



TOMGC Rules and Greens

June 2020

When the Rules of Golf, and the Club's position collide: Have you ever had a time, a day, or a week, where it seemed that everything you did was wrong? Well, it seems to be a common occurrence for me.

In our 2-man match play event held on June 10th, I sent out the pairing sheets thinking that I had everyone who had signed up included, only to get a call at around 7am Wednesday morning from Paul McGurgan wondering why he had not received his pairing and tee time. Well, it is because I had somehow overlooked Paul when I received the note that he was going to play. Fortunately, we had room in the first group for Paul, who scampered to the course to play, after being advised that I would provide him with a blind draw opponent. So far so good, right? NOT!

The score cards were returned, and after some consternation, I finally got the event scored, using a blind draw opponent for Paul. As it turned out, Paul had won his match against his blind draw opponent, according to the Golf Genius accounting. So, the results were sent out to the scoring team for review before the results were posted. Again, it seemed that I was in error. Paul's scorecard included two holes in which Paul had, in his mind, conceded the hole to his opponent, so Paul picked up his ball and recorded a 7x on these holes. Now here comes the rub. As it turns out, Paul had actually won one of these holes and tied his opponent on the other. The blind draw opponent, by the way, had not picked up on any holes. The tournament chairman and myself discussed the situation, and concluded that it was not fair for Paul to win a hole on which he had picked up, and was for that reason disqualified. Was this decision right, and moreover, did it align with the Rules of Golf for match play.

Rule 3.2 discusses some uniqueness's of match play. In specific, and relative to the situation above, Rule 3.2b discusses "Concessions".

- Conceding a Hole. This is allowed any time before the hole is completed. (see Rule 6.5), including before the players start the hole. (Rule 6.5 talks about the different ways a hole is considered to be complete.)

The dilemma, it seems, revolves around the lack of an opponent to which the concession would be made? This will be a new one for the Rules Committee, as we've never had this situation arise with play against a "blind draw" opponent? Stay tuned. Good day, and good golf.