

TeeTime

Stay in order to avoid penalty

HAL LENOBEL
Contributing Columnist
golf@manateerivernews.com

For many of us, our first lesson on the Rules of Golf occurred before our first stroke. I can still remember walking up to the first tee only to be told, "Hold it right there, you don't have the honor."



Here's the way Rule 10 reads: *The player to play first is said to have the "honor." The honor on the first tee is determined by a draw and the honor should be determined by lot.*

The side that wins a hole in match play or has the lower score in stroke play shall take the honor at the next teeing ground. If a hole has been halved or stroke play competitors have the same score, they should play from the tee in the same order as on the previous teeing ground.

When the balls are "in play," the ball farthest from the hole shall be played first. If the balls are equidistant from the hole, the order of play shall be determined by lot.

Balls belonging to the same side may be played in the order the side considers best (Rule 30-3c).

As basic as this Rule seems in writing, it often causes problems, particularly with different formats and types of events. Here are some common questions:

Q. *If Player A is on the green 40 feet from the hole and Player B is in a bunker but only 30 feet from the hole, who has the honor?*

A. Player A. It makes no difference whether a ball is on the green or not, the player whose ball is farthest from the hole has the honor.

Q. *Player A and B are both on the green and their balls appear to be the exact same distance from the hole. How do you determine the honor?*

A. It really doesn't happen often, but during the 2000 U.S. Amateur at Baltusrol, two players both hit balls within 18 to 20 feet of the hole. The referee at the time could not determine the honor, so he pulled out a spool

of string to measure the distances. In my 20 years as a golf official, I always carried a spool of string. It turned out they were actually equidistant. Finally, a coin toss was used to determine the honor. This may seem like an odd procedure, but the official had proceeded "by the book."

Q. *Who plays first when both players take relief from "ground under repair" or the same water hazard?*

A. The honor would go to the player whose ball was farthest from the hole before it was lifted from the GUR or retrieved from the water hazard. If two balls are lost in the same water hazard, the honor would be determined by "lot," such as the flip of a coin.

Q. *How do you determine the honor in a handicap event?*

A. In match play, the winner of the hole has the honor so the net score would be used to determine the honor. In stroke play, when the handicap is deducted at the end of the round and not on individual holes, the gross score would be used to determine the honor on the next tee.

Q. *Can a player choose to putt out rather than mark and lift his ball?*

A. Yes and no. In stroke play, it can speed up play so the practice is not discouraged. In match play, there is no such option.

Q. *What happens if a player plays out of turn?*

A. In stroke play, there is no penalty unless the committee in charge determines that the competitors have agreed to play out of order to give one of them an advantage. In match play, there is no penalty either, but the opponent may require the player to cancel the stroke and play a ball in correct order.

You can usually avoid needless penalties by being aware of who's away and improve your pace of play by being ready to play when you have the honor.

...

The recent Ryder Cup matches were as exciting as golf can get. I would like to give my report card on how I thought each player played. Following is my opinion, what's yours?

Tee Time, page 10

StayingAlive

Where's the money for health care?

MATTHEW EDLUND M.D.
Contributing Columnist
health@manateerivernews.com

A trillion dollars here, a trillion there. Soon you're talking about real money. Bailing out mortgages and their derivatives should cost close to a trillion bucks, but nationalizing Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae effectively adds another \$5 trillion to the federal deficit, which for this year totals a merciful \$410 billion. The trade deficit is \$800 billion a year, while the Iraq war, "paid for" with tax cuts, should eventually cost \$3 trillion.



Who is going to pay for health care? The truth is the health care system is already a train whose wheels are flying off, and major changes will be needed soon to avoid yet another national financial meltdown.

De facto rationing

The American "model" of health care consists of approximately 3,000 insurance schemes mostly paid by employer and federal monies. Small employers, like myself, are progressively disadvantaged by this system, as insurance, when you can get it, is far more expensive than for large companies. At this moment the average American family is paying more than \$1,000 a month for very partial coverage.

