



DECISION 33-2b/1.5 - Committee Wishes to Move Hole During Stroke-Play Round Due to Severity of Location

QUESTION: During a round in a stroke-play competition, the Committee discovers that one of the holes is positioned such that the ball will not stop near the hole due to the severity of the slope at the hole. As a result, the majority of players who have played the hole have taken an excessive number of putts to hole out. What are the Committee's options in such circumstances?

ANSWER: There is no good solution in such a case, and the Committee, taking into account all factors (e.g., how severe the hole location is, how many players have completed play of the hole and where the hole is in the round), should take the course of action that it considers to be the fairest to all the players. In the circumstances described, the following are examples of actions the Committee may take:

- a) Have play continue with the hole location unchanged on the basis that the conditions are the same for all players in the field;
- b) Keep the hole in the same location but take some action, e.g., watering the putting green between groups, to make the hole location less severe;
- c) Declare the round null and void and have all players start the round again.
- d) Suspend play, relocate the hole and have the players who played the hole return at the conclusion of their rounds to replay the hole. The score for the hole for these players is the score achieved when the hole is replayed;
- e) Have all players disregard their score for the hole in question and play another hole (whether on the competition course or elsewhere) for their score for the hole.

Options (d) and (e) should be taken only in extreme circumstances because they alter the stipulated round for some or all players.

<http://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules/rules-and-decisions.html#!decision-33,d33-2b-1.5>

July 25th, 2017, in the case for Day 1 of the Golf Saskatchewan Provincial Senior Women's and Men's Championship played at the North Battleford GCC, the Committee invoked Decision 33-2b/1.5 (d). All Women in the competition were required to replay hole #2 and #3 due to the severity of the hole location. For the Senior Men's competition, 13 groups replayed hole #2. Using the decision to relocate and replay the hole for the affected competitors was not an easy decision. What has been ensured is the integrity of the golf championship and fair play of the competition for all parties involved.

Brian Lee, Golf Saskatchewan Executive Director and Tournament Director