

FAIRWAY NEWS



AUGUST
2021



The Rules of Golf A Fairway News deep investigation

In this issue all you need to know about the rules of golf including answers to the big questions:

- where did they come from?
- who are the shadowy organisations that control them?

Plus:

- what they mean for you
- how you can find out more.

With links to tips from experts to help you navigate the sometimes tricky world of:

[The Rules of Golf](#)

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Why have rules? Golf is meant to be fun – right?

Golf is fun - especially when we get to play it!

Golf is also fun when you play in a competition although some of the fun wears a bit thin when you lose your third ball for the day or take four putts from 3m!

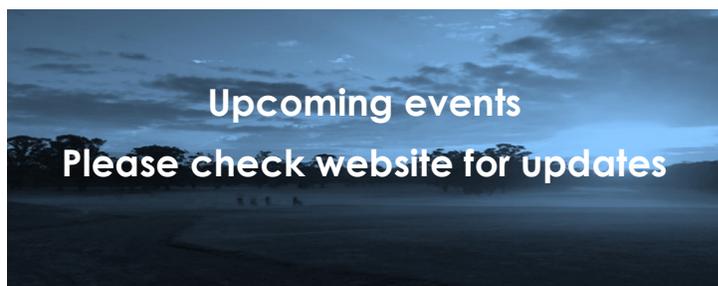
Part of the purpose of Clubs like Sandringham is to conduct competitions for our members and all competitions have rules. If you think the Rules of Golf are unnecessarily complex think about the unbounded nature of golf and the variety of situations that players can be in and compare that to other sports that play within confined boundaries and/or have third parties to adjudicate on the rules.

In golf the onus is on the player to stick to the rules. As the R & A says the principles on which the rules are based are:

“Play the course as you find it and play the ball as it lies. Play by the Rules and in the spirit of the game”

Upcoming events

Please check website for updates



Recent Results

- The first round after Lockdown 4 on 19 June was won by Jay Ramsden on a countback from Peter McLeod after both finished on 38pts. Peter Karvelis (A Grade) and Michael Lenkic (C Grade) were only a point behind whilst Anna Puchalski took out the Women's section with 35pts
- The 4BBB Par round on 26 June saw some good scoring with Mark Brooks and Rob Reid's +10 getting them over the line from Gary Gibbs and Don Tasevski (+9). James Honner's 38pts won the concurrent Stableford event on a countback from Bill McLaughlin and Ross Gordon.
- Former Club Secretary Phil Ramsden was June's VGL Medal (and C Grade) winner with net 61 on 3 July. Peter Karvelis continued his good run to take out A Grade with a net 65 and Vincent Berne won B Grade with a net 64.
- In fact Phil's score was not the lowest of the day with Jenni Clarke shooting a sublime net 59. Due to a historical (and probably out-dated) quirk women members are not eligible to win VGL Medals.
- Scoring was hot on 10 July with Liz Tanzimat taking the overall prize on a countback from Richard Grace after both shot an excellent 44pts. Richard took out the C Grade prize. Five other players scored 40pts or better including James Lefebvre (42pts A Grade winner), Jeff Coghill and James Fitzgerald (41pts – Jeff winning B Grade on a countback), Archie Hendry and Michael Lenkic both shot 40pts.
- The resumption after Lockdown 5 saw Andy Bakker win the overall with 41pts. Martin Dusek's 37pts won C Grade and also took out the Les Stainsby Over 60s trophy. Martin's score was matched by Colin Hunter (B Grade). David Mallen's 35pts was enough to win A Grade. Anne Forwood took out the Women's section on a countback from Cathy Dixon (both 35pts).
- The best mid week score in this period was Rowena Mytton's 41pts in early July.

THE PRESIDENT'S BLOG



Another two months advanced and here we are locked down again. This time we only managed a meagre 9 days between opening up and shutting down, so not a lot of time to partake in our collective passion.

