



# Officiating

Many different forms of play used at CGA events

- Match Play (Rule 2)
- Stroke Play (Rule 3)
- Foursomes (modified alternate shot) (Rule 29)
- Four-Ball Match Play (Rule 30)
- Four-Ball Stroke Play (Rule 31)
- Stableford (Rule 32-1b)

**Carolina's Golf Association**



# Officiating

## Differing Roles for Rules Officials:

### Accompanying a Group (Match Play)

- Referee
- Observer



### On-Course Officials (Match & Stroke Play)

- Starting
- Rules Rover
- Pace of Play Enforcement
- Spotter
- Scoring





# Referee



## Definition of a Referee:

**A “referee” is one who is appointed by the Committee to decide questions of fact and apply the Rules. He must act on any breach of a Rule which he observes or is reported to him.**



**Carolina's Golf Association**



# Referee



***A referee should not attend the *flagstick*, stand at or mark the position of the *hole*, or lift the ball or mark its position.***





# Referee



## Exception in Match Play:

**Unless a referee is assigned to accompany the players throughout a match, he has no authority to intervene in a match other than in relation to Rule 1-3 (Agreement to Waive Rules), 6-7 (Undue Delay) or 33-7 (Etiquette).**



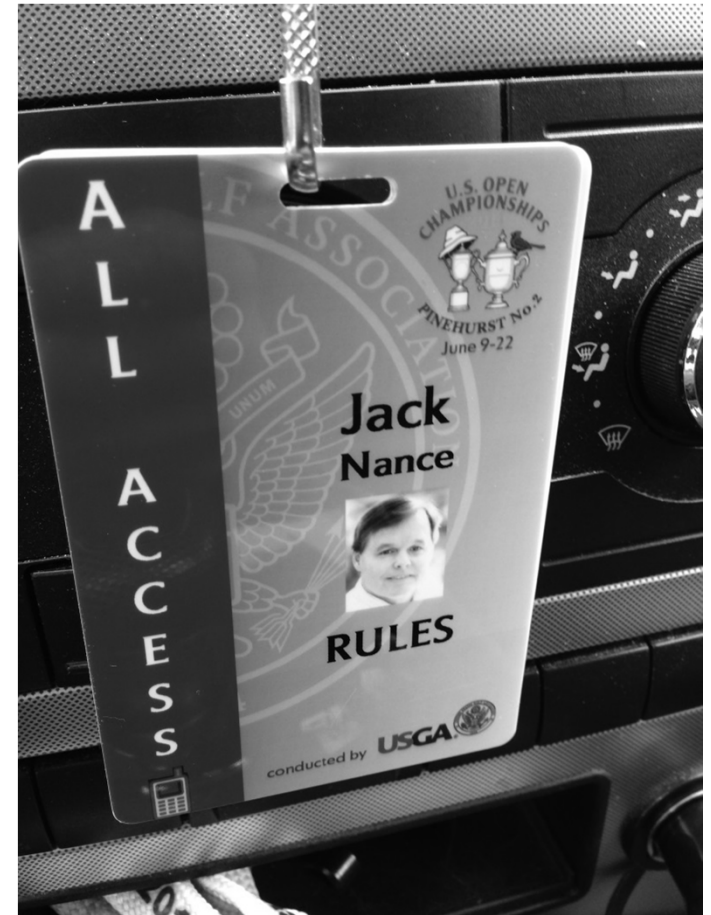


# Referee



**Generally speaking at CGA events, a referee is only assigned in certain match play events to accompany the players.**

**We do not assign referee's in stroke play events (like the USGA for U.S. Open)**





# What is the definition of a Rules Official?



A Rules official is one who:

- Serves on the Rules Committee at a competition
- Note the word Committee, not just one person
- We do not need any “Barney Fife’s”





# What is the definition of a Rules Official?



A GOOD Rules official is one who:

- Makes sure the competition is conducted under the Rules of Golf,
- Assists players around the golf course (pace of play, spotting),
- Is alert and prevents penalties when possible,
- Investigates ALL the facts in a situation before making a Ruling.
- Knows where and how to find a situation in the Rules book quickly, not necessarily how to quote the Rules book.







# What is the definition of a Rules Official?



A GOOD Rules official is one who:

- USES THE RADIO to report and confirm any Rulings before they are given.
- Practices good radio etiquette
- Mindful of language
- Mindful of radio locations (i.e. golf shop). Not everyone has an earpiece.
- Keep chatter to a minimum...a quiet radio day is a good day!



# What is the definition of a Rules Official?



A GOOD Rules official is one who:

- Checks their ego at the front entrance to a club but has confidence in their ability to officiate
- Brings a willingness to learn at each event as experience plays a key role in being a good rules official
- Spends the necessary time to learn and understand the Rules of Golf
- Brings a good demeanor to the golf course to best represent themselves and the CGA





# What is the definition of a Rules Official?



A GOOD Rules official is one who:

Can speak clearly to people in conveying information: both good and bad.





## What is the definition of a Rules Official?



**“Education and on-course experience are the keys to becoming a good rules official”**

**Quote from Clyde Luther,  
USGA rules official**





## What is the definition of a Rules Official?



- Accuracy is the key to officiating.
- Confer with fellow officials (you are a member of a Committee).
- Consult with CGA staff.
- Most inaccurate rulings can be prevented by **consulting other officials and using the radio.**



## Officiating



### **“Be Conspicuously Inconspicuous”**

- **This means be seen without being seen.**
- **Your role is not to be a spectator**
- **Position yourself near enough to players to help if needed but far enough away not to be noticed.**
- **Only move around in your cart while play is stopped or a hole is completed. (i.e. move when players move)**
- **Check all of your surroundings before moving your golf cart especially on tightly routed courses.**
- **Make sure to have your earpiece in to avoid players hearing chatter on the radio no matter how low the volume is set...noise travels!**



## Officiating



### Practice “Preventative Officiating”

Officials have the right and obligation to advise the players with respect to the Rules when it seems necessary for:

- ball teed outside the teeing ground
- order of play
- announcing and marking procedural requirements
- when cleaning is not permitted
- when a ball-marker has not been returned to its original position

However, it is not the Committee’s job to baby sit players (don’t micro manage players)



# Making a Ruling



Sample Ruling:

Q: “My ball moved. It’s a one-stroke penalty, right?”

How would you answer this question as a Rules official?

A: You need to find out more information from the player(s) before making a Ruling.

- Form of play?
- Where was the ball when it moved?
- Who was involved?
- Had you addressed the ball?
- Where were you when the ball moved?

**Carolinas Golf Association**





# Making a Ruling



***Quotes from Richard Tufts:***

***“Be firm and positive but take plenty of time.”***

***“A referee without pants is better equipped than a referee without a Rules book.”***

- **Consulting a Rules book is not a sign of weakness**
- **Even if you are certain of a Rule, it helps to read and show it to the player**
- **If a player questions a ruling, offer to call another official for a second opinion**



# Making a Ruling



***“Most often the first order of business should be the determination of the facts.”***

- **Get everyone involved to agree on the facts before announcing a ruling**
- **Be wary of rules requests containing few or no facts**
- **Say “tell me what happened,” then listen**



# Officiating Match Play



**Carolina's Golf Association**



# Match Play Overview



**Match play is very different from stroke play.**

- **A match consists of one *side* playing against another over a *stipulated round* unless otherwise decreed by the *Committee*.**
- **In match play the game is played by holes.**
- **Except as otherwise provided in the *Rules*, a hole is won by the *side* that *holes* its ball in the fewer *strokes*.**



# Match Play Overview



- The state of the match is expressed by the terms: so many “holes up” or “all square,” and so many “to play.”
- A side is “dormie” when it is as many holes up as there are holes remaining to be played.
- General penalty is Loss of Hole



# Observer

An “observer” is one who is appointed by the ***Committee*** to assist a referee to decide questions of fact and to report to him any breach of a ***Rule***.

An ***observer*** should not attend the ***flagstick***, stand at or mark the position of the ***hole***, or lift the ball or mark its position.

