

TOMORROW GOLF RULES© 19.0

by Massimo Gessi

FUNDAMENTALS: only Rules necessary for the definition of the Game, for its playing and for the resumption of play will ever be enacted.

GOOD SENSE AND SPORTSMANSHIP ARE THE PRINCIPLES GOVERNING PLAY AND GOLFERS WHENEVER A SITUATION IS NOT CONSIDERED IN THE RULES.

SLOWER PLAYERS MUST GIVE WAY TO FASTER PLAYERS WHEN AHEAD OF THEM THERE IS AT LEAST AN EMPTY PAR 3 OR THE ENTIRE FAIRWAY OF A PAR 4 OR PLAYERS AHEAD HAVE ALREADY PLAYED THERE APPROACH TO A PAR 5.

PLAYERS MUST ALWAYS RESPECT ALL OTHER PLAYERS AND THE COURSE CAUSING NO DAMAGE TO IT, EXCEPTING A DIVOT WHILE EXECUTING A SHOT ONLY.

ALL AND EVERY SITUATION THAT NEEDS AN INSTRUMENTAL MEASUREMENT OR SOME INSPIRED RAMBLINGS OF THE RULES, WILL BE SOLVED IN FAVOUR OF THE PLAYER BY DEFINITION AND A PRIOR, BUT THE SINGLE CASE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A PRECEDENT.

VICE VERSA, SHOULD A PLAYER SYSTEMATICALLY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE LIBERTY GIVEN BY THE RULES, THAT PLAYER MAY BE SANCTIONED BY THE COMMITTEE IN THE WAY THAT WILL BE CONSIDERED MOST APPROPRIATED.

INSIDE A FLIGHT, ALL PLAYERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BEHAVIOUR OF EACH ONE OF THE OTHER PLAYERS IN THE FLIGHT. SHOULD AN INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR ABOUT PLAY OR DUE RESPECT TO THE OTHER PLAYERS OR FOR THE COURSE, BE NOT REPORTED TO THE COMMITTEE OR THE REFEREE, ALL PLAYERS IN THE FLIGHT COULD BE CONSIDERED COMPLICIT, POSSIBLY SUBJECTED TO THE SAME SANCTION.

For instance: a player's slow pace of play makes the flight falling back so that at the end of the round the excessive delay is sanctioned. Nobody ever advised the player to accelerate. ALL players are sanctioned. One player is regularly and clearly very much longer than his score's declared length and approach shots to greens are all from too short a distance. This anomaly is not reported to the Committee. ALL players are sanctioned.

ANYTHING NOT CONSIDERED IN THE RULES THAT IS SOLVABLE USING COMMON SENSE IT IS ACCEPTABLE BUT FOR THE SITUATIONS WHERE THE ADVANTAGE TAKEN OR THE DAMAGE CAUSED ARE FACTUALLY PREDICTABLE. IN SUCH A CASE, THE COMMITTEE MAY IMPOSE THE SANCTION HE WILL CONSIDER MOST APPROPRIATE, INCLUDING THE SUSPENSION FROM PLAYING, LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF 30 DAYS.

Rule 1 – THE GAME 19.0

Golf consists in playing on a *golf course* a *golf ball* with *golf clubs*. From the *starting GPS spots* (Tee) with consecutive *shots* to the *golf ball* until it is holed out inside the *hole* dug on the *putting green* area, within the *specified timeframe* to hole out the ball and within the *specified timeframe* to complete the *nine holes' golf round*, playing in accordance with TOMORROW GOLF RULES[®].

For every type of play, on each hole, the number of shots are limited to the played bogey, should the ball be not holed out yet, it would be lifted and a double bogey score is recorded on the player's scorecard.

NO CONCESSIONS OF PUTTS OR HOLES ARE ALLOWED.

ALL PLAYERS PLAY SCRATCH.

Computer check all scores for its veracity then it will rank them by scores value and their quality, only way to rank properly the many equal scores.

**Note: all words in underlined Italic characters are defined below.*

golf course: the ground where play is allowed. His limits are defined by line of trees, fences, ditches or anything else clearly identifiable as a limit, they need not to be lined with stakes or paint. Inside the golf course there may be some out of bound area lined with stakes or white paint to direct the game.

ANYTHING FIXED, HIGHER THAN TWO GOLF BALLS, INSIDE THE GOLF COURSE, INCLUDING ALL TYPES OF ROADS ARE INTEGRAL PART OF THE COURSE AND HAVE NO DISTINCTION OF TREATMENT FOR THE GAME.

PLAYERS MUST HAVE BOTH FEET INSIDE THE COURSE WHILE PLAYING A BALL THAT COULD EVEN BE OUTSIDE THE LIMITS.

golf ball: 2019, actual dimensions are the standard but their technical specifications and performances are of no concern. There shall be no prohibited types of golf balls.