Given the short period of freedom between lockdowns, there's not a lot to comment on or reflect upon other than the likelihood of more lockdowns in the future.

Some may disagree with me, but the best way forward for all of us is to be vaccinated with whatever is available and suitable. Of course, if any members have concerns or existing health issues they should consult their GP first. In saying this, I am sure any effort we can engender at Sandringham (in becoming vaccinated) will not prevent another closure of our course, however every little bit will help to a future which includes more regular golf and less inconveniences of being lockdown and bored.

I know one person who will be ecstatic with the elimination of lockdowns and that is our Captain Geoff, who is constantly having to reschedule fixtures to accommodate the clubs many events....a thankless task but one which is appreciated by all of us. Next time you see Geoff on the course then let him know how appreciative you are.

Now even this pandemic is not going to break me....so here it is

"What are the four worst words you can hear during a golf game?

It's still your turn"

Regards

Rob Harris

News and Notes

Safety on the Course

There was an incident on Saturday July 10th where a member was hit on the back of the head by a ball hit by another player in his group.

The victim probably thought he was doing the right thing in getting to his ball as quickly as possible, but this should not be done at the expense of personal safety.

There are a number of "exposed" spots on the course where we need to be extra watchful and extra careful when hitting.

And don't forget to yell FORE just in case.

Club Apparel

Members can purchase Club apparel.

- Polo shirt \$30. Sizes 'S' to '5XL'.
- Men's design only at the moment.
- Cap \$10

Email:

captain@sandringhamgolfclub.org.au or text 0413 438 048

Golf Gloves

Members will soon be able to purchase high quality Cabretta Leather golf gloves at discounted prices. Further information to follow in a couple of days



Club Championships 2022

Dates have now been set for the 2022 Club Championships. We're nothing but optimistic here at SGC. The dates are February 12, 19, 26.

Sandy in at 64th

In February this year the Top 100 Golf course website listed Sandy Golf Links as the 64th best golf course in Victoria. Do a Google search and see what they have to say about the course.

Credit where credit is due

Belated thanks to Colin Hockley for his pictures of Pink Day that appeared in the last issue.

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

The Fixture has been amended again due to the latest lockdown. Check the website for the latest.



The online booking system has been amended to restrict bookings per transaction to one group of four. We are hoping this will enable all members to have a better chance of obtaining a favourable tee time.

While Members' guests are welcome on Saturdays, they are expected to enter our competition.

The June newsletter (Captain's Corner) reminded members of some important processes when playing competitions. Please review copy on website. Some other points:

- Stop playing if you can no longer score on a hole (Stableford and Par events)
- Marker should ensure that player's card is completed correctly
- Check that handicap is correct. Recommend install Golf Australia app.

NEW MEMBERS – let me know when you create an account in online booking system to ensure you get the benefit of booking 10 days ahead. If you live in the Bayside Council area you need to show proof of address to the pro shop to avoid the \$2.50 levy on green fees imposed by the Council.

A film crew was spotted at Sandy a couple of weeks ago. Paul Gow's "Your Golf Show" airs on Foxtel channel 503 on Tuesdays. See later in the newsletter for screening details.

I wish to pay a special compliment to our handicapper, Tom Hunter. If the Covid lockdowns weren't enough to keep Tom off the streets, the influx of new members this year certainly has done the job. Tom enters members' details into Golf Link, transfers handicap history, where applicable, or establishes initial handicaps, and communicates a lot of relevant information about the Club. Good work Tom.

Keep safe.

Geoff Thornton

Match Play Competition News

2020 John Pittard Singles Match Play

James Honner completed the 2020 match play double when he defeated Jan Cormack 5 and 3 in the Final. Congratulations to James and to Jan on making the final. James had already won the Pairs Match trophy with partner Cris Payne.

