



February '09

Hi

Yes! I'm early this month. I'm taking a fortnight break from my desk; going to Tassie.

First it was Doomed; then It Was On; now it's a Question

First it was stated that the Australian PGA's attempt to organise a series of Asia Pacific tournaments was in competition and conflicting with the already established Asian Tour and was doomed to failure.

Then "it was on" when last week the PGA of Australia announced a new super series" of Asia-Pacific tournaments, saying it had agreements in place with the China Golf Association, the Japan Golf Tour, the Korea Golf Association and the Korea PGA. Scheduled to start with the China Open from April 16-19 and wind up with the Australian PGA Championship on December 10-13.

Needless to say this met with a furious response from the Asian Tour with executive chairman Kyi Hla Han saying "Dates for three of the events announced -- the Volvo China Open, Midea China Classic and Pine Valley Beijing Open -- have agreements in place with the Asian Tour and that the PGA of Australia has violated the protocols which govern the International Federation of PGA Tours, of which the Asian Tour, PGA of Australia and the Japan Golf Tour Organisation (JGTO) are members."

Now the Japan Golf Tour Organization (JGTO) has said it could not take part in the series this year without the Asian Tour being involved. "The Asian Tour has for years organized professional golf in the region and the JGTO said it was still "the most vital entity for the promotion of this sport in this emerging region."

PGA Australia is still confident it is a goer.

Looking is not Seeing

It is all very well taking your stance and looking down at the ball but ... are you seeing the ball? It requires a specific focus to see the ball to the exclusion of everything around it. Robert Allenby was asked one time "What do you look at when you address the ball?" Roberts answer "One dimple!" You should try doing that. It's not easy. It requires intense concentration to hold your focus on your 'mark' on the ball what alone on one dimple.

But what about everything else you need to concentrate on when making a shot?

There is nothing else. You have picked your target and chosen the club you want to use; you've aligned your club to the target; you've practiced your swing 10,000 times – so you can forget that;. There is only one thing left ... the ball. And all you've got to do is hit it.

Rules Quiz

It's monthly medal and a young hurricane is blowing (why make life easy?), but Tom has found the 11th green in regulation 2 shots. He reaches the green and marks his ball. He cleans the ball and properly replaces the ball in front of his marker. The ball remains at rest after being replaced. Tom, as is his habit, leaves the marker behind the ball in case he'd like to realign it after studying the line from behind.

As Tom is surveying the putt, a strong gust of wind causes the ball to be blown off the green into the grassy swale on the left hand side. What is the ruling?

1. Tom must replace the ball on the putting green without penalty.
2. Tom must replace the ball on the putting green under penalty of one stroke.
3. Tom must either play his ball as it lies without penalty from the grassy swale or proceed under Rule 28

IT'S THE LAW

A golf match is a test of your skill against your opponent's luck.

Handicapping System Change.

24-12-08

Effective immediately, for a player to retain an Australian Men's Handicap he now needs 3 or more "live scores" as at 1 January each year (NB the previous requirement was 5 or more). This brings the relevant Australian men's and women's regulations into line and is more consistent with international standards. A player seeking a new handicap will still be required to submit 5 cards.

Stuart Appleby

Callaway Golf has signed Stuart Appleby to a multi-year endorsement deal. Appleby, who has won eight times on the PGA Tour, including three consecutive Mercedes-Benz championships between 2004-2006, had previously been with Bridgestone Golf. He will use Callaway's clubs and golf balls and feature the company's logo on his hat. His caddie will also be carrying a Callaway bag. Appleby is testing many of the company's clubs but has yet to decide exactly which will be in his new bag before he starts his 2009 season.

Jack Newton Classic

Jack Newton plans to hand over the reins of his celebrity golf classic to his son and daughter after 30 years at the helm. A diabetes sufferer, Newton said he hoped to hand over the tournament to his children - former NRL rugby league player Clint Newton and daughter Kristie.

"I'm 58 years old - hopefully my kids can take it over - and let me rest in peace," Newton said.

The Jack Newton Classic began in 1979 in Noosa, Queensland but has grown into a major celebrity tournament

HE SAID

"The only time my prayers are never answered is on the golf course." - Billy Graham

Pace of Play

It is the perennial problem with golf and golfers everywhere, Pace of Play. There is nothing worse than turning a 4 hour round into a 5 hour round because a player or group in front is holding up the field.

The R&A has placed an guideline article on its website (www.randa.org) regarding Pace of Play. Here are some excerpts:

“As a guide, generally two-ball rounds should take no more than 3 hours 10 minutes; three-balls should take no more than 3 hours 30 minutes, and four-balls no more than 3 hours 50 minutes. In fact, shorter round times than these should be the aim of all players, where appropriate. “

“Things that players can do to help to minimise round times:

- Be aware of your position with regard to the group in front
- Do not concern yourself with the group behind; the fact that you are not holding them up is irrelevant as it is your group’s responsibility to keep up with the group in front.
- If you feel that your group is falling behind, advise the other players in your group.
- If your group is behind, try to catch up quickly.
- If you lose a clear hole and are delaying the group behind, or if there is no group in front of you and you are delaying the group behind, invite the group behind to play through.
- Do not wait until it is your turn to play before putting your glove on.
- Do not wait until it is your turn to play before calculating your yardage and selecting your club.
- Look at your own line of putt while the other players in the group look at theirs (within the bounds of normal etiquette).
- At the green, position your bags so as to allow quick movement off the green to the next tee.
- Move off the green as soon as all players in your group have holed out; mark score cards at or on the way to the next tee.
- Play a provisional ball if your ball may be lost outside a hazard or out of bounds.
- If you keep up with the group in front, you cannot be accused of slow play.”

Until next time - Keep ‘em down the middle.



Cliff Nunn

Rules Answer:

3. Wind is not an 'Outside Agency' and so Tom must play the ball as it lies without penalty (Decision 18-1/12) or declare the ball unplayable and proceed under Rule 28

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