IF A BALL BREAKS INTO PIECES AFTER A STROKE, IT WILL BE SUBSTITUTED AND REPLAYED FROM THE SAME SPOT, CANCELLING THE PREVIOUS SHOT.

A BALL BECOMES UNFIT FOR PLAY WHEN IT VISIBLY LOST ITS ROUNDNESS, IS CUT OR ITS SURFACE IS ERODED.

SHOULD A PLAYER, DURING PLAY OF A HOLE, PLAY ANOTHER BALL (wrong ball), NOT ITS ORIGINAL ONE OR PLAY HIS BALL FROM A WRONG PLACE, HE SHALL CONTINUE TO PLAY THAT BALL AND ADD A VIRTUAL SHOT TO HIS SCORE. HE IS NOT ALLOWED TO SEARCH FOR HIS OWN ORIGINAL BALL. IF THAT WRONG BALL IS ANOTHER PLAYER'S BALL, THAT PLAYER WILL PLACE A BALL ON THE ESTIMATED SPOT WHERE IT WAS.

The ball played from the GPS tee may not be substituted before reaching the putting green, unless the ball had become unavailable for play, or has broken into pieces or has become unfit for play or a wrong ball had been played.

golf club: it is made of a grip and a shaft commonly found on the market, with a head where its hitting surface (the face) is well-defined. The head may be of any form and volume; it may contain any implementation that may increase the head speed, provided it is entirely contained inside the head and may not be triggered before each shot.

The ball may be hit with the head of a golf club only.

starting GPS spots (Tee): a spot on the ground on the hole's centreline or on the well mown paths from old tee to fairway, corresponding to the personal hole length of the player; that measure is found on the scorecard. There the player may tee up his ball. The player may move laterally anywhere provided he maintains the distance or he may move backward as much as he likes.

golf shots: the movement of the club that either hits or moves the ball.

The ball may not be pushed, spooned or scraped, unless there is no room behind to swing the club.

Missing the ball, without moving it, while attempting to hit it is NOT considered a golf shot, thus it may not be counted on the score.

Hitting a ball twice with the same swing is considered one single shot (not valid for the putter).

When the ball sticks to the face of the club because of mud or the like it is not considered a shot; the ball shall be replaced and replayed.

ALL PLAYERS MUST RECORD ON THE SCORE ALL PUTTS TAKEN FROM THE PUTTING GREEN, COLLAR INCLUDED. Number of putts missing on the score invalidates the score, unless the score was a double bogey.

VIRTUAL SHOT is a shot added to the score to have the right to resume play for a ball become unavailable for play or the right to continue to play a wrong ball or a ball played from a wrong place or the right to continue playing a moved ball when the placement was not allowed.

The hole is planned for the enlargement to 120 millimetres (actually 108 mm.) as soon as the funds for the hole digger and nine hole's cups will be found.

This has become necessary to restore the original ratio between the ball and the hole. Since when in the '90s the larger ball was adopted the world over, putting became a more difficult task, well over the limit that makes putting an enjoyable activity. The ball/hole ratio is not directly related with the old/new ball's diameter.

This is a representation of what I called the RETURN TO THE FUTURE GOLF®.

the putting green is a well mown area where the hole is dug.

DOUBLE GREEN: is considered ONE green. The player may choose between continuing the normal play using his putter only or placing the ball outside the putting green surface and outside the collar on the nearest spot where the ball was lying on the green, independently of the ground conditions.

This same procedure is valid for any green that is not the green of the hole being played.

Bunker: the player is entitled to test sand depth around the ball with a tee, twice only, without changing its lie.

Should the lie be substantially changed or the ball moves in the process, including approaching with or removing the tee, the player shall add a virtual shot to his score and continue playing the ball as it lies after the motion or with the modified lie.

nine holes represents the stipulated round of the TOMORROW GOLF®. A player may play two or more rounds if he likes. In a competition each round is considered as a different player.

specified timeframe: Committee will set a pace of play expressed in terms of:

INDIVIDUAL PLAY TIME: in the score there are for each hole two values, the first are the total seconds the player may use in playing from tee to holing out, the second number are the average seconds available for each shot. The standard basis is predicated on 40 second a shot.

Normally they will never be used to penalize the single player unless he is the only slow player in the flight and the flight falls behind to the point to be sanctioned.

HOLE TOTAL TIME: it may be expressed in minutes on the score or as starting time for each hole or just indicated on the clocks of my STOP THE CLOCK system® that, in case, will show a late start time on the next tee.

