replacing on Spot; Dropping in Relief Area; and Playing from the Wrong Place.

We mark our balls for two reasons: one is to avoid someone else getting a two-stroke penalty if they accidentally hit your ball while they are putting, and second, to reduce any distractions to other players. Check out Josh Kelley's Swing U video "The Proper Way to Mark your Golf Ball on the Greens".

https://youtu.be/-9v02_QFyY8

You can mark your ball behind, to the side, or in front of your ball. However you choose to do it, be consistent. If you lift your ball without marking its spot, mark its spot in the wrong way, or make a stroke while the ball marker is left in place, you will receive a penalty of one stroke.

You can use an artificial object such as a ball marker, coin, tee, or club, but you cannot use a natural object such as a leaf or twig. Once it is marked, you can pick up your ball and clean it if needed. The only time you can clean your ball is when it is on the green. If you clean it any other time, you will incur a one stroke penalty unless you have to clean it to identify it or check if it is cut or cracked.

If you accidentally kick your ball, bump it, or drop something on it that causes it to move BEFORE you mark it, there is a two-stroke penalty. Once it is marked, there is NO PENALTY; just replace it where it was.

You can authorize someone to mark your ball for you if you are a ways from the cup and others are waiting to putt. You must give authorization each time you want someone to mark it for you.

Sometimes, your ball may be in someone else's line to putt their ball. They can ask you to move your ball. You will need to ask them whether they want it moved to the right or left of your current spot. You mark your ball, then pick up your ball. You lay your putter down with the bottom of your putter next to your marker, line it up with a stationary object such as a tree or spot on the green, then move your marker to the toe of your putter. You may want to flip your marker over to remind you to move it back in the reverse order once they have putt. If you forget to move it back, you will incur a penalty stroke. See Mike Fay Golf "How to Move Your Ball on the Green" video: <https://youtu.be/Xrloo-1nUFA>

If you are in someone's line when they are chipping onto the green and you are on the fringe or off the green, they can ask you to mark your spot.

The same ball must be set down in its original spot. You cannot trade out the ball unless it was lost, cut, or cracked, or your original ball was played by another player as a wrong ball (they will incur a two-stroke penalty).

When someone is putting, you cannot stand behind them to watch their line. This is only allowed when playing a team game like a scramble.

If someone has already holed their ball, you can go ahead and putt before they retrieve their ball. There is NO PENALTY. Check out the video:

https://youtube.com/shorts/gS1ej6llr0w?si=urZowXt27Fs8l_cw