



THE THONG ADJUSTER



Vol. 4 No. 2



February 2009

The unofficial online magazine of The Iron Thong Golf Gang



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The Putter speaks

A word from the editor

It's almost time!

That's right, the 6th Iron Thong Golf Tournament is just around the corner. This time we're playing our new home course, The Hawk, so I anticipate lower scores, more money and some new winners. This is your last month to get those five scores in and establish your handicap before March 7, so get out and play.

Officer elections

It's also time to vote for new officers for The Iron Thong. We're voting for president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. The new officers will be installed after the March 7 tournament. Their term will be for two years, so make sure you vote. It's important. These guys will make most of the important decisions for the next couple of years for our club, so make sure you think carefully about who you want for officers, and vote!

New member

When is a new member an old member? When it's Jeff Konop, who many of us already know and have played golf with. So welcome to The ITG, Jeff "One Up" Konop! Good to see you again.

Next issue

The next issue of The Thong Adjuster will be a special photo issue spotlighting our tournament winners and non-winners alike. Look for it next month.

All for now,
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

The Laws Of Golf

LAW 1: No matter how bad your last shot was, the worst is yet to come. This law does not expire on the 18th hole, since it has the supernatural tendency to extend over the course of a tournament, a summer and, eventually, a lifetime.

LAW 2: Your best round of golf will be followed almost immediately by your worst round ever. The probability of the latter increases with the number of people you tell about the former.



LAW 3: Brand new golf balls are water-magnetic. Though this cannot be proven in the lab, it is a known fact that the more expensive the golf ball, the greater its attraction to water.

LAW 4: Golf balls never bounce off of trees back into play. If one does, the tree is breaking a law of the universe and should be cut down.

LAW 5: No matter what causes a golfer to muff a shot, all his playing partners must solemnly chant "You looked up," or invoke the wrath of the universe.

LAW 6: The higher a golfer's handicap, the more qualified he deems himself as an instructor.

LAW 7: Every par-three hole in the world has a secret desire to humiliate golfers. The shorter the hole, the greater its desire.

LAW 8: Topping a 3-iron is the most painful torture known to man.

LAW 9: Palm trees eat golf balls.

LAW 10: Sand is alive. If it isn't, how do you explain the way it works against you?



More Laws of Golf, continued from page 2



LAW 11: Golf carts always run out of juice at the farthest point from the clubhouse.

LAW 12: A golfer hitting into your group will always be bigger than anyone in your group. Likewise, a group you accidentally hit into will consist of a football player, a professional

wrestler, a convicted murderer and an IRS agent — or some similar combination.

LAW 13: All 3-woods are demon-possessed.

LAW 14: Golf balls from the same “sleeve” tend to follow one another, particularly out of bounds or into the water (See Law three).

LAW 15: A severe slice is a thing of awesome power and beauty.

LAW 16: “Nice lag” can usually be translated to “lousy putt.” Similarly, “tough break” can usually be translated “way to miss an easy one, sucker.”

LAW 17: The person you would most hate to lose to will always be the one who beats you.

LAW 18: The last three holes of a round will automatically adjust your score to what it really should be.



LAW 19: Golf should be given up at least twice per month.

LAW 20: All vows taken on a golf course shall be valid only until the sunset.



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.

About the Author

Tom Wishon is one of the most highly respected members of the golf equipment industry and is the Technical Advisor to PGA.com, the website of the PGA of America.

More Frequently Asked Questions about Golf



Q. If You're Putting from Off the Green, Do You Get Relief from Sprinkler?

The question is this: Your ball is off the green, but close enough that you want to putt; however, directly in your putting line - in between your ball and the green - is a sprinkler head. Do you get to move your ball so that you don't have to putt over the sprinkler head?

A. No.

Here's the explanation. The rule in question is Rule 24-2, Immovable Obstruction. The sprinkler head obviously can't be moved, so many players believe that they should be able to move their ball (dropping one club length away, no nearer the hole).

If your ball was on top of the sprinkler head, you could move it. If it was resting up against the sprinkler head, you could move it. If the sprinkler head affected your swing or prevented you from taking your normal stance, you could move the ball under Rule 24-2.

However, none of those things applies in this example.

The problem is that if you putt the ball, you'll have to go directly over the sprinkler head because it is in the line of your putt.

Rule 24-2 specifically addresses that problem in this way: "If the player's ball lies on the putting green, interference also occurs if an immovable obstruction on the putting green intervenes on his line of putt. Otherwise, intervention on the line of play is not, of itself, interference under this Rule."

In other words, in order to take relief because of interference with the line of your putt, your ball must be on the green. In our example, however, the ball is off the green. Therefore, you cannot move the ball.

Your options are to go ahead and putt across the sprinkler head, or to chip the ball over the obstruction and onto the green.

Great Quotes

If a lot people gripped a knife and fork the way they do a golf club, they'd starve to death

-Sam Snead-

I was hot. I was smoking'm. Even a blind pig finds an acorn sometimