

MATCH PLAY—Rule 2

We are coming into the season of knockout competitions, individual and those involving club and County teams. I have recently heard of one or two myths surrounding Matchplay which I want to dispel.

Handicaps/Strokes given & received.

It is the player's/ players' responsibility to know at which hole they are either giving OR receiving strokes—see the note under Rule 6-2.

So if nothing is said by either player on the 1st tee, there is no penalty, Decision 6-2a/1 states that “**there is no penalty if players fail to determine one another's handicap before starting a match. If this results in one of them not receiving a handicap stroke at a hole at which she is entitled to receive one, the hole stands as played**” However, if a player is specifically asked whether she receives a stroke at that hole or how many strokes she has taken, she is obliged to answer correctly—See Rules 9-2 & 9-3 re Information as to strokes taken.

Concessions

Rule 2-4 states that a **match or a hole** may be conceded at **ANY TIME** prior to the start or conclusion of a hole. **Also, a player may concede her opponent's next stroke at any time provided the opponent's ball is at rest.**

A Concession may NOT be declined or withdrawn— so make sure you have calculated correctly before conceding a hole or the match because once you utter those words, you cannot withdraw that concession.

It is important that each player understands whether or not their stroke (usually a putt) has been conceded before they pick up the ball. Should **a player pick up her ball, wrongly believing** her opponent had conceded her next stroke because of her opponents actions or misheard words, **she may replace her ball without penalty. If she picked it up assuming it would be conceded but in fact it wasn't, she incurs a penalty of one stroke and the ball must be replaced.** (R 20-1)

Penalties

The general penalty in Matchplay is Loss of Hole, however there are one or two situations where that is no longer the case.

Should a player hit her own bag, or that of her partner in a foursomes match, it is no longer Loss of Hole, but instead a **ONE shot penalty** and the ball must be played as it lies, unless it ends up anywhere other than on the ground. See R 19-2

If a ball is **accidentally** stopped by an opponent, her caddie or equipment, there is **no penalty**, the player may cancel the stroke and replay the shot. (R 19-3)

If, other than during a search, **a players ball is moved by her opponent**, her caddie or equipment, **the opponent incurs a penalty of one shot.**

If a player plays a **wrong ball out of a bunker, it is now Loss of hole**

If a player plays out of turn, there is **no penalty** other than the shot may be recalled by her opponent if he/she so wishes, making the player replay it in the correct order.

If a match is abandoned because of bad weather or lack of light, **it resumes at the point where it was abandoned**, it is NOT replayed.

It is the players responsibility to know the rules of golf, any dispute must be decided before they play the next hole. A claim can only be made later should previously unknown evidence come to light. No claim can be made after the result of the match has been announced.

