

2024 MATCH PLAY RULES QUIZ: Lucy and Ethel are partners for The Copacabana CC and Laverne and Shirley are partners for The Beer Barrel Golf Club. Both teams are playing four-ball match play with NO handicap strokes. You are the referee. What are the correct rulings for these players?

1. **[2024 Update]** Hole 1, par 5: All four players are on the putting green. Laverne is close to the hole and may score a birdie 4. Lucy & Ethel have a 5 on the hole. Shirley has a long putt for par that will also show Laverne the line for her birdie. Lucy & Ethel concede Shirley's long putt for a par 5. Laverne stands behind Shirley while she putts anyway "for practice" to show Laverne the line. Now what?
 - a. No penalty, since the putt was conceded for a guaranteed tie and a partner can putt first to strategically help her partner
 - b. Shirley loses the hole because she was showing Laverne the line after her putt was conceded
 - c. Laverne loses the hole because she stood in the "restricted zone" behind Shirley's line of play
 - d. Both b & c are correct; Ethel & Lucy win the hole; Rule 10.2b(4) & 23.8**
2. Lucy and Ethel are "one-up" & have scored 5 on Hole 2. Laverne missed her very short putt to tie the hole with a 5. Since Laverne and Shirley each started the round with only 12 clubs in each of their golf bags, Shirley borrows Laverne's wedge and attempts to chip in for the 5 and misses holing-out her shot. – AFTER 2 HOLES.....?
 - a. Laverne & Shirley are four down after the second hole
 - b. Laverne & Shirley are three down after the second hole; Rule 23.7 & 23.9a(2)**
1st bullet
 - c. Laverne & Shirley are two down after the second hole
 - d. Laverne & Shirley are disqualified
3. Laverne and Shirley have a score of 5 on hole 3. Lucy is much further away so Ethel putts first and her 4th stroke stops 6" from the hole. Laverne & Shirley concede her putt for a 5. Ethel taps the ball after the concession, misses the hole and picks up her ball; Lucy hits a firm putt for the 4 and goes 5 ft past the hole – Lucy picks up her ball. Laverne & Shirley claim they won the third hole. Which answer is correct?
 - a. Ethel played out of turn plus the concession was invalidated when she missed her putt; Laverne & Shirley win
 - b. Lucy picked up her ball and Ethel putted her short putt/missed; they ignored the concession and did not finish the hole: Laverne & Shirley win the hole
 - c. A concession cannot be declined or withdrawn – Ethel & Lucy tied the hole with Laverne & Shirley; Rule 3.2b(2)**
4. **[2024 Update]** Lucy & Ethel have a score of 6 on hole 4. Shirley picked up her ball and was out of the hole. Laverne has a putt for a 5; she putts firmly and the ball hits the flagstick in the hole and ricochets backwards, hitting Laverne's shoe. Lucy & Ethel concede Laverne's next stroke. Under the 2024 Rules of Golf, what is the status of the hole?
 - a. Both teams scored 6 and tied the hole. Rule 11.1b(2)**
 - b. The ball hit Laverne's shoe and she gets a 1-stroke penalty. Her conceded putt was for a 7 and Laverne & Shirley lose the hole.
 - c. Laverne has to replay her stroke.

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5. **[2024 Update]** All four players have balls land in the fairway; all balls are within several yards of the other on Hole 5. No one can see their marks on the balls.

Simultaneously... Lucy puts her finger down next to the golf ball, rotates the ball with her other hand to see her logo and rotates it back into position; Laverne marks a ball with a tee, lifts it, identifies it, then wipes off mud before replacing the ball; Shirley marks a ball, identifies her ball and replaces her ball with an old ball, in case she hits her next stroke in the water; Ethel lifts a ball without marking it, identifies it, and replaces it on the spot using reasonable judgment and plays it to the hole. Shirley & Laverne tell Ethel and Lucy that they have to mark their ball with an object before lifting it but won't assess the penalty. What are the rulings?

a. Lucy & Ethel get one-stroke penalties; Shirley & Laverne lose the hole for agreeing to ignore a rule infraction.

b. Lucy, Ethel, Laverne and Shirley all get 1-stroke penalties

c. Lucy & Ethel get no penalty, Laverne gets a 1-stroke penalty for cleaning her ball, and Shirley gets ONE penalty stroke for improperly substituting a ball; Rules 3.2d(4), 6.3b(3), 9.4, 14.1a, 14.1c; clarification 3.2d(4)/1

d. No penalties to any player

6. On Hole 6, Lucy hits a drive toward a wooded area. After everyone else plays from the tee, Lucy announces/plays a provisional ball with different identifying marks. She hits her provisional ball down the middle of the fairway. Lucy finds her original ball in a Penalty Area that she did not know was beyond the wooded area. What MUST Lucy do?

a. Lucy doesn't like the relief options from the penalty area, so rather than taking stroke and distance, she decides to play her provisional ball in the middle of the fairway

b. Lucy MUST play her provisional ball because you may not play a provisional ball if the original ball goes into a Penalty Area

c. Lucy MUST either play her ball in the Penalty Area or take relief using any of the Penalty Area options; Rule 18.3a & 18.3c(3) and Rule 17.1

d. Lucy may play both balls and ask for a ruling after the match.

