

Relaxed 'Rules' of Golf

When there's nothing on the line but fun, recreational golf should be an enjoyable experience. Trying to remember and decipher the official rules can get in the way of a good time. When it's a match among friends, relaxed rules can make the game easier, faster and more fun. These simply are common sense practices for avid amateurs, and it's how the majority of the game is being played anyway.

Here are the seven rules:

- 1. MAXIMUM SCORE:** Double par (i.e. 6 on par 3s, 8 on par 4s....)
- 2. PENALTIES:** All are one stroke, including out of bounds, water and lateral hazards, lost ball and unplayable lie. Drop a ball near where the original was lost and play on.
- 3. SEARCH TIME:** 2 minutes to look for your ball. If lost, proceed under Rule 2.
- 4. UNFORTUNATE LIES:** With your playing partners' consent, balls may be dropped out of divots or footprints, away from tree roots and any other dangerous lies.
- 5. CONCEDED PUTTS:** Putts may be conceded with your playing partners' consent.
- 6. EQUIPMENT:** No restrictions, including number of clubs.
- 7. COMMON SENSE:** When in doubt, use common sense and fairness.

However, the fact remains that anyone posting scores for handicap purposes **must play in accordance with the most current Rules of Golf, in order to maintain a level playing field and the integrity of the handicap system.** A number of the relaxed rules are obviously at odds with the actual rules of golf. As the handicap rules require posting of all scores for all rounds played, it would not be possible to play selected rounds observing the full rules and other rounds following the relaxed, or other, rules format. So long as everyone understands the distinction, there is no reason why non-competitive players should not be encouraged to adopt a simpler, less formidable rules format.

If you compete, or would like to compete, in competitive golf events, including those offered at the Club and those offered elsewhere, please become familiar with the Rules of Golf and the proper use of the handicap system.

If you are strictly a recreational golfer, we encourage you to have a fun, friendly, great round of social golf and use an approach that works for you.