

General Rules Information for Caddies

Clubs (Rule 4.1b(1)) - Players must not start a round with more than 14 clubs or have more than 14 clubs during a round.

Distance Measuring Devices (Rule 4.3a(1)) - If a player or his or her caddie uses a prohibited function on a distance-measuring device during a round (such as measuring elevation changes), the player is in breach of Rule 4.3 and gets the general penalty. Please know that the penalty for any second breach of Rule 4.3 (not limited to another DMD penalty) is disqualification.

Pace of Play (Rule 5.6) - A round of golf is meant to be played at a prompt pace. Each player and caddie should recognize that his or her pace of play is likely to affect how long it will take other players to play their round, including both those in the player's own group and those in following groups.

Order of Play (Rule 6.4) - In match play, it is imperative that the player whose ball is farthest from the hole plays first. Do not allow your player to play if it is not their turn to play, unless there was an agreement to play out of turn for that stroke. In stroke play, there is no penalty for playing out of turn.

Advice and Other Help (Rule 10.2) - The only person you may give advice to is your player or, in Four-Ball, your player's partner. Do not give advice to or seek advice from anyone else.

In addition, a caddie must not deliberately stand behind the player once he or she starts to take a stance for the stroke - see Rule 10.2b(4) and Clarifications 1, 2 and 3 under Rule 10.2b(4) in the Clarifications of the 2019 Rules of Golf.

Caddies (Rule 10.3a(1)) - Players allowed only one caddie at a time.

Caddies (Rule 10.3b(3)) - Actions Not Allowed. A caddie is not allowed to take these actions for the player.

- Concede the next stroke, a hole or the match to the opponent or agree with the opponent on the match score (Rule 3.2).
- Replace a ball, unless the caddie had lifted or moved the ball (Rule 14.2b).
- Drop or place a ball in a relief area (Rule 14.3).
- Decide to take relief under a Rule (such as treating a ball as unplayable under Rule 19 or taking relief from an abnormal course condition or penalty area under Rule 16.1 or 17); the caddie may advise the player to do so, but the player must decide.

Deliberately Moving Objects or Altering Conditions to Affect Ball in Motion (11.3) - When a ball is in motion, there are limited things that may be moved to affect the ball in motion. Deliberately altering physical conditions (by taking actions listed in Rule 8.1a), lifting or moving a loose impediment or movable obstruction to affect a ball in motion is not allowed. But, a removed flagstick, ball at rest on the putting green, or any player equipment (other than a ball at rest anywhere except the putting green or a ball-marker anywhere on the course) may be moved out of a ball's way.

Bunkers (Rule 12.2b) - Sand in the bunker must not be deliberately touched before a player's stroke from the bunker. There are a number of prohibitions when a player's ball lies in a bunker. It is best not to rake or smooth sand or soil in any bunker until the player has at least made a stroke at the ball from within that bunker as there may be a penalty depending where and why the sand was raked. It is recommended caddies wait until the ball has come to rest outside the bunker before raking.

Putting Green (Rule 13.1) - A ball is on the putting green when any part of the ball touches the putting green or lies on or in anything inside the edge of the putting green. While a ball is on the putting green, it may be lifted and cleaned. Caddies may lift their player's ball from the putting green and replace it for the player but must not replace the ball if the player lifted it from the putting green.

A caddie may touch the putting green with a hand, foot or anything he or she is holding, but must not improve the conditions affecting the stroke in breach of Rules 8.1a beyond what is allowed in repairing



damage on the putting green (Rule 13.1c(2)). A caddie must not set an object down anywhere on or off the putting green to show the line of play. This is not allowed even if that object is removed before the stroke is made.

Flagstick (Rule 13.2) – It is the player’s choice for each stroke to have the flagstick left in the hole unattended, attended, removed or held up above the hole regardless of where the golf ball lies on the course. When a ball is in motion, the flagstick must remain in the “state” it was in (removed, attended or unattended in the hole) when the stroke was made as there may be a penalty for changing its “state” to affect where the ball may go. However, an attended, removed or held up flagstick may be moved out of a ball’s path (such as moving a flagstick lying on the ground).

Lifting the Ball (Rule 14.1) – The only time you may lift your player’s ball without permission is on the putting green. Do not lift another player’s ball or ball-marker without that player’s authority, which must be given for that specific instance.

If your player lifts their ball from the putting green, only your player or his or her partner may replace the ball for the purpose of putting it back in play.

Ball Assisting or Helping with Play (Rule 15.3) – If your player lifts their ball because it either interferes with or helps another player, the ball must not be cleaned, unless it was lifted from the putting green.

When Ball is Lost or Out of Bounds (Rule 18.2a(1)) – You may assist any player in searching for their ball. A ball is lost if not found in three minutes after the player, his or her partner or either of their caddies begins to search for it.

Provisional Ball (Rule 18.3) – If your player is going to play a provisional ball, be sure they announce their intention to do so prior to the stroke. They must use the word “provisional” in their announcement or otherwise make it clear they are playing a provisional ball. For example, “I’ll hit another one just in case” is acceptable but “I’ll hit another one” is not.

Unplayable Ball (Rule 19) – As a caddie, you may not treat your player’s ball as unplayable. You may suggest to your player that she do so, but even in an obvious case, only the player may treat their ball as unplayable.

Transportation - Players and caddies must walk at all times during a round unless otherwise authorized by the Committee. If the Committee authorizes transportation for a player (such as when a player is returning to the tee to take stroke-and-distance relief), the player and caddie should only accept transportation from a member of the Rules Committee. Players and caddies must not accept transportation during a round from any other individuals.

Officiating – Referees are stationed around the golf course to decide questions of fact and act on any breach reported to them. The referee will also try to prevent a player/caddie from breaching a Rule, if possible.

Caddie Tips

1. Caddies should arrange a time and place to meet their player each day.
2. Caddies should ascertain the brand, model, number and identification marking of their player's ball at the start of each round and any time the player changes golf balls.
3. Caddies should provide thoughtful and knowledgeable advice when appropriate or asked by the player.
4. Ensure your and/or your player's Distance Measuring Device is only measuring distance and all other functions (i.e., elevation changes and/or wind speed) are turned off.
5. Stand quietly out of the player's intended line of play when addressing the ball to make a stroke (do not stand in front or behind player).
6. Caddies must wear a USGA caddie bib with their player's bib strip (name) during the Championship.
7. Caddies should not touch a player's ball unless instructed by the player.
8. Caddies should carry a damp towel to clean clubs and balls.
9. Caddies should carry extra pencils, tees and ball markers.
10. Caddies may wear walking shorts or pants and should wear shoes with smooth rubber soles (i.e. no spikes). A collared shirt is required as well as the provided bib. Cut-offs, short shorts, gym shorts, denim and t-shirts are not permitted.
11. Caddies should walk quickly (with or in front of the player) to help meet the set Pace of Play for the Championship.
12. Caddies should place their player's bag off the putting green in the area nearest to the next teeing ground to encourage prompt play.