7. On Hole 7, Shirley hits a high shot into an elevated green, the ball makes a pitch mark on the apron/fringe but bounces out and comes to rest just behind the pitch mark. Shirley decides she wants to putt the ball and fixes the pitch mark right in front of her ball on the apron. Ethel & Lucy tell Shirley she cannot do that...what is correct?

a. Shirley is allowed to fix the pitch mark on the apron because she has chosen to putt the ball

b. Shirley should add one-stroke penalty to her score

c. Shirley loses the hole and Laverne may still finish play of the hole; Rule 8.1a & Clarification 8.1a/1

d. Shirley should recreate the pitch mark in front of her ball before playing 8. On Hole 8, all four drives land in the fairway. Laverne and Lucy both hit second strokes on the green, Shirley plays next and the ball lands in a bunker and then Ethel is next to play. Ethel realizes the only ball left to play is NOT HER BALL. What's next? Which answer is FALSE:

a. The remaining ball must be identified and that player is disqualified from the hole

b. Ethel MUST estimate the original spot of her ball, replace a ball and play it; no penalty

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c. Ethel MUST retrieve and use her original ball to replace and play; Rule 6.3c(2)

d. Shirley, Lucy and/or Laverne must determine if they played a wrong ball and if so, they are disqualified from the hole, and if not, the players must finish the hole with Ethel.

9. Hole 9 is a tough par 3 with a forced water carry all the way to the green with no Dropping Zones available. The players want to save time, and one suggests that they not tee off, take “a tie” for the hole and decide to proceed to hole 10. Which is the INCORRECT answer?

a. This is acceptable - player(s) and opponent(s) can agree to tie a hole at any time; Rule 3.2a(2) 2nd bullet

b. This is NOT acceptable - player(s) and opponent(s) may not agree to waive the rules and skip a hole(s). If they do, both teams are disqualified

c. One player says, “I don’t think we can do that; we should at least hit our tee shots and then decide.”

10. Hole 10 has a large lateral Penalty Area and Laverne’s drive is known to be in the Penalty Area. The other players watch her take relief and then play their balls into the green. Laverne’s topped her third stroke back into the Penalty Area and properly took another drop. None of the other players could see Laverne or knew she took a second drop. Laverne’s 5th stroke landed on the green 1 foot from the hole. Shirley finished with a 5 and Ethel had a 6. Lucy has a 6ft putt for 5 and asks Laverne if she lies 3 and Laverne nods that she does. Lucy picks up her ball and says “your hole.” Laverne asks what Lucy was putting for and she says it was a 5 to tie Shirley. Laverne then announces she was actually putting for a 6. What is the outcome?

a. Laverne & Shirley win the hole with Shirley’s 5 since Lucy picked up her ball b. Lucy & Ethel tied the hole with Laverne & Shirley since Laverne gave Lucy WRONG INFORMATION about her score and the best Lucy could have done was tie the hole IF she made her 6 ft putt

c. Lucy & Ethel win the hole because Laverne did not inform Lucy she had a second penalty drop and then gave Lucy WRONG INFORMATION which caused Lucy to pick up her ball; Rule 3.2d(1)&(2) & 23.9a(2)/3

d. Lucy can replace her ball because she was told WRONG INFORMATION that caused her to pick up her ball

11. On the 11th hole, all 4 players have balls on the putting green, lying 2. Ethel is away. Lucy did not mark her ball, because it was not near Ethel’s line. Shirley uses a large poker chip to mark her ball. Ethel thought her line would miss the poker chip but her ball hit it and was deflected off-line such that it struck Lucy’s ball, sending Lucy’s ball into the nearby penalty area. What’s next?

a. Ethel loses the hole for striking another ball on the putting green; Lucy replaces her ball on the estimated spot with a new ball without penalty

b. Ethel loses the hole and Lucy must take penalty relief from the Penalty Area c. Ethel plays her ball as it lies without penalty and Lucy MUST retrieve her original

ball from the Penalty Area to replace it on the estimated spot or take relief with penalty

d. Ethel plays her ball as it lies without penalty and Lucy may, without penalty, replace a new ball on the estimated spot or retrieve her original ball and

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replace on the estimated spot, without penalty; Rule 11.1b Exception 2, 1st bullet, Rule 11.1a & Rule 9.6

e. The hole is over: Lucy & Ethel lose the hole to Laverne & Shirley

12. On Hole 12, three players have pars. As Shirley's birdie putt is rolling to the hole, it strikes a small lizard scurrying across the green. Her ball deflects into the hole. What can happen next?