**Not used at many CGA events**



# Observer

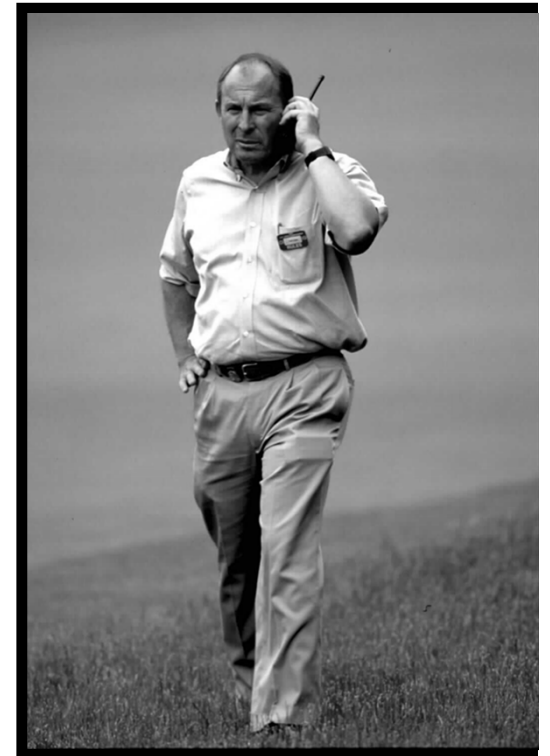
## Duties:

**An observer is the referee's deputy.**

**Usually best to work ahead of the match**

**Position in the area where balls are expected to come to rest**

**Help referee with determining order of play**





# Officiating Match Play: Referee

Referee's Objectives Before Match:

**First, introduce yourself to players and caddies**

## **Seasoned Veteran Players**

**Ask each player no more than:**

- 1. to identify the ball they will be using**
- 2. if they have counted their clubs**





# Officiating Match Play: Referee



Referee's Objectives Before Match:

## Less Experienced Players

**Ask players if they are familiar with match play rules.**

**If necessary and in addition to previous screen, review the duties of a referee to the players:**

- 1. determine questions of fact**
- 2. to assure that play is in accordance with the Rules**
- 3. to prevent breaches of the Rules (whenever possible)**
- 4. to be of assistance to the players**
- 5. maintain decorum & etiquette**
- 6. make sure concessions are clear**



# Officiating Match Play: Referee



## Rule 2-4 Concession of Match, Hole or Next Stroke

A player may concede a match at any time prior to the start or conclusion of that match.

A player may concede a hole at any time prior to the start or conclusion of that hole.

A player may concede his opponent's next stroke at any time, provided the *opponent's* ball is at rest.

The *opponent* is considered to have *holed* out with his next *stroke*, and the ball may be removed by either *side*.

A concession may not be declined or withdrawn.



# Officiating Match Play: Referee



Referee's Objectives During Match:

- Stay with group at all times (but give them space)
- Practice preventative officiating equally for both sides
- Be in a position to watch for:
  - improper dropping procedures
  - play of another ball without stating its purpose
  - playing out of turn
  - playing from outside the teeing ground
  - moved ball-markers that are not moved back
  - actions inside a hazard
  - concessions

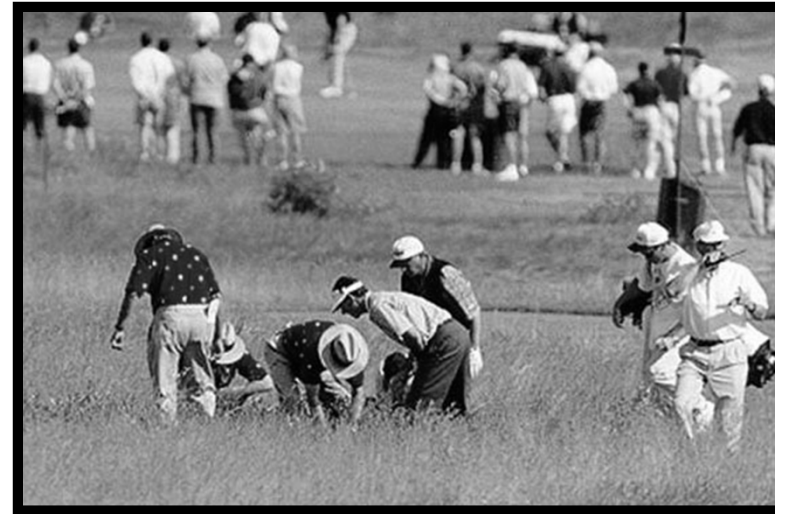


# Officiating Match Play: Referee



Referee's Objectives During Match:

