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The 2019 Rules of Golf bloop reel!

It's hard to believe that the 2019 NEPGA golf season has come to a close – it's been filled with exciting moments, and an adjustment period for us all, as we have been tasked with learning an entirely new set of Rules, and putting them into practice. Now that we've had a full season to get used to the new Rulebook, dropping from knee-height has stopped feeling so goofy, and we don't feel so guilty when we take our practice swings in penalty areas. I'm happy to report that our NEPGA Professionals have done an admirable job learning and following the new Rules of Golf, and that we have made it through the first season without any Rules controversies or difficulty in our Section tournaments.

Unfortunately, the same can't be said on the PGA and LPGA Tours, which have both seen their share of controversies surrounding players who are having some difficulty adjusting to the new Rules. These controversies started right off the bat in the spring when players began to take penalties for their caddies standing on an extension of their lines of play while the play-

#RulesToTheMax

ers began to take their stance (this was commonplace enough that it prompted the USGA to soften up the Rule a little), and the LPGA Tour became engulfed in an uproar about backstopping on the putting green. These difficulties didn't end in the spring though, and the learning curve has proven to be relatively steep even throughout the last couple of months.

Probably the strangest example involves Jesper Parnevik, who was recently penalized two strokes because he didn't take a mulligan. Yes, you read that right. During the SAS Championship on the Champions Tour, Parnevik lipped out a short bogey putt, which then struck his foot before coming to rest. Then he tapped his ball in, assuming he'd made a double bogey. Unfortunately for him, that's not the case. According to Rule 11.1, "When Ball Played from Putting Green

Accidentally Hits Any Person... on Putting Green: the stroke does not count and the original ball or another ball must be replaced on its original spot." In other words, when your ball accidentally hits any person (including yourself) in this scenario, it's a mandatory mulligan. Since Jesper didn't know this, he unwittingly played his mulligan from the wrong place (since he didn't replace the ball). So his first

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putt for bogey didn't count, but his second one did (plus two penalty strokes for playing from the wrong place). Parnevik made a triple bogey on the hole.

The most extreme lapse of Rules knowledge of the year has to be Lee Ann Walker's disastrous appearance at the Senior LPGA



Championship. While the 'caddie alignment rule' had been the subject of some controversy earlier in the season, apparently Walker hadn't been watching the news, which turned out to be very costly. Rule 10.3b(3) informs us that "A caddie is not allowed to... deliberately stand on or close to an extension of the line of play behind the player's ball when the player begins taking a stance for the stroke and until the stroke is made." The USGA did soften the rule a bit, allowing the player to back out of their stance and require their caddie to move before making the stroke, but this was all news to Lee Ann Walker. Walker never took advantage of this loophole, and did not become aware that she was in breach of the Rule at all until part way through the second round. When all was said and done, Walker was required to count the number of times that the Rule was breached, and apply a two stroke penalty for each occasion. At the end of the day, this added up to a whopping 58 penalty strokes! If there's a bright side to this story, it's this: 58 penalty strokes is a LOT of penalty strokes, but Walker would have taken even more penalties under the old Rules, for failing to include those penalty strokes on her round one scorecard. Under the new Rules, there is no additional penalty for failing to include penalty strokes on her scorecard, as long as she's unaware that a Rule was breached. So she has that going for her, which is nice.



Junior Golf Corner

On November 10, the NEPGA Junior Tour conducted its Fall Awards & College Seminar at Winchester Country Club. This was an educational event for all NEPGA Junior Tour Members (and their families) and provided an opportunity to celebrate our Players of the Year. Congratulations to the following NEPGA Juniors on their accomplishments:

**GIRLS 13 & UNDER
PLAYER OF THE YEAR:**
Camille DeStafano

**BOYS 11 & UNDER PLAYER
OF THE YEAR:**
Cameron Poirier

**BOYS 12-13 PLAYER
OF THE YEAR:**
Owen Hamilton

**BOYS 14-15 PLAYER
OF THE YEAR:**
Ben Madden

**GIRLS 14-18 PLAYER
OF THE YEAR:**
Isabel Brozena

**BOYS 16-18 PLAYER OF
THE YEAR:**
Ethan Doyle

**BOYS ELITE TOUR PLAYER
OF THE YEAR:**
Jacob Berkio

**BILL FLYNN, PGA
OVERCOMING ADVERSITY
AWARD WINNER**
Nate Ingram

We are grateful of Jim Salinetti, PGA and Winchester CC for hosting the event. Also, thank you to the college coaches and guest speakers for their continued support of this event:

ALEX KIRK, PGA
Head Coach, Women's Golf Dartmouth College
(Ivy League, Division I)

MATT ARVANITIS, PGA
Head Coach, Men's & Women's Golf Southern New Hampshire University
(Division II)

FRANK DRISCOLL
Head Coach, Men's Golf St. Anselm College
(Division II)

TOM SMITH, PGA
Head Coach, Men's Golf Endicott College
(Division III)

RICK DOWLING
Customer Success Leader Junior Golf Hub

KENNY TUTTLE
Collegiate Player Endicott College