ROUND TOTAL TIME: time allotted from start to ninth hole flag in. The target is: 2 hours for short courses, below 2.500 meters; 2 hours and 15 minutes for medium courses, below 2.900 metres and 2 hours and a half for longer courses.

Sanctions shall be applied only on total time of the hole or for the round, not for shot's times.

IT IS THE PLAYER'S TURN WHEN THE GPS TEE IS AVAILABLE FOR PLAY OR WHEN HE REACHES HIS BALL.

PLAYING TIME STARTS WHEN IT IS THE PLAYER'S TURN AND INCLUDES:

- TIME SPENT IN CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CADDY OR THE PARTNER
- WEARING HIS GLOVE, CLOSING THE UMBRELLA, POSITIONING THE GOLF BAG, ETC.
- SHOT'S EVALUATIONS, HOW TO PLAY IT AND WHAT CLUB TO USE
- TAKING THE STANCE AND HITTING THE BALL, THE END OF THE SHOT'S PLAYING TIME.

Note: playing time doubles whenever it is not possible to hit a normal shot because the ball or stance or swing is subjected to an objective interference.

HOLE'S PLAYING TIME DO NOT INCLUDE BALL SEARCHING TIME, 3 MINUTES.

ROUND PLAYING TIME INCLUDES:

- ALL TRANSFERS AND SCORE REGISTRATIONS
- EACH PLAYER'S PLAYING TIME
- BALL SEARCHING TIME (3 MINUTES), this means that search time must be recovered in the continuation of play, excluding search time on last hole.

Delays are such only when the flight is late, not when, although late, the flight is keeping the correct position in relation with the preceding flight.

SANCTIONS:

- DURING THE ROUND, FOR A DELAY ABOVE 5 MINUTES: WARNING TO RECOVER THE LOST TIME
- FLIGHT'S DELAY BETWEEN 10 AND 15 MINUTES AFTER A WARNING WAS IMPARTED: 1 SHOT OR 0.5 POINT PENALTY TO THE FINAL SCORE TO THE GUILTY PLAYER OR TO THE ENTIRE FLIGHT.

For a delay over 10 minutes, also the accumulated delay on the next hole will be sanctioned with 1 shot penalty. if caused by a single player already warned to speed up his play, he will be invited to leave the course. Ball's searching time is excluded from the delay computation.

A delay above 15 minutes, searching time excluded, means that all flight's scores are invalidated.

PLAYERS WILL BE TIMED WITHOUT NOTICE.

A PLAYER STARTING THE ROUND AFTER HIS FLIGHT HAS ALREADY STARTED, WILL SKIP THAT HOLE INSERTING A DOUBLE BOGEY FOR THE FIRST HOLE.



Rule 2 – PLAYING THE BALL 19.0

Order of play: longer GPS tee plays first and the ball further from the hole plays first.

It is allowed to play first anybody ready first, but not on the GPS tee where it is mandatory the presence of another player to check the proper distance. Starting to play with nobody checking the distance: penalty of 1 shot or 0.5 point shall be added/detracted to/from the player's score.

a – the ball may be placed within a distance of 20 centimetres, roughly an adult hand's palm, in any direction, anytime and anywhere, except inside a bunker, provided that:

- the ball must not be interfered by anything taller than two golf balls
- player's feet must be on a flat plane and the ball must be on the same plane
- the swing is completely free, interfered by nothing.

The ball may be placed also on the putting green but not nearer the hole.

ON THE FAIRWAY ONLY, provided the line of play is completely free of any interference, should the ground conditions within a club length (putter excluded) be substantially different from where the ball lies, the ball may be placed within one club length.

Sanction for not abiding by this Rule: double bogey for the hole.

Examples: the ball is inside a patch of tall grass while the fairway around is well mown or the ball is inside a small depression, ground is soggy but not a few feet aside, etc.

A very small branch exactly on the line of play would prevent the application of this option.

The grass that is always greener on the other side doesn't enter among the cases of kind.

b - Should a ball that cannot be placed, be involuntarily moved, directly or indirectly, by the club or the player it is considered a shot and the ball shall be played from the new position.

A ball at rest moved by any agency, player and wind excepted, shall be replaced, even by testimony.

c - a ball taken away or lifted and then dropped in another place by any agency, player and wind excepted, shall be substituted placing another ball on the estimated last spot, even by testimony, before it was taken or entered the moving agency.

On the putting green after a putt is played, should any moving agency, player and wind excepted, actually deviate or stop the ball, that putt will be played again from the original position, dropping the previous played shot.

Inappropriate behaviours of other players shall invalidate their scores; should the Committee consider insufficient such a penalty he could impart any other sanction it shall consider appropriate.

d - A played wrong ball or a ball played from a wrong place will add a virtual shot to the player's score and play will continue with that ball.

