



THE THONG ADJUSTER



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The Putter speaks

A word from the editor

Even though August is more than half over, here is the August issue of The Thong Adjuster! Sorry for the delay, but your editor here had some computer software problems.

Meanwhile, the end of August means our Fifth Iron Thong Golf Tournament is almost here. Once again, we'll meet at the Golf Course of Texas and crown our champion -- and win some money and goodies along the way! If you've paid your dues and played your rounds (5, remember), then you, too, can try to wrestle our Traveling Trophy from the steel grip of Jesse Flores, our reigning champion!

New member

We have a new member to welcome to our Thong: Ronny "I just can't" Copeland. Ronny didn't have the best of days at Landa Park, but no one else did, either. Welcome!

Tee boxes

The vote has been counted and we'll be playing from the tee box closest to 6500 yards. The majority rules. Basically, this means that we'll be playing the second tee (usually white, but not always). Some courses are just longer than others and all us short knockers have to live with it. Golf is life and life ain't fair. But at least we're all getting a nice tan.



See ya Saturday!
Steve



The Thong Adjuster is published online monthly for The Iron Thong Golf Group members.

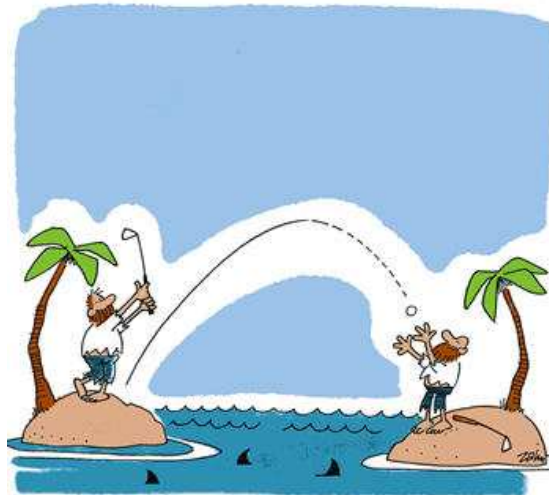
Go to <http://www.IronThongGolf.com> to view the current issue.

Articles, including for sale items, can be submitted at any time. Send them to the editor at stevevanwert@hughes.net.

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Just 'fore' laughs



“Fore!”



“Jefferson, you imbecile! That’s not a golf cart, it’s a lawn mower!””



FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions about Golf

Q Do woods built with a closed face really help fight a slice?

A Yes, as long as you let the closed face angle of the woodhead do its job without any interference from the golfer!

Let's use the example of the effect of a more hooked or closed face angle on the driver (a k a, draw bias) as a way to counteract a slice. The golfer slices the ball because, due to a number of swing errors, they deliver the clubface to impact with the ball with the face open to the intended target. This causes the ball to slide, then roll, across the face from the heel toward the toe, which in turn causes the ball to leave the face with a slicing sidespin action.

By changing to a woodhead with a more closed face angle (in which the face points to the hook side of the target when you set the wood flat on its sole), the number of degrees that the golfer delivers the face open to impact with the ball is reduced.

Less open face at impact = less slice sidespin on the ball.

However, remember we said that the closed face angle only works when the golfer does not interfere with it? There is a tendency among many golfers using a woodhead with a closed face angle for the first time to push the hands forward in the stance. They do this in an effort to make the face point straight at the target, rather than pointing to the hook side of the target (as a woodhead with a closed face should do when it is set flat on its sole). Doing this will negate the effect of the face angle change.



Common penalties under the Rules of Golf

By Brent Kelley

Call this a “cheat sheet.” This page lists some of the most common infractions and their penalties under the Rules of Golf.

More clubs in bag than allowed (Rule 4-4)

Fourteen clubs is the maximum allowed. Penalty for exceeding 14 in match play is loss of hole for each hole on which the breach occurred, up to a maximum of two holes. In stroke play, penalty is two strokes for each hole on which the breach occurred, up to a maximum of four strokes.

Wrong score recorded on scorecard (Rule 6-6d)

Penalty for signing scorecard that includes scores lower than actually recorded is disqualification. There is no penalty for signing a scorecard that incorrectly inflates a player’s score, but the higher score stands.

Playing out of turn (Rule 10)

There is no penalty for playing out of turn. Other than the scorn of other members of your group. In match play, a competitor has the option of making you re-do your shot in the correct order of play.

Grounding the club in a hazard (Rule 13-4)

Grounding the club in a hazard is illegal. Anyone who does it must assess themselves (or have assessed) a 2-stroke penalty (or loss of hole in match play).