2021 Singles Match Play Competition

This year's John Pittard Trophy is underway. Some first round matches and one second round match have been completed. The draw with completed results to date is:

First Round

Jay Ramsden	vs	Jenni Clarke
John Bris	def	Trevor Schultz
Jason Maynard	vs	Terry McAleenan
Steve Malcolm	def	Colin Burge 1 up
David Mallen	def	Paul Rich 3 and 2
Rob Harris	vs	Richard Grace
Neil Evans	def	Michael Wang 5 & 4
Stuart Low	def	Pat Kealy

Second Round

Neil Evans	def	Stuart Low 3 and 1
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2021 Pairs Match Play Competition

This year's Ian Fraser Trophy is underway. Some first round matches and one second round match have been completed. The draw with completed results to date is:

Mark Brooks/ Rob Reid	vs	Rob Harris/ Colin Hockley
Pat Maginness/ Colin Burge	def 19 th hole	Liz Tanzimat/ Jenni Clarke
Mark Johnson/ Stuart Low	def 6 & 4	Gary Gibb/ Don Tasevski
Larry Stewart/ Tim Green	vs	Paul McGarry/ Terry McAleenan

Note that the Brooks/Reid vs Harris/Hockley match is in to its second 18 holes after the first round ended all square.

Sandy on Foxtel

Filming took place at Sandy on 28 July for Paul Gow's "Your Golf Show" which airs on Foxtel channel 503.

The episode went to air on 10 August and is Episode 9 in the series if you want to watch "On Demand".

It features Geoff Ogilvy, Mike Cocking and host Bree Laughlin talking about the course and playing Holes 10, 11 and 13. GM Philip Drew is also interviewed.

PS Ogilvy birdies 13 as it starts to rain and you can see Mike Cocking heading for shelter in the background while Geoff holes his putt.



Feedback, comments or suggestions on the newsletter can be sent to newsletter@sandringhamgolfclub.org.au

Vale Jonny Branagh

As has become much too frequent lately the Club was saddened to learn of the passing of member Jonny Branagh after a long battle with a significant illness.

The Club expresses its condolences to wife Ruth (also a member) and Jonny's family and many friends.

On the golf side Jonny was all quality. He was a member of SGC Scratch pennant teams and in 2018 he was runner up in both the Club Championship and the President's trophy. He won the Captain's Trophy in 2016. He was burning up the course in November 2017 when he won the mid week comp with 42pts and followed that up with a 73 off the stick (net 62) to win A Grade on the Saturday

Jonny's group covered itself in glory on the last Saturday round of the old course. Not only were Jonny, Ruth, Michael Kent and Matt Scott the first group to tee off that day but they also collectively destroyed the old 8th hole when all four made birdie.

Despite his prowess on the course all who came in contact with him would say that Jonny was a better person than he was a golfer.

Vale Jonny. You will be missed.



Lets get started on the rules with a quiz question. How well do you know the Rules? Or alternatively how well can you count?

In a stroke round, Jack was going well.

On the 13th hole he hit his tee shot into a greenside bunker.

Before playing a stroke, he moved a leaf and a small stone close to his ball, without causing his ball to move.

He played his stroke but unfortunately failed to get his ball out of the bunker. In anger he swung his club and hit the sand with it.

He took his stance without touching the sand right in front of or behind the ball. In making his backswing for the stroke his club touched the sand behind the ball.

Jack played his ball out of the bunker and finished the hole with one putt.