Should that wrong ball be the ball of another player, he shall place a ball on the spot where it was lying.

e – It is prohibited to hit the ball straddling the extension of or the line of play.

f – Anywhere, a ball touching anything movable MAY NOT BE TOUCHED. It is either possible to play the ball as it lies or to move the movable object AWAY from the ball, the ball will be let to follow the terrain incline then it may be played once it is at rest anywhere.

Should the ball be on the object, the ball will be lifted and then placed on the spot where it was letting it to follow the terrain incline then it may be played once it is at rest anywhere

A movable object may be moved by a maximum of two persons.

g – A ball that could not be placed that has mud's clods attached to its surface so that its profile is distorted, after marking it, it may be lifted, cleaned and replaced on the spot while another player of the group is attending all the operation, checking the presence of mud as well.

In case of any dispute, the player may take a picture of the ball, continue play as he likes, then he must refer to the Committee at the end of his round.

General sanction: penalty of one shot or 0.5 point.

h – BUNKER. The player is entitled to test with a tee the sand's depth around the ball only twice without moving the ball or significantly altering its lie. Sanction: one virtual shot and the ball shall be played in the new lie or position.

i - There is no right to play again a shot. Exceptions: the ball breaks into pieces or a ball sticks to the face of the club after a stroke or a putt is deviated.



Rule 3 – RESUMING PLAY 19.0

a – ABNORMAL GROUND CONDITIONS (AGC) THAT MAKE IMPOSSIBLE TO PLAY THE BALL OR THAT INTERFERE WITH THE STANCE OR THE SWING, ENTITLE THE PLAYER TO PLACE A BALL, WITH NO ADDITIONAL SHOT, WITHIN TWO CLUBS' LENGTH (putter excluded) FROM THE LATERAL BORDER OF THE AGC MARGIN, ON EITHER SIDES, ALTERNATIVELY HE MAY GO BACK AS FAR AS HE DESIRES.

ROADS OF ANY TYPE ARE INTEGRAL PART OF THE COURSE, THUS THEY ARE NOT AN AGC AREA.

FOR AGC INSIDE A BUNKER, THE GOING BACK OPTION IS EXCLUDED.

Interference may be only caused by anything that is INSIDE the AGC.

This procedure is applicable to ANY SITUATION THAT MAY PUT A PLAYER AT RISK, like dangerous insects, animals or substances or environmental conditions, etc. WITH THE ONLY DIFFERENCE THAT DISTANCE FROM THE DANGER WHERE TO PLACE A BALL MUST GUARANTEE THE PLAYER'S SAFETY.

Play from an AGC area is permitted, unless explicit prohibitions are in force.

An AGC area is any area EVIDENTLY IN ABNORMAL CONDITIONS unsuitable for play even when not so marked by blue stakes or white lines.

Sanction: one penalty shot or 0.5 point.

AGC areas may either be or be not marked with blue stakes or white lines.

Here are few examples that are not exhaustive of the list:

- any divot or unstable replaced divots
- any artificial surface (*not a road*) or any artificial fixed object lower than two golf balls
- any hole of limited dimension (*lakes, rivers, ditches, natural depressions, dry or not, are NOT AGC areas*)
- any excavated or shifted terrain, all footprints or tracks included
- any water accumulation where there should be none

- any small area of terrain unstable, soft, muddy, very slick with no grass; sand inside a bunker is excluded.
- when the AGC area and the ball are on the putting green, collar included, there is interference even if AGC is on the line of putt.
- Relief from the interference may be taken placing a ball on the putting green in the nearest position, not nearer the hole, where the interference ceases. If impossible, an equidistant spot outside the putting green has to be found or placing the ball on the putting green where it is possible to obtain the maximum relief available from the condition, not nearer the hole.
- Grass of any kind and in any condition is not AGC, unless so declared and marked as such by the Committee.

b – A BALL UNAVAILABLE FOR PLAY ANYWHERE AND FOR ANY REASON (*lost, unreachable, etc*).

TO RESUME PLAY, ONE VIRTUAL SHOT IS ADDED TO THE PLAYER'S SCORE THEN A BALL WILL BE PLACED ON THE **NEXT** GPS SPOT FOUND ON THE SCORE.

WHEN THE NEXT SHOT WOULD REACH THE CENTRE OF THE PUTTING GREEN, A BALL WILL BE PLACED ON THE CENTRE OF THE COLLAR AT THE FARTHEST POINT FROM THE HOLE.

A player confronted with a shot with a carry longer than his longest distance declared on the score, may choose to declare his ball unplayable and, adding two virtual shots to his score, he will place a ball on the next GPS spot.