Hitting an unattended flagstick with a putt (Rule 17-3)

The flagstick is in the hole, unattended, and your putt strikes it. That’s a 2-stroke penalty in stroke play (ball subsequently played as it lies) and loss of hole in match play.

Ball moves after address (Rule 18-2b)

If your ball moves once you’ve taken your address, it’s a 1-stroke penalty. The ball is replaced on its original spot.



What's the penalty?

Continued from page 4

Ball moves after loose impediment is removed (Rule 18-2c)

Players can remove loose impediments without penalty as long as the ball and the loose impediment are not both in a hazard. Through the green, if the ball moves when any loose impediment within one club length of the ball is removed, it's a 1-stroke penalty. The ball is replaced at the original spot.

Ball in water hazard (Rule 26-1)

If you find your ball in a water hazard, you can always try to play it without penalty. Otherwise, it's a stroke-plus-distance penalty. Option 1: Take a 1-stroke penalty and return to the spot of the original shot to re-play. Option 2: Take a 1-stroke penalty and drop a ball behind the water hazard (going back as far as you want), keeping the point at which the original shot crossed into the hazard directly between your drop and the hole. For a lateral water hazard, drop within two club lengths of the spot where the ball crossed the margin of the hazard (no nearer the hole), or on the opposite side of the hazard at an equidistant spot.



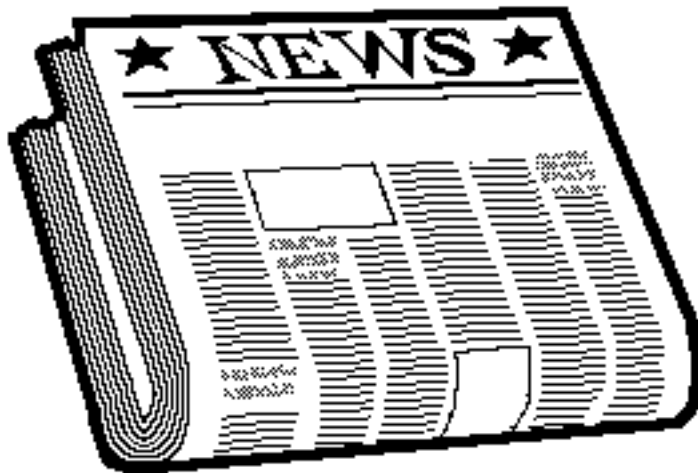
Ball lost or Out of Bounds (Rule 27-1)

Stroke plus distance. Take a 1-stroke penalty and return to the spot of the original shot to re-play. A provisional ball may be played before searching for the original ball begins.

Ball unplayable (Rule 28)

You can declare a ball unplayable anywhere except in a water hazard, and you are the sole judge as to whether your ball is unplayable. Declaring a ball unplayable results in 1-stroke penalty and a drop. Drop as close as possible to the spot of the old ball; within two club lengths and not nearer the hole; or at any point behind the spot of the original ball, as long as that spot remains in between the hole and the location of the dropped ball.

Golf in the



Are these hints helpful? Proof is in the putting

By Frank Fitzpatrick

Philadelphia Inquirer Sports
Columnist

For golfers like me, analyzing your game is like stable-mucking. The more you do it, the worse you stink.

Still, with a heart full of hope and a head full of useless tips, I continue to subscribe to Golf and Golf Digest, advice-rich magazines that survive on the vanity of hackers.

Let's face it, all the instructional hints in the world won't help me salvage a par when my drive lands in the parking lot.

I could hit Pro V-1s with a \$1,200 driver after private lessons with David Leadbetter, and I'd still shoot a 106.

I could draw circles on my grip fingers, set the shaft under the plane at impact, put less hinge in my elbow at the top of my swing, and I'd still terrorize the squirrels.

So why do I continue to read these articles that make golf seem like the sporting equivalent of organic chemistry?

Because spring is near, and I'm addicted.

Here are some actual story titles from recent issues:

"A Magic Marker Can Improve Your Stroke":

Not to mention your score.

“Stop Skulling Your Irons”:

Oh, OK. That'll happen when I start ironing my skull.

“Adjust the Ball”:

I do, but only when my fellow players aren't looking.

“Know Where to Miss”:

Not a problem.

“Lag It to Tap-In Range”:

I had a Tap-In Range in my first apartment.

“Add Yards to Your Irons”:

I can do this. I can't tell you how many yards I've hit into with my irons. Not to mention decks, patios and flower beds.