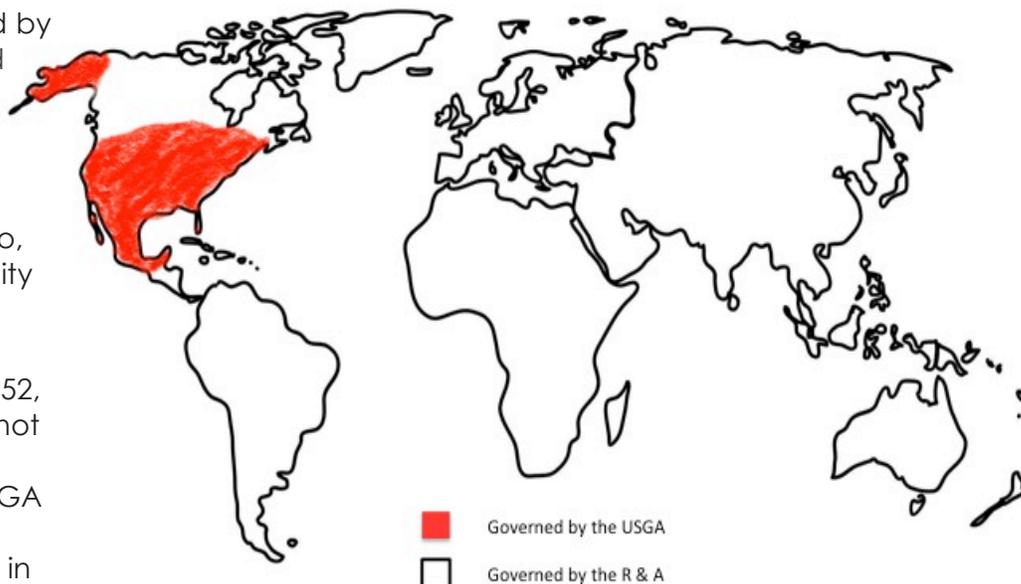
What was Jack's score for the hole?

- A: 4
- B: 5
- C: 6
- D: 7
- E: He is disqualified

The Rules - Who governs World Golf?

The Rules of Golf are written and administered by The R&A* and the United States Golf Association (USGA). The R&A is the governing body of golf worldwide except in the United States and Mexico, which are the responsibility of the USGA.

The Rules have been published jointly since 1952, although the code was not completely uniform until 2000. Before 2012 the USGA and R&A presented the same content differently in separate editions. The same content is now published in a uniform fashion with similar formatting and covers — the only differences are now some spelling and their logos.



Apologies to Hawaii and probably some others!

* Historically, The R&A was a colloquial name for the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews. In 2004, it split its functions and is now separate from the golf club

Early Rules - or how to get relief from wattery filth

The earliest surviving written rules of golf were produced by the Gentlemen Golfers of Leith on March 7, 1744. They were entitled "Articles and Laws in Playing at Golf" and consisted of 13 rules some more familiar than others including such gems as:

- If your Ball come among Water, or any wattery filth, you are at liberty to take out your Ball & bringing it behind the hazard and Teeing it, you may play it with any Club and allow your Adversary a Stroke for so getting out your Ball.
- If your Balls be found anywhere touching one another, You are to lift the first Ball, till you play the last (huh?).
- If a Ball be stopp'd by any person, Horse, Dog, or any thing else, The Ball so stop'd must be play'd where it lyes.
- He whose Ball lyes farthest from the Hole is obliged to play first.
- Neither Trench, Ditch or Dyke, made for the preservation of the Links, nor the Scholar's Holes or the Soldier's Lines, shall be accounted a Hazard; But the Ball is to be taken out Teed and play'd with any Iron Club.

The Rules of Golf – what are they?

The Rules

- 24 Sections
- Full set on line (see P 10 for Rules Section Headings)
- Players edition contains the Rules situations that most commonly occur on the course

Interpretations

- Provided for aspects of the rules that are considered to require further clarification

Local Rules

- The Rules of Golf provide for a Committee to make local rules to take into account local conditions and situations
- A Model Set of Local Rules is provided for Committees to use
- A Local Rule has the same status as a Rule of Golf for that competition or course.

Example of an Interpretation

Rule 4.3a(1)/1 Restrictions on Using Equipment to Gauge Slope

Rule 4 covers the equipment that players may use during a round. It is based on a principle that golf is a challenging game and success should depend on the player's judgment, skills and abilities. This is the Rule, which specifies conforming clubs and balls, the maximum of 14 clubs and restricts the player "in the use of other equipment that gives artificial help to his or her play."