Example: par 3, island putting green, carry from the GPS tee is longer than his maximum distance on the score, instead of hitting a ball into the water, he may choose to declare his ball unplayable and proceed to the putting green where he will place a ball in the centre of the collar at the farthest spot from the hole, adding TWO virtual shots, thus playing his third shot.

A ball is deemed unplayable only if interfered by anything fixed taller than two golf balls or behind the ball there is no room for the club's head or it is impossible to take any stance or whenever it is impossible to hit the ball toward a more advanced position. For a restricted swing of any amplitude it is not allowed to declare the ball unavailable for play.

Anytime a virtual shot is involved in a procedure, it must be added to that hole's score.

Examples: chosen driver distance = 160 mt, par 5 of 360 mt, driver's shot reaches the 200 mt. GPS spot from the centre green, 2nd shot reaches the 50 mt GPS spot from the centre green, 3rd shot reaches the centre green.

- *Driver's shot is sent out of bound, a ball shall be placed at the 200 mt. GPS spot, adding a virtual shot.*
- *2nd shot drowns in a small pond, a ball shall be placed at the 50 mt. GPS spot, adding a virtual shot.*
- *3rd shot goes lost in a cypress, a ball shall be placed on the centre of the collar on the farthest spot from the hole, adding a virtual shot.*

HOME

First set of written Golf Rules go as far back as 1744, with an added little part few years later. That set of Rules lasted almost a century, albeit some distinctions among the many Golf Clubs existed at that time; then at the end of 19th century it was decided to have a unified and universal code; St. Andrews was established as the Authority on the Rules of Golf.

These coexistent differences while all of them, despite all, were playing Golf, clearly shows that it is not true the common definition: "Golf is its Rules" as too often, but wrongly, it is used to say.

Golf exists only because it is universally reckoned that it consists in *using a golf club to hit a golf ball, starting from an established point (starting tee), until the ball is holed out inside an established hole with the lowest possible number of consecutive shots.*

The player who will conquer the higher number of holes of an established number of times that the hole will be played is the winner of the match.

Who holes out the ball with the lower number of shots wins the hole.

The player that has not yet holed out with the same number of shots or was unable to complete the hole within the maximum number of shots allowed for the hole and his opponent holes the ball within the maximum number of shots, the player loses the hole.

The same number of shots halves the hole.

Should both the players be unable to complete the hole within the maximum number of shots, the hole is halved.

ONE Rule, ONE hole, ONE ball and ONE golf club are more than enough to make a golf course where to play a round of Golf or where to learn playing Golf.

Severiano Ballesteros started that way with a 3 iron of one of his brothers hitting a golf ball on the beaches near home as a golf course; this method is guaranteed for sure, his many successes are reliable witnesses.

History casually chose 18 as the times that a hole had to be played to make up a round of golf, but to avoid boredom they built 18 different holes all together.

That definition of Golf, almost equal to the modern one, with the addition of the only type of game played at the time, is the "necessary and enough condition" to play Golf. What do I really mean? I mean that NO OTHER RULES ARE NEEDED TO PLAY GOLF !

Objections:

Joe when his ball lies against a tree trunk, kicks it onto the fairway.

Prohibited; the ball may be struck at with the head of a golf club only, see the Rule.

Bob, when his ball is no more available for play because is lost or for any other reason, demands to place another ball in play, letting the opponent a shot.

He cannot. THE ball, that unique ball that he started to play with from the tee, must be played with CONSECUTIVE shots. No substitution is allowed by the Rule.

Bill likes too much striking at that golf ball and wants to continue playing even when the hole is lost. He may not because a lost hole ends the play of it and play must continue on next hole.

A player plays another ball, not his original; what can he do?

Nothing; he interrupted play of his original ball thus ending his play for that hole

Then what happens in those situations? It is inherent in the only Rule: the player who does not succeed in playing CONSECUTIVELY his ball till holing it out, has ended the play for that hole and he may only hope

that his opponent will be unable to hole his ball within the maximum allowed number of shots, so halving the hole.

Simple, direct, ruthless but above all FAST ! Are we sure that it's not worth trying?

In my TOMORROW GOLF processing program I made a section for playing with ONLY Rule 1 and here I laid down the Rule governing it..

Especially fair, it takes no direct advantage of the opponent's misfortunes because although there is an advantage, the player has still his mission to accomplish before winning: he must hole his ball within the maximum number of shot allowed for the hole.

Misfortune does not make to lose the hole; it makes winning impossible but the hole may still be halved.

This method is drastic for sure because leaves no chance to recover from a mistake; this is one fundamental aspect of the game for the pleasure in playing it and in assisting to it.

This make necessary to establish a recovery procedure to resume play for a ball no more available for play, BUT.... since all players play scratch on their personal course and shots are limited to the played bogey, there would be no sense in creating a procedure that would not give a recovery chance for the virtual shot necessary to obtain the right to put a ball back in play.