“Putt With the Edge of Your Wedge”:

Why? If I can't putt with a big-bladed putter, how am I going to improve by using an eighth-inch surface?

“Chip It Close From an Uphill Lie”:

The only lie golfers like me concern ourselves with is the one that comes after we total up our scores.

“Fix Pop-Up Slices”:

Sorry, I turn elsewhere for advice on toaster repairs.

“Turn Your Swing Into a Tour Swing”:

OK, and when I'm done, I'll turn my wife into Anna Kournikova.

“Swing Your Bag to Stop Your Sway”:

Now do-si-do!

“Turn Your Chest to Hit a Hybrid”:

Sure, then watch how your auto-insurance rates soar.

“How to Hit a 50-Yard Bunker Shot”:

That's easy. Try to hit it 150 yards.

“Point the Crease at Impact for Maximum Speed”:

Say what?

“Feet Open, Body Square”:

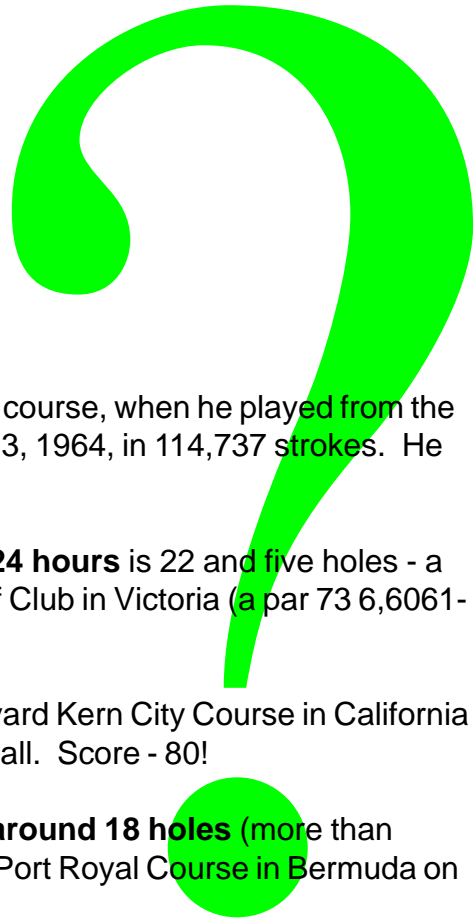
Head spinning.

“Never Three-Putt Again”:

Sell your clubs.



Golf oddities



* **Floyd Satterlee Rood** used the United States as a golf course, when he played from the Pacific to the Atlantic from September 14, 1963, to October 3, 1964, in 114,737 strokes. He lost 3,511 balls on the 3,397.7 mile trail.

* **The Greatest Number of Rounds played on foot in 24 hours** is 22 and five holes - a total of 401 holes - by Ian Colston, aged 35, at Bendigo Golf Club in Victoria (a par 73 6,6061-yard course) on November 27/28, 1971.

* **Seventy-seven players** completed the 18-hole 6,502-yard Kern City Course in California in 10 minutes, 30 seconds, on August 24, 1984, using one ball. Score - 80!

* **The lowest recorded score for throwing a golf ball around 18 holes** (more than 6,000 yards) is 82 by Joe Flynn, ages 21, at the 6,228-yard Port Royal Course in Bermuda on March 27, 1975.

* **The World One-Club Championship** was won by Thad Daber using a 6-iron at the 6,037-yard Lochmore Golf Course in Cary, North Carolina with a 73 on November 10th, 1985.

* **The longest delayed result in any national open championship** occurred in the 1931 US Open at Toledo, Ohio. George von Elme and Billy Burke tied at 292, then tied the first replay at 149. Burke won the second replay by a single stroke after 72 extra holes.

* **A record 321,779 competitors** - 206,820 men and 114,959 women - played the 1984 Volkswagen Grand Prix Open Amateur Championship in the UK.

* **The slowest strokeplay tournament round** was one of 6 hours 45 minutes taken by South Africa in the first round of the 1972 World Cup at the Royal Melbourne Golf Club in Australia. This was a four-ball medal round, everything holed out.

* **Steven Ward took 222 Strokes** for the 6,212-yard Pecos Course in Reeves County, Texas, on June 18, 1976 - but he was only 3 years and 286 days old.

* **Jacqueline Ann Mercer** won her first South African title at Humewood Golf Club in Port Elizabeth in 1948 and her fourth in Port Elizabeth Golf club on May 4, 1979, 31 years later.