This is the Rule that means you cannot use the Slope function of rangefinders in competition.

There is an Interpretation associated with Rule 4.3a(1)/1.

Interpretation

Although a player may use his or her club as a plumb line to assist in judging or gauging slope and contours, there is other equipment that a player may not use in judging a slope or contour. For example, a player is not allowed to gauge slope by:

- Placing a bottled drink to act as a level.
- Holding or placing a bubble level.
- Using a weight suspended on a string as a plumb line.



Leave 'em at home!

Local Rules – Sandringham Golf Club

In accordance with the Rules of Golf Sandringham Golf Club has 8 Local Rules. These can be found on the back of the Scorecard. Some are driven by conditions we face locally – e.g. damage caused by birds; some are set for us by our affiliation with the Victorian Golf League - e.g. use of motorized carts in VGL events.

Some members may recall that when the Rules changed in 2019 allowance was made for Clubs **to choose** to establish Local Rules that allowed a player to take relief at the cost of a 2 shot penalty in an area bounded by where the ball has thought to come to rest or gone out of bounds and a point on the fairway no nearer the hole.

If that sounds complicated – you do not need to worry!

SGC DOES NOT HAVE THAT LOCAL RULE IN PLACE.

If you have been using this rule you have been in breach of the competition rules for Sandringham Golf Club.

Best advice: if you are uncertain of the location of your ball - always hit a provisional ball

Find out more

There are lots of resources online to help understand the rules and how they apply to different situations. The R & A site is generally excellent. Golf Australia has an extensive Rules section including Rules for Beginners and a quick Guide to the Rules as well as other resources. If you are keen there are also courses you can undertake get accredited at various levels of rules expertise.

Other organisations such as the UK based Golf Monthly post rules explainers on YouTube. Here are two. The first one is an 8 question Rules Quiz and the second is Seven Rules Definitions Golfers Should Know.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJk08hyew7U>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N0jjFgdSqaY>

Answer to Rules Question – Correct Answer C 6 strokes

Jack played one stroke from the tee, two strokes from the bunker and had one putt.

There is no penalty for removing either the leaf or the stone both of which are loose impediments. **Rule 12.2 a applies** Surprisingly, striking the sand in frustration or anger is allowed (**Rule 12.2 b applies**) **No penalty.**

Jack incurred the General Penalty of 2 strokes for touching the sand in the bunker in making the backswing for a stroke. **Rule 12.2 b applies.**

Total score of 4 strokes plus two penalty strokes.

Where to redeem your vouchers if you are lucky or good enough to win one!*

* Assumes golf is happening!

House of Golf

Some Drummond Stores

Sandringham Café for food or drink

Grape and Grain Liquor Cellars, Station St Moorabbin

Royal Melbourne Golf Club Pro Shop

Hole in One – Neil Evans

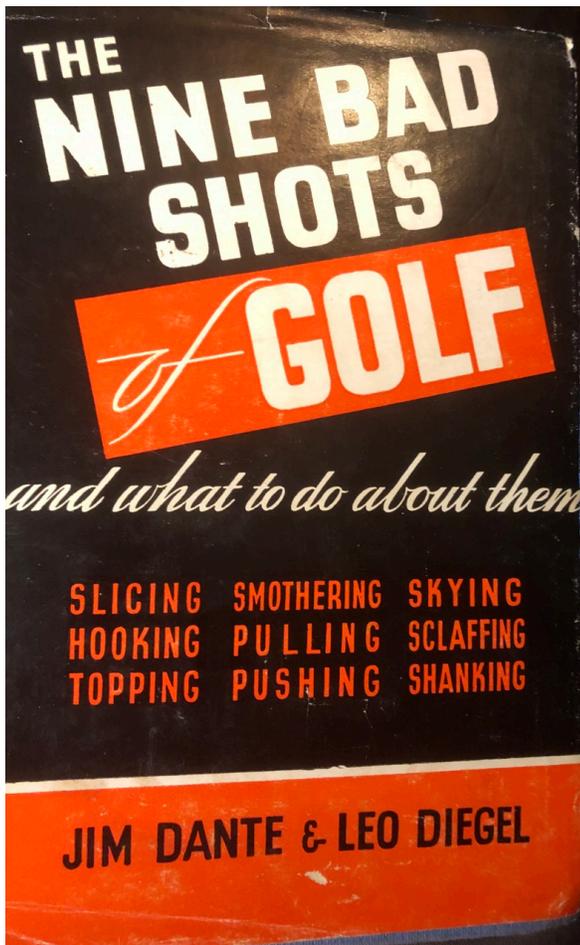
Congratulations to Neil Evans for his Hole in One on the 11th on 6 July.