Even the largest employers now ask their employees pay for more of their care, but many don't have the cash. Estimates are at least 20 percent of the population can't pay the medical bills they have right now. People start rationing themselves, not getting high blood pressure pills or going to doctors until they fear for their lives. Losing your eyes or legs versus going bankrupt is a daily choice for lots of people, and when they do seek care, the hospital costs often turn catastrophic for them and the community.

Insurers have always rationed care but have begun to use new, risky stratagems. In my office, I now receive a daily blizzard of pharmacy faxes. A written prescription is no longer acceptable to many pharmacy benefit companies. Though most prescriptions I write are generics, the faxes I'm asked to sign often change the medication as well as the dose. My option

is to sign or to spend hours on the phone with "customer representatives" who may, in the end, relent by sending another fax, allowing me to repeat in written form the same discussion. When I do achieve verbal agreements, it is often later denied.

A new tack is to "allow" only certain numbers of pills per month. The problem with this approach is that many medications only work above a certain threshold. Too little medication is often equivalent to nothing at all. If I give a narcotic half the medication they formerly received and they sleep 19 hours a day, that's fine with the insurance company. If antidepressant doses are halved and people are then hospitalized, often that part of the bill is "carved out" to some other company.

Alternatives to Russian roulette

People know inherently that high oil prices are a huge tax on themselves and our nation, but many don't seem to realize that health care costs also act as a tax. If the American economy is to compete effectively, we need to lower health care costs.

Cutting reimbursements won't solve the problem. Before hospitals and doctors go out of business, many will increasingly demand money up front. Cut Medicare 10 percent each year for five years, as Congress has proposed, and fairly soon the majority of physicians won't take it.

If we really want to save money, emphasizing health over health care makes the most sense. Health is more a matter of lifestyle than health care. Changing school food policies will save you much more down the road than rejiggering Medicaid.

Yet something must be done soon to cut health care waste. The first place to check is administrative costs. Private health insurance spends about 30 percent of health care dollars to cherry pick clients and drive people and doctors insane with constantly changing, inconsistent rules. Most developed countries spend perhaps 5 percent to 7 percent of their money administering health care, Medicare much less.

We're nationalizing mortgages. We're nationalizing banks and insurance companies. The feds already pay a huge portion of health care dollars. Isn't it time to do what most of the developed world did 60 or more years ago, and consider nationalizing large parts of health care?

Staying Alive, page 10

RIVER WILDERNESS COUNTRY CLUB

Gated, spacious 2,167 s.f.
3/2/2 home, large patio,
quiet cul-de-sac, woodsy
setting, lawn service,
community pool,
\$1,400/month.

(941) 776-0767

1	3	8	6	4	2	7	5	9
5	9	6	7	3	8	2	1	4
4	7	2	5	9	1	8	6	3
9	5	7	3	2	4	6	8	1
6	1	3	9	8	7	5	4	2
8	2	4	1	6	5	3	9	7
7	6	1	4	5	3	9	2	8
2	4	5	8	7	9	1	3	6
3	8	9	2	1	6	4	7	5

SLIT	SALEP	TAPIR	MEET					
HARE	ALAMO	EMILE	ELMO					
AVON	VICES	MOTEL	NOIL					
MANDRAKE	IMPLY	ATTIRE						
	RUNE	STATE	STOA					
SPLINT	SKIDS	PAINLESS						
TOILS	CLIVE	HALVE	TAP					
RIGS	SHORE	CASTE	PALE					
ASH	SLEPT	WARTS	CAPON					
PETUNIAS	PARTY	POTENT						
	TACT	PANTS	TAME					
DESIRE	DANTE	WATERING						
EDILE	VANES	LOBES	SIR					
MITE	CAVIL	BARON	GLEE					
OCA	SALIC	LENTO	TRACE					
STRIPPED	CATCH	SHAMED						
	BAIT	WASTE	CHAN					
DETENT	LAPSE	GRANDEUR						
OSAR	ADAGE	RARER	EBRO					
ETUI	LIVER	ELITE	EONS					
SETA	SEERS	DINES	SESS					