

Sandgate Golf Club Newsletter

10 June 2017

Competition scores – In the last couple of weeks I have received several reports of different players doing some disturbing things on the course during our Saturday competitions. If the things I have heard second and third hand are actually true, then a few players need to consider whether they are playing fairly and within the rules that we are all supposed to follow. Like I did in October last year, I have decided to remind all players again of their duties as a marker of a card in a competition.

The duties of a marker is not just to write down the score given to you by the player whose card you are scoring, but it is to ensure the player whose card you are marking has played their round of golf in accordance with the Rules of Golf and the local rules of the Club as notified on the white board situated on the western wall of the downstairs “Pro Shop” facing the 9th green. This means that you need to ensure the player whose card you are marking does (for example);

- not take more than a card length when they take a preferred lie (local rule)
- not take a drop from a bare patch when they are not on the **fairway** they are playing (local rule)
- take a drop in the correct place after they have entered a water hazard
- go back to where they last hit their ball if it goes out of bounds or is “deemed to be lost”
- not touch anything if they are playing a ball inside the red markers defining a hazard
- not ground their club in a bunker before they play their shot
- at the end of the hole they have counted all of their shots and penalties incurred on that hole
- not practice on the course before a round (including rolling balls down a slope on a green on the course)

It sounds like an onerous job, but that are the responsibilities of a marker at a Golf Club. It is also requested that all players in the group keep an eye on the other players in the group to ensure that they are following the rules and challenge them if they think they may have “miscalculated” their score on the hole. A good practice to get into is for the player to announce how many strokes they have had when they are picking up their ball from the hole. At that time the player’s marker or another player in the group can discuss and help the player count their shots and ensure the correct score is entered onto the scorecard.

Whilst I / the Match Committee can only (and have done so) talk to, write warning letters and challenge the people who have been alleged to have done incorrect and unfair things on the course, it is up to everyone in the group playing with these players to ensure that everyone is playing within the rules. Rule books are available in the Clubhouse, but to be honest the rules I have heard people allegedly breaking aren’t the more difficult ones in the book – it is the basic ones like miss counting shots and moving a ball from the rough or behind a tree and somehow ending up back on the fairway.

Thanks for your assistance with this matter and in helping to ensure everybody playing at our Club is playing by the same rules, making it a fair competition for all.

Yours sincerely

Brett Forrest

Club Captain

(On behalf of the Management Committee)