The hole was playing 168m and Neil hit a 5 iron. It landed short, left of the green and ran on, curving from left to right into the hole positioned at the back of the green. According to the group in front (who had obeyed the course instruction to call up the group behind) the ball was heading off the green if it hadn't gone in.

This was Neil's third hole-in-one; all at Sandy, but the first two were on holes that no longer exist: the old 7th and the temporary 7/old 17th.

Neil also provided this little snippet from his watching golf on TV!

Just watching Ian Poulter in the Scottish Open who has just requested an official to deal with a ball nestled in some animal poo! "That's a shit lie!" said a Billy Connolly - accented spectator.



Here's something Neil doesn't have to worry about too often.

The Nine Bad Shots of Golf.

For those who were wondering Leo Diegel was an American professional golfer of the 1920s and early 1930s. He captured consecutive PGA Championships; played on the first four Ryder Cup teams, and is a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame. Jim Dante was a respected golf teacher who also wrote another influential book "Four Magic Moves to Winning Golf".

Seems reasonable except for "Sclaffing".

That's made up for sure! Guess the 8 bad shots of golf didn't have the same ring to it!

The Structure of the Rules of Golf

The Rules have 24 sections and the following table gives you an idea of what each section covers. Of course there are many subsections!

1. The Game, Player Conduct and the Rules	2. The Course
3. The Competition	4. The Players Equipment
5. Playing the Round	6. Playing a hole
7. Ball Search: Finding and Identifying the ball	8. Course Played as it is found
9. Ball played as it lies; Ball at rest, lifted or moved.	10. Preparing for and making a stroke, Advice, Help, Caddies
11. Ball in motion accidentally hits person, animal or object; Deliberate actions to affect ball in motion	12. Bunkers
13. Putting Greens	14. Procedures for Ball: marking, lifting and cleaning; Replacing on spot, Dropping in relief area; Playing from wrong place
15. Relief from loose impediments and movable obstructions (including ball or ball marker helping or interfering with play)	16. Relief from abnormal Ground Conditions (including immovable obstructions), Dangerous animal condition, Embedded ball
17. Penalty Areas	18. Stroke-and- distance relief, Ball Lost or Out of Bounds, Provisional Ball
19. Unplayable Ball	20. Resolving Issues during Round; Rulings by Referee and Committee.
21. Other Forms of Individual Stroke Play and Match Play	22. Foursomes (also known as alternate shot)
23. Four-ball	24. Team Competitions

Golf Rule Books available

Club Captain Geoff Thornton has a number of Official Rules of Golf books available if members are interested.

Geoff can be contacted on:

Email: captain@sandringhamgolfclub.org.au
or text 0413 438 048

A mulligan by any other name.

An American went to Scotland* and played golf with a newly-acquainted Scottish golfer. After a bad tee shot, he played a Mulligan, which was an extremely good shot.

He then asked the Scot, "What do you call a Mulligan in Scotland?"

The reply was swift: "We call it 3."

Note: This joke could use a number of different nationalities to get its point across – Irish, Australian among them. Although in Japanese the answer would be "San"