



TOMGC Rules and Greens

February 2020



If you have noticed the new signs on our bunker rakes, you will know that it advises you to leave the rakes in the bunker. I know why the course does this, and it is because they are tired of replacing rakes because the mower has run over one that was properly placed outside the bunker. Have you ever seen a rake left in the bunker at a Pro Event? Never! Here is why they don't do that, and why I would advise against it at Twin Oaks. The bunker rake is considered a moveable obstruction. (Refer to Rule 15.2a)

When your ball is resting against or on a moveable obstruction, you are allowed to move the obstruction. If the ball moves, it must be replaced as near as possible to that point where it was before the obstruction was moved. So, if there is a rake left in the bunker, with the handle sticking out, a ball which comes to rest against that rake has to be replaced at the point where it was before that rake was moved. Generally, that rake is on the downhill side of the bunker, giving you a nasty lie, once you can finally get the ball to stay where it was before you moved the rake! My recommendation, which is still problematic, is to place the rake in the bunker on the flat bottom area. Yes, the rake could still stop a ball that might otherwise roll out of the bunker, but the alternative is, in my opinion, much worse. By the way, if your ball is in the bunker, and you make some foot prints when walking over to get the rake, it is ok to rake these prints, as long as you are not doing anything which would improve your current lie. This procedure will save rakes, make the rakes easy to get to, and prevent a potential horrid lie on the side-hill of the bunker. Let a word to the wise be sufficient, eh?



A little care of our course could prevent something like this from occurring, eh? Our carts are fitted with sand containers. Please prepare in advance for a situation like this. Either take a container of sand with you when you are approaching your shot while away from the cart. Mike Martend is a good one to watch for this. Or, after you've made your shot, simply grab the sand container from the cart and fill your divot. If you've got time, and there are more divots in your area, fill a couple of those as well. I agree with Jack Nicolaus, that even a sanded divot should be considered ground under repair. I did, by the way, make par from this lie? Good day.