

## Officiating 101 Rules Zone Lesson Summary

### Getting Ready

- √ Get familiar with your zone—whether it's one hole or nine. Check these areas:

#### *Course Markings*

Check the areas that may have to be marked. You need to know ahead of time where these areas are. Make sure the markings are clear and haven't been damaged overnight. Take a look at:

- out-of-bounds areas
- obstructions (like cart paths)
- water hazards and lateral water hazards
- ground under repair
- dropping zone
- integral parts of the course (like a rock wall or a wooden bulk head in a water hazard)

#### *Bunkers*

- Are all the bunkers properly maintained?
- Are the rakes *outside* the bunkers—where they're least likely to affect the ball's movement?

#### *Teeing Ground*

Depending on procedures for the morning course set-up, you may need to check the tees.

- Are the tee-markers properly located?
- Are they marked with a small paint dot?

#### *Putting Green*

Depending on procedures for the morning course set-up, you may need to check the putting greens.

- Are the holes cleanly cut and undamaged?
- Are the flagsticks straight and upright?

- √ Anticipate rulings or situations that could come up in your zone.
- √ If there's a major problem, get help.

### What Zone Officials Do

- √ Provide Rules assistance in a specific area of the course.
  - Stay alert for any potential Rules problems as players move through the zone.
  - You're doing a good job if you can prevent any Rules violations whenever possible.
  
- √ Make a decision or ruling on situations you're sure about it. If you're not sure, call for a second opinion. Give your name, hole, and location.
  - If a player's ball ends up in a water hazard, you should assist in determining the entry point (unless the player is proceeding under stroke and distance).
  - Watch the location of golf balls! Look for the possibility of a ruling situation and be ready to help if you're needed. A few examples:
    1. Players searching for a ball: you should be nearby and assist in the search. (Don't forget to start your stop watch to time the 5 minute search.)
    2. A player's ball in a water hazard: you should help determine the point where the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard. A player's ball near an obstruction: you should be nearby to help the player determine the nearest point of relief if necessary.
    3. Abnormal ground conditions: you should be nearby to assist the player with the relief procedure if needed.
  
- √ Use the radio with discretion.
  - If you have to be close to the players, use an earpiece if one is available.
  - When bad weather threatens, stay off the radio—unless you're responding to an inquiry from the Championship Director or lead official. In such situations, listen for directions. The Championship Director must have access to the radio frequency during any weather situations or possible suspension situations.

### What Zone Officials Don't Do

- √ A Rules official stationed in a zone usually does NOT have the authority to...
  - mark ground under repair
  - give a player relief without penalty from an unmarked areaIf you need to take those actions, consult a rover first.
  
- √ A zone official is typically not responsible for timing players to keep track of the pace of play. Rovers will handle the timing. Still, you should be familiar with the pace of play guidelines and the timing procedures. That way, you'll recognize gaps in play—and you'll be able to accurately report any gaps,

open holes or delays to the rover or pace-of-play official in your area of the course.

- √ You should avoid being so close to the players that you have to turn off your radio, unless you're giving a ruling.

### **Where You Belong**

- √ Position yourself in the zone where you can see the most golf being played. That position could change throughout the day.
- √ Stay well to the side of the fairway, teeing ground, or putting green—*never* directly behind them. Avoid being in line with a player's shot.
- √ Stay aware of where the other rules officials are in your zone.
- √ DON'T distract players and DON'T interfere with play.
- √ If you're in a cart:
  - Stay well out of the way!
  - Don't follow a group just to watch them play!
  - Keep off the fairway—unless you're helping a player!
  - Keep out of the rough!