Innovative concept, outside the box.... only apparently, its real name is sportsmanship, better, integrity of sporting.

Integrity of sporting is the one conducted at the 1952 Tour de France when Bartali and Coppi, the Italian cyclist champions that despite they were rival, one passed the water bottle to the thirsty rival; another episode again at the 2018 Tour de France when all the rival champions slowed down their racing speed to wait for Nibali, another Italian rival champion, to recover from a fall because of a crash with a French policeman.

The first event became legend, the second made all TV and newspapers because they had been perceived as exceptional when exceptional they were not from the integrity of sporting point of view.

Integrity of sporting goes beyond the duty not to damage the rival, it includes the duty of not taking any direct advantage from the rival misfortunes giving him a chance to recover, in Golf it is the virtual shot necessary to put the ball back in play again.

This new 'innovative' idea of mine is so new that already in 1744 it was codified and practiced by the first written Golf Rules.

When a ball was to be put back in play, a shot was allowed to the opponent who returned the received advantage with a chance to recover the lost shot teeing up the ball.

That was the Enlightenment century when mistakes would give the opponent an advantage but the player would get back a chance to recover the lost shot so that the competition was kept alive.

Unfortunately, the Restoration followed the century of Enlightenment.

These are the sources and the reasons why I codified such a 'revolutionary' Rule where for a ball unavailable for play, a ball shall be placed at the spot where the shot was expected to land, including the 'shocking' placement of the ball in the middle of the collar on the farthest spot from the hole after the approach shot made the ball unavailable for play.

Take a par 3 lined by trees and bushes. Bob's shot lands in the bushes among trees; Joe's ball is stuck against a tree trunk on the blind side, Bill misses the green.

Today actual Rules, Bob pays a penalty shot to extricate his ball from the bushes, drops it and shoots toward the fairway at 90° with the green as the only available direction of play, finally with his fourth shot he reaches the green; Joe reaches the fairway with a chip and hits the green with his third shot, Bill misses again the green, finally reaching it with his third shot, all three players hole out with two shots each.

Each player made one single mistake, getting different scores. Is it logic or equitable? might it be such, weighting their mistakes? Which one is the worse? Sending a ball into a bush or missing the green with a chip? There is no way to weight mistakes thus all mistakes must be treated the same way!

How many times, on TV, did you see a wild hook or slice of a Pro end up on another fairway resulting in a better position than on his own fairway? On 1991 Philip Morris World Cup at Le Querce G.C. near Rome in Italy, where I was a voluntary, on the practice day because of someone's wild slice, Ballesteros, Woosnam and company realized that while playing the 18th hole, hitting the first fairway left the player with an easy shot to the 18th green from a higher position while playing the 18th fairway, uphill, the approach shot was quite long and difficult.

The Committee declared the first fairway out of bound for player hitting from the 18th tee. Could there be a more accomplished example for my being against different weights for each error?

There is no way to differentiate errors also because the same error may have different consequences in a different place or time.

All errors must be treated the same way that must give a chance to recover the disadvantage caused by the need to resume play, under the light of the integrity of sporting.

Without this fundamental concept, it is my strong opinion that would be better to play the single Rule Golf I described at the beginning, drastic but fair.

With my TOMORROW GOLF everybody plays scratch, limited to the double bogey, thus, on a par 3, placing a ball on the middle of the collar for a lost tee shot, with the added virtual shot means playing for a miraculous par or a probable bogey or even for a possible double bogey; where is it the undue advantage?

Another point that apparently makes playing golf too easy, is the placing of the ball anywhere, anytime (not inside a bunker); we cannot forget the conditions that allow the placing: same feet/ball plane, no ball or swing interference are a valid guarantee that play remains a fair challenge for Golfers.

ABOVE ALL THAT PLACING DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A PLAYING FACILITATION, ON THE CONTRARY IT CONSTITUTES A **"RESTITUTION TO GOLFERS"** WHO PLAY NOT AT AUGUSTA BUT PLAY ON 'NATURAL' COURSES THAT SURELY HAVE NO FAIRWAYS OR ROUGH OR GREENS OF THAT SAME QUALITY.

It is not envy; it is the necessity to play the ball in the same conditions everywhere that TOMORROW GOLF satisfies.

Golf is played on any terrain, from desert stony hard terrain of White Cliffs, NSW – Australia, to the very small Western Australia Communities, just a cleared bush and wet sandy greens, to the oiled sand of Middle East, Kesaieed in Doha, Qatar, to the public courses all over the world with natural terrain and grasses or better vegetation to end with luxurious courses with elastic terrain, different grassy essences for greens, fairways and rough.