- Do NOT go into bunkers unless assisting with a ball search
- Do NOT go onto putting greens unless assisting with a ruling





# Officiating Match Play: Referee



## Referee's Objectives During Match:

- ✓ Decide questions of fact
- ✓ Apply the Rules
- ✓ Ensure fair play
- ✓ Maintain decorum in the spirit of the game
- ✓ Stay sharp and prevent breaches of the Rules whenever possible
- ✓ Be diplomatic and respectful
  - “A brusque or officious handling of a situation can, by upsetting the player, magnify the effect of a penalty far beyond the extent of the penalty itself.”*
- ✓ Call for backup if needed (observer, CGA O.I.C.)
- ✓ Keep conversations to a minimum with players, caddies and spectators



# Officiating Match Play: Referee



Referee's Objectives During Match:

After each hole announce the individual hole scores and match standing.

Write down scores on score card for Internet posting purposes

Sample Match: Tiger Woods vs. Phil Mickelson

Tiger had the honor at the 1<sup>st</sup> hole so his score is always announced first no matter the hole outcome.

Announce Hole Number, Player A Score, Player B Score, Status of Match



# Officiating Match Play



Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	1 up																	
Woods	4																	
Mickelson	5																	

Announce: “Hole 1, Woods 4, Mickelson 5, Woods is 1 up”



# Officiating Match Play



Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	1 up	AS																
Woods	4	5																
Mickelson	5	4																
		AS																

Announce: “Hole 2, Woods 5, Mickelson 4, Match is All Square”





# Officiating Match Play



Winner of Match:

A match is won when one side leads by a number of holes greater than the number remaining to be played. (Rule 2-3)

If there is a tie, the Committee may extend the stipulated round by as many holes as are required for a match to be won.

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	1 up	AS		1 up					2 up		1 up		AS					
Woods	4	5	4	<b>2</b>	5	4	4	4	<b>2</b>	5	4	4	5	3	5	4	5	
Mickelson	5	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	x	5	<b>3</b>	4	<b>4</b>	3	<b>4</b>	4	<b>4</b>	
		AS											AS		1 up		2 up	

Mickelson is 2 holes up with 1 hole to play

Announce: "Hole 17, Woods 5, Mickelson 4, Mickelson Wins 2 & 1"



## On-Course Rules Official in Match Play



**REMINDER: A Rules Official who is not assigned to a match (i.e. not a referee) has no authority to intervene in a match other than in relation to the following rules situations:**

- 1. Rule 1-3. Agreement to Waive the Rules (i.e. agreeing to concede short putts, etc.)**
- 2. Rule 6-7. Undue delay (Pace of play)**
- 3. Rule 33-7. Disqualification Penalty; Committee Discretion (Player(s) guilty of serious breach of etiquette)**
- 4. If asked, answer questions on or apply the Rules of Golf.**

**See definition of *Referee*.**



# On-Course Rules Official in Match Play



## Quote from Richard Tufts:

*“In match play, interest in the outcome of any particular match is entirely restricted to those playing in it, and since the players involved are all present to protect their interests, there is no reason for a member of the Committee to take any cognizance of the Rules infractions which he may observe.”*

- Presence on the course is for the purpose of being of assistance to the players:
  - in the event of a claim (Rule 2-5; Rule 34-1a)
  - if there is a question regarding procedure
- Speak only when you are spoken to



## Claims in Match Play



### 34-1a. Claims and Penalties; Match Play

If a claim is lodged with the *Committee* under Rule 2-5, a decision should be given as soon as possible so that the state of the match may, if necessary, be adjusted. If a claim is not made in accordance with Rule 2-5, it must not be considered by the *Committee*.