a. Laverne says "great birdie" partner and four players tee off on #13

b. Lucy & Ethel aren't sure that Shirley had a legitimate birdie and, before they get to hole 13 to tee off, announce that they want to request a ruling

c. Shirley is not sure what to do and announces she will play a second ball from the same spot, but wants the birdie to count

d. Lucy asks Shirley to replace her ball on the original spot and putt again for her birdie

e. Answers b & d are the correct possible outcomes; Rule 20.1b(2) & (4) and Rule 11.1b (2)

13. On Hole 13, a yellow penalty area crosses in front of the green. Ethel's ball lands on the front edge of the green and bounces back into the penalty area. What option IS NOT correct for Ethel?

a. Play another ball under stroke and distance

b. Play the original ball as it lies in the penalty area, grounding her club behind the ball

c. Take relief within two club lengths of the yellow line, no closer to the hole on the green side of the penalty area since her ball cleared the line before bouncing back into the penalty area; Rule 17.1d(1) & (2)

d. Drop a new ball back on a line between the point where the ball last-crossed the yellow line (bouncing back into the penalty area) and the flagstick

14. On Hole 14, Lucy's tee shot goes left into a lateral (red) penalty area. All players agree where Lucy's ball most likely crossed the red line and she takes a drop correctly within two club lengths. As Lucy walks back to her bag to get the range finder, Shirley tells her she sees Lucy's ball in the water 20 yards closer to the green. What MUST Lucy do?

a. Since everyone used reasonable judgment for the drop, Lucy MUST play her ball as it lies

b. Since Lucy got new information, she MUST drop a ball at the correct location; if she plays the dropped ball she (not her partner) will get a loss of hole penalty for playing the dropped ball from a wrong place; Rule 14.5b

c. Since Lucy already put a ball into play when it was dropped, she MUST play the ball from that location

d. Lucy, unsure what to do, decides to play two balls, one from each location 15. On Hole 15, Shirley and Lucy had bad holes and picked up. Ethel plays her third stroke from the bunker onto the green. Ethel's ball is on Laverne's line and Ethel is busy raking the bunker

30 yards away. Without saying anything, Laverne marks and lifts Ethel's ball, putts her third stroke into the hole for a birdie and claims she won the hole. Lucy says no, Ethel has a putt to tie the hole. Who is correct?

- a. Laverne is correct – she is an outside influence and can mark Ethel's ball without penalty

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b. Lucy is correct; a player who moves the opponent's ball without authorization gets a 1-stroke penalty. Ethel has a putt to tie Laverne for 4; Rule 9.5b

16. On hole 16, Lucy and Ethel are 3 up with 3 to play. Lucy had a great shot into the green, putts and Laverne concedes her 4. Laverne then has a putt for 3 to extend the match. Laverne putts and the ball stops 1' from the hole. Lucy picks up Laverne's ball and shakes her hand, saying it was a great match. Laverne contends that Lucy gets a penalty for picking up her ball – like she did on the last hole – wins the hole and the match continues. Who is correct?

- a. Laverne is correct; Lucy picked up her ball and incurred a penalty stroke
- b. Lucy was conceding Laverne's next stroke when she picked up her ball. They tied the hole and Lucy & Ethel won the match 3&2; Rule 9.5b Exception 1 - 1st bullet**

BONUS QUESTION A: The four players decide to play hole 17 for fun. The green has a very steep slope. Both Ethel & Shirley are above the hole. Ethel marks and lifts her ball. Shirley leaves her ball on the green and while she walks below the hole to look at her putt, her ball rolls 5ft closer to the hole. While Shirley is figuring out what to do next, Ethel replaces her ball & it also rolls 4ft closer to the hole. What do they do?

BONUS ANSWER A: Shirley did not mark, lift and replace her ball. Rule 9.3 applies since natural forces (possibly wind, gravity) caused the ball to move and the ball must be played from its new location. Ethel marked, lifted and replaced her ball. Rule 9.3 Exception 1 applies to Ethel's ball so she must estimate her original spot and replace the ball. In both cases, the original balls must be used; a new ball may not be substituted when replacing the ball.

[2024 Update] BONUS QUESTION B: It's a nice day so they continue playing into the clubhouse on hole 18, par 5. Lucy lands in a greenside beach bunker and the ball plugs. She correctly takes unplayable back on the line relief by dropping ON THE LINE. The ball rolls outside the relief area after both drops, and she places the ball on firm sand where the second drop landed (near the penalty area line). While she gets a club, the ball rolls into the water in the Penalty Area. Shirley lands short of the green and must take lateral unplayable relief from the pampas grass and correctly drops her ball on a steep slope. While she is getting her laser, the ball rolls back into the pampas grass stopping in the same place, unplayable. What are the rulings for Lucy and Shirley?

BONUS ANSWER B: Lucy replaces her original ball (or may substitute a ball ONLY if the original ball cannot be retrieved from the water) on the spot where the ball was at rest in the bunker after taking relief; Rule 9.3 Exception 2; Rule 14.2a Exception 1st bullet.

Shirley either has to try to play her ball where it lies in the pampas grass or again take unplayable relief for an additional penalty stroke; Rule 9.3 & Rule 19.2.

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