On the first four types play 50 million of the total 60 million Golfers, the remaining 10 million play the ideal type of terrain.

I'm missing the oiled sand course but I played all four remaining above types in all five continents, from desert White Cliffs, to the few holes of small Australian Communities to public US courses up to the most world famous: St. Andrews Old course, Blue Monster at Doral in Miami, Furnace Creek, Death Valley, Gavea in Rio de Janeiro, Royal Johannesburg, New South Wales and St. Michaels in Sydney, Joondalup near Perth Australia, etc.

All this list is preparatory to what I am going to write below.

Obviously, having the choice, the above list would become a ranking quality list but course quality is not in direct relation with the practice of Golf.

Golf is not the sport played on luxurious grassed terrains only; Golf is the demand of the player's spirit to challenge that little ball at every single shot trying to dominate it. Nothing else matters, not the course, nor the grass that may even be totally absent, nor the weather; Golf would be played even if only one club, one ball and one single hole were the only golf implements available.

I can surely affirm it for what I had seen and for my direct experience, the challenge between me and the ball had always remained the same anywhere, with the added challenge of having to adapt immediately at the actual environment. At White Cliffs I had to learn on the spot to hit the ball absolutely clean to save my wrists and elbows; in the bush of Western Australia I had to deal with any possible lie of the ball, putting on wet sand greens (really interesting putting there), adding the continuous alertness needed since I was alone and rough or bushes could easily hide lethal snakes or spiders; I played on any type of public golf courses with any type of terrain: from the hard, broken ground in Bombay during dry season to USA where they were so much played that the fairways' grass was so run out that one had to look for it, those courses were able to sell over 110 thousand green fee a year (see Rancho Park in Los Angeles); I played the luxurious courses the alike of Blue Monster at Doral, Miami.

The challenge never changed, dominating (trying to) that rebel little white ball was the task and even each environment, despite their abyssal differences, each one of them gave me such interesting stimulus that maintained the pleasure intensity at an almost equal level.

Having played in so many golf courses anywhere in the world, in any condition, on any terrain transformed my experience into a deep knowledge about playing Golf in all conditions.

Golfer is a different entity from the Amateur or the Golf Professional because his play is aimed to his pleasure that is fulfilled even with a sporadic real control of that white round devil, he accepts the challenges posed by the course with its design but resents difficulties posed by an irregular ground or by vegetation's agglomerations that make his ball almost unplayable for half the time, he also instinctively, but rightly, resents the false taboo of the "ball must be played as it lies", today it is called a fake news.

That it is a fake news is born out directly by the very document that established it, the added endorsement to the original 13 Rules in 1758: *"The 5th and 13th Articles of the foregoing Laws having occasioned frequent Disputes it is found convenient that in all time coming, the law shall be the ball must be played where it lies EXCEPT"*.

No Rule ever had such an incipit, not even the Bible dares to use 'in all time coming' so lightly, let alone Capt. Boswall that in fact puts in writing his frustration and irritation only, for failing to get a shared solution among the Golf Clubs of the time; the demonstration is the 'EXCEPT' he puts near the end of the amendment.

End of a false taboo that still lives in the hands of the Golf Authorities that empower themselves to graciously decide the suspension of the taboo for a semester at a time for Golfers and, for Amateurs and Professionals, they suspend it immediately whenever there are few prostatic spectators or a couple of kids drop onto the ground their sodas.

Rightly I do say! I am so convinced of it that I made a Rule out of this conception because the 50 million Golfers find at least 50% of the times their ball almost unplayable; if you don't believe me, try to move your ball few centimetres, all too often you will see it climbing up, this means your ball was "embedded" in between agglomerations of vegetation, it will even happen on fairways more than a time.

Considering that the available surface of the ball to be played is a quarter of the total, the lower rear quarter, that is only a half of its diameter: 21.35 millimetres of which at the least 1.35 mm. is hidden by the grass, that leaves less than 20 mm. available as the hitting zone.

When the 'natural grass', opposed to cultivated grass type, is more an agglomeration of vegetation instead of single blades of grass, is found behind or on the side of the ball, it decreases the available hitting surface to 15 down to only 5 millimetres.

This reality is in front of everyone, caused by irregular terrain and 'natural vegetation'. It is not a challenge created to influence play, it is not in the list of challenges to be confronted by a Golfer and not all Golfers have to confront them.

This is the REASON WHY I made the Rule: a ball may be placed, only placed, anywhere, everywhere (bunkers excepted) whenever feet and ball are on the same plane and the ball and the swing are unobstructed.