# Officiating Stroke Play



**Carolinan Golf Association**



# Officiating Stroke Play

- Most common form of play for CGA events/USGA qualifiers.
- Rules officials are called “on-course officials” at these events.
- General penalty for breach of a Rule is two strokes.
- If an official is already assisting with a situation, do not intervene unless asked or called on radio.



# Officiating Stroke Play



On-Course Officials' responsibilities at stroke play events:

- **Monitor and “encourage” pace of play.**
- **Prevent penalties from occurring.**
- **Assist players with questions on the Rules of Golf.**
- **Assist players in searching for balls (i.e. timing of the 5 minute search period)**
- **Presence on the course as a representative of the Committee**



# Officiating Stroke Play



On-Course Officials' responsibilities at stroke play events:

- **Keep the official in charge informed of any rulings**
- **Keep radio broadcasts brief and to the point**
- **Represent the interests of the field**
- **Must act on any probable or known rules violations**
- **If you see a rules situation best to ask a player if he needs help**
  - If “Yes” then assist the player with the ruling until a or the ball is in play.
  - If “No” then leave the player and move on





# Officiating Stroke Play



**More Richard Tufts Quotes:**

***“Frequently in stroke play the official is not burdened with the necessity of reaching an immediate decision on the course.”***

***“By taking advantage of the right in stroke play to complete the play of a hole with two balls [Rule 3-3], the official is in a position to pass the burden of making a sticky decision on to the Committee in charge of the competition.”***

**A decision should be rendered as soon as possible  
(but not rushed)**



# Officiating Stroke Play



**Checking Scores at CGA and USGA Qualifying**

**Qualifiers are all about...Qualifying!**

**It is easy as an official to get caught-up in the drama of someone close to the “Cut line”**

**Players are sensitive and should be left alone**





# Officiating Stroke Play



Checking Scores at CGA and USGA Qualifying

Do's



Be available if a player ASKS about the Cut Line

Confirm with the CGA official-in-charge the current Cut Line before providing this information to anyone

Ask players how they stand if asked to do so by the CGA official-in-charge (OIC)



# Officiating Stroke Play



## Checking Scores at CGA and USGA Qualifying

Don'ts



**Voluntarily provide Cut Line information without being asked**

**Provide Cut Line information without confirming with the CGA OIC**

**“Hound” final groups (unless pace of play)**

# **CGA Caddie/Spectator Cart Policy**



## **Non-Junior Events**

**During the play of a hole, either the player or his caddie may ride in a golf cart but not both at the same time.**

**Spectators are not allowed to ride in a player's golf cart at any time.**

**Club owned spectator carts are not allowed except as provided in the CGA Tournament Manual (bona fide handicap persons).**

# **CGA Caddie/Spectator Cart Policy**



## **3 Criteria to Qualify for a Handicap Spectator Cart at CGA Events:**

- 1. Person must present a handicap card issued by government agency to CGA staff person in charge (ex. handicap parking sticker)**
- 2. Host club must have an extra golf cart available**
- 3. Person must pay host club the appropriate cart fee**

# **USGA Caddie/Spectator Cart Policy**



**Caddies may be allowed to use golf carts at some USGA Championship qualifiers to transport a player's equipment.**

**Caddies may have to share a golf cart.**

**Revised Policy: Spectators carts are not allowed at any USGA Championship qualifier unless approved by the CGA official-in-charge.**



# Rules Official Checklist

- ✓ **CGA Rules Uniform**
- ✓ **Radio with ear piece**
- ✓ **Air Horn**
- ✓ **Stopwatch**
- ✓ **Decisions book**
- ✓ **Rules of Golf booklet**
- ✓ **Daily Pairing Sheet**
- ✓ **Clipboard**
- ✓ **Name Badge**
- ✓ **Backpack**
- ✓ **Sunglasses**
- ✓ **Pace of Play Guidelines for the day**
- ✓ **Rainsuit/umbrella**
- ✓ **Pencils**
- ✓ **Hard Card and Local Rules Sheet**
- ✓ **Hole Location Sheet**
- ✓ **String/dental floss for O.B.**
- ✓ **Cart cover/heater (optional)**
- ✓ **Additional clothing for cold days or chilly mornings**
- ✓ **Sunscreen**