

HANDICAP CHAIRMAN REPORT

In the past, new golfers have the tendency to acquire their Rules of Golf knowledge from senior or veteran golfers rather than from other credible sources. They were lucky when encountered the right person. However, if given the wrong advice, they carry on with the wrong rulings for the rest of their golfing career.

During my daily game and competitions I used to gaze irretrievably at groups before and after me repeatedly dropping and marking their balls in the wrong manners. The most common and frequent errors that I could discern is when players proceeded under Rule 26-1b (Water Hazards) where they dropped their balls at the wrong places without rectifying their mistakes and completed their rounds.

I also found myself fell into this category of new golfers in those days when I used to ask Mr X, Mr Y and so on for their rulings, some of which were utterly wrong and I carried on for years till one day rectified by another senior who knew the rulings better than the previous person. Although we were provided the Rule Book, it was uneasy for a layman to fully comprehend the rules in details without assistance and guidance from a rule official.

Players are also advised not to play team partnership in their group during competition as when engage in such format of play, Rule 8-1a,b (give advice and ask for advice) and Rule10-2c (order of play ,play out of turn) will be inevitably breached, when failing to add in the incurred penalties may result to disqualification. Unless they refrain themselves from violating the related rules .In competition they are not only competing among themselves but also against the rest of the field .The two related rules can create plenty of advantages for the partners over the rest of the competitors.

Our Club's By-Law pertaining to the procedures to access new handicap was enacted and became effective 1st January 2011. Each batch of new golfers were convened at the club's meeting room for a compulsory Rules Class conducted by the club's Rule Chairman or his authorized representative. New golfers were being taught and briefed from Etiquette to Rule 1-28. Videos were being exhibited to guide and demonstrate dropping, marking, and other aspects of golf rules. On course rules and procedures were also being taught. New handicappers walking out on course seem to have better confidence than those days when we were.

Our Club is the second in Sarawak to implement such new handicap assessment procedures and hopefully all golfers new and old enhance their Rules knowledge to make their game well-disciplined, be rule-abiding, impartial and enjoyable.

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IVAN PUI
HANDICAP CHAIRMAN