This my Rule is not an "undue play facilitation", it is the "**RESTITUTION TO ALL GOLFERS**" of the chance to play a fair Golf instead to spend 50% of their playing time in fighting impossible ball's lies. The conditions necessary to place the ball are a guarantee of a fair play and challenge with the further merit to make all fairways and roughs of the same playing quality considering the ball's lie.

An additional consideration, only through nine holes 'natural' golf courses it will be possible to increase the actual number of Golfers, especially in those countries where Golf is still perceived as an exclusive sport; Golf will not suffer from natural fairways and not so fast greens when its playing will be in accordance with modern times: 2 hours play time, Rules kept at the bare essentials and competitiveness the most equitable, playing scratch with my TOMOEOW GOLF is the maximum possible.

There are not millions of likely golfers who can spend a considerable amount of money to play golf, but there are millions of likely golfers for low cost natural golf courses.

Wherever Golf is played by millions of people, it gains a high social value maintaining golfers in good mental and physical health. An example is Rancho Park in Los Angeles, California, where they play over 115 thousand rounds yearly; that number cannot be reached with a young generation of players only.

THE BALL SHALL BE PLACED EVER AND ONLY, there is absolutely no need for a different procedure.

THE COURSE is an indivisible package, no stakes, line on the ground, places or fixed things that are differentiated from the playing point of view, excepting white stakes or lines defining an internal out of bound on a particular hole to direct play or defining an AGC area.

External limits of the golf course are usually defined by walls, nets, hedges, a line of trees, a ditch, etc; seldom the need for white stakes or lines will arise also because the in/out of bound determination is facilitated by the fact that the player's feet must be in bound while playing a ball that could even be out of bound, remind the TOMORROW GOLF'S FUNDAMENTALS.

STARTING TEE, there is only one set per hole where course length allows the 200 meters' drive only or a maximum of two tee's sets for a championship course.

All the above implies a substantial reduction of maintenance costs, a lesser environmental pollution, almost no painted stakes or lines, shorter time for course's mowing, almost half the time to prepare the course for a competition.

All trees and plants, unless differently defined by Committee, all fixed artificial things taller than two golf balls are deemed integral parts of the course, including roads of any type.

A tree or an irrigation box influence play exactly the same way as well as a road.

Anything not rooted and movable by a maximum of two individuals, may always and anywhere be moved. WHEN A BALL IS HELD IN PLACE BY ANYTHING MOVABLE, THE BALL MAY NOT BE TOUCHED and the player has two alternatives: playing the ball as it lies or without touching the ball he may remove the object AWAY

from the ball, letting it move along the incline and play the ball from where it will stop; if unable Rule 3b applies.

That ball could never have stopped in that place but for the movable object, thus there is no reason why the ball should be placed on that spot.

Should the ball be on the object, it will be lifted, the object removed and the ball placed on the same spot letting it follow the incline.

A WRONG BALL happens when the player plays a ball that is not his original ball or he played his ball from a wrong place. Of course that ball was in the vicinity of the player's original ball and it is logic to think that, for sure, with a little shot he was able to put its original ball in the same position of the wrong ball or reach the wrong place with a shot; that little or normal shot is granted to the player with a VIRTUAL shot to be added to his score. That virtual shot redeemed the player's mistake and now he may continue play with the former wrong ball without gaining any undue advantage.

Since this procedure gained playing time, it would be illogic to lose it in a useless search for his original ball, that's why the search after the play of a wrong ball is prohibited.

BUNKER. It is time to reason over green bunker when they are not pot bunker.

The sand wedge invention practically cancelled the bunker's role as an obstacle in playing golf. Today bunker is the secondary target in difficult approach shots since any shot from the bunker has become almost a granted shot even for Golfers, while a very short shot from high rough is a much more feared shot even from Pro.

I think it would be a good idea to substitute them with high rough all around green for these reasons:

- 1 – Pro ad Amateurs would find a more challenging selection around the green.
- 2 – Golfers would suffer a little more but not as much as regularly finding bunkers with just a very thin layer of sand, if not completely missing. That's why I allowed Golfers to test the sand depth because its lack requires a different club and shot.
- 3 - Golf Clubs would really welcome this contingency because of the economic saving in supplies and maintenance.
- 4 – A single bunker could be kept but abolishing the player's obligation to smooth it. This way the bunker would return to be a real obstacle for play, to be avoided at all costs.
I took this last point's idea from Pine Valley G.C. in New Jersey, USA, where there are no rakes available. Why should it be left alone?

Closing the argument, I anticipate few questions:

-May these Rules be changed?

Recalling the TOMORROW GOLF FUNDAMENTALS, I can conceive no reason why they should be changed, but I do not say never.

Amending them? Possibly, but only after good sense and the player's required fairness failed to cope with the contingency.

Rearrange their scheme? Nothing against in principle, time will say.

