



## TOMGC Rules and Greens September 2018

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**From your scoring committee:** Please remember to turn in a score card that is neat and legible! The scoring committee is not responsible for deciphering poor penmanship. We will do everything in our power to post the proper score, but if we can not read what you've put on the card, you will get our best guess at what the number might be! Additionally, after a card has been signed and handed in to the scorer, it is too late to make corrections. So, don't come in the following week complaining that you had a birdie and should have won a skin. Your scoring committee will check the card that was turned in, and if the error is ours, we will make correction. If, however, the card was scored incorrectly, too bad. It is the player's responsibility to check the card turned in to be sure it is correct! And with that, I would like to give a big shout out to **Jerry Smith** for all he does in the way of scoring. If, by the way, you are one who likes to second guess the scoring, we are always looking for more volunteers to learn the system and help with the scoring duties. This club is a volunteer organization, and we can always use more volunteers, eh?

After a round last month, the good-looking Jay Hovis, and the equally good-natured Toby Dunn stopped me in the parking lot with a good question. The question had to do with the ever-confusing issue of where to take relief when your ball ends up in a water hazard. You should review rule 26 regarding relief from a water hazard, including the lateral water hazard. You should note that when taking relief from a lateral (red staked) hazard, you are given 5 options. When taking relief from a water hazard (yellow stakes), you are only given 3 options. The question posed by Jay and Toby was with regards to a ball that was hit to the green on number 9 which then rolled back into the hazard. Unlike a lateral hazard, a ball that crosses the margin of a water hazard and rolls back into the hazard, is deemed to have never crossed the hazard. As such, the drop (relief) must be taken from the tee side of the hazard. As I said, there are only three options with regards to relief from a yellow staked water hazard; they are:

- With a penalty of one stroke, play the ball again from as close to the spot from which the previous shot was played.
- With no penalty, play the ball from the hazard, being sure to follow proper protocol when doing so, or
- With a penalty of one stroke, play a ball from the tee side of the hazard, on a line with the flagstick, and the spot where the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard, remembering that the spot where the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard on the green-side of the hazard may be different from the spot where the ball crossed the margin of the hazard on the tee side of the hazard. You can go as far back on that line as you would prefer.

Like a handicap, the rules of golf are meant to keep us all playing on a more or less level playing field. Take time to learn some of the basic rules, and be aware, that beginning in January of 2019, we should expect some significant changes to the rules that we are all to abide by.

Thank you for your attention, and thank you for your membership and participation in the club events!