



LEGAL ADVICE

IS IT OK TO ASK YOUR OPPONENT WHAT CLUB HE JUST USED?

Do you know when the help you receive violates the rules? Take this quiz to find out.

DECIDE WHETHER EACH SCENARIO IS PERMISSIBLE:

1 In a four-ball match, your partner's caddie stops you from swinging and says to use a 6-iron instead of a 7-iron.

2 You tee off on a par 3 first. Then your opponent tees off. As you walk towards the green, you ask your opponent what club he used.

3 A rainstorm chases everyone into the clubhouse during the member-guest. While waiting for play to resume from the delay, you ask another member what club he used on a hole you have yet to play.

4 Undecided about what club to use when it's your turn to play, you wait for your fellow-competitor to grab a club and then you quietly walk over and look in his golf bag to see what club is missing.

5 You're about to hit a bunker shot but aren't sure where to attempt to land it. You ask your partner to touch the spot on the green you should aim for.

6 You ask your caddie for a read while he is tending the flag. He tells you to aim at the shadow of his head on the green, and then you hit the putt.

7 The ball just doesn't seem to be travelling very far, so before making your next club selection, you ask someone to check a weather app on a smartphone to see how much humidity is in the air.

8 Trying to decide where to aim for your shot, you ask your playing partner if there is another bunker beyond the one that you see.

9 To influence your opponent's club and shot selection, you say out loud as if talking to yourself that you wish you had taken a full swing with your 3-wood instead of a shorter swing with your driver.

10 You want to know where your opponent's ball is to determine whether you need to hole your next shot. Instead of checking with him, you call out to a bystander and ask him for the location.

ANSWERS

1 No penalty. You, your partner and both of your caddies can share advice (RULE 8-1).

2 No penalty. Advice is defined, in part, as counsel that could influence how you play your shot. In this case, the question of club selection came after the fact, so it's not considered advice (DECISIONS 8-1/6, 8-1/7).

3 No penalty. The prohibition against asking for or giving advice doesn't apply when a round has been suspended (DECISION 8-1/20).

4 No penalty. Information obtained through observation is not advice, as long as you don't commit a physical act such as removing a towel to see what club is missing (DECISIONS 8-1/10, 8-1/11).

5 No penalty. Your side may touch the green to indicate line of play if your ball is off the green (DECISION 8-2B/3).

6 Penalty (loss of hole in match play or two shots in stroke play). However, if he removed the shadow before you putted, there would have been no penalty (8-2B/1).

7 No penalty. Gauging or measuring weather conditions is not allowed, but assessing weather information through an app or Internet browser is permitted (DECISION 14-3/18).

8 No penalty. Matters of public information such as the location of hazards on a course are not considered advice (definitions).

9 Penalty (loss of hole). It's considered giving advice because you purposely wanted to mislead your opponent (DECISION 8-1/9).

10 No penalty. You can get public information from anyone (DECISION 8-1/5, DEFINITIONS).

A FIRST-TEE MEDITATION FOR **BUSINESS GOLF** BY MIKE STACHURA



Gosh, feels good to be out of the office. Restores a flagging spirit. You breathe a little better, feel a little lighter. Well, some of us do... What was that lunch, a bacon burger with cheese fries? Did Bob's heart attack not come with a warning? Idiot... That breeze feels nice. Wish it were downwind... Golf course looks immaculate. Ought to, with that monthly. Really, this is perfect. Remember today when it's February and your balls are frozen... Dang, they need that presentation tomorrow, don't they? What am I doing out here?... What, we're next on the tee? So much for hitting range balls. Nice move ordering dessert, boss. Dork... Business golf sucks. It's like teenage sex: an intoxicat-

ing theoretical proposition that 99 times out of a hundred goes impossibly wrong the minute you get into it... Boy, this guy's an earache. Two words I didn't need to hear today: start-up and scalable. My car is a start-up, and grapes in a grocery store are scalable... Wait, am I supposed to go to the grocery store on my way home?... Man, this course looks hard. Why has it taken four years for me to get the invite?... Do I have enough cash for the caddies? Am I even supposed to pay? Loser... The putting green is way the heck over there? Darn it... What's this clown wearing? Does he think he's Rickie Fowler?... The back tees? Sure, why not, we're all warmed up. Moron... OK, just a few smooth practice

swings to get loose. Geez, I'm tight. Did I just pull something?... No, go ahead. I want to see this. Huh, guess he is Rickie Fowler. Now I get to follow that: a 230-yard carry over a quarry. Swell... OK, ease up on that grip pressure... The car needs an oil change... Two knuckles or three? Bloody hell... Straight back, bend from the waist. Feet shoulder-width apart. Ball inside the left heel. Is it? I can't tell from this angle. Where am I aimed? Oh, God... Steady now, low and slow backswing... The market's doing what?... Turn the left shoulder under your chin, don't sway... Did I turn my phone on silent?... Hands high, don't lunge... Should've worn my other shorts... Steady, steady... Deep-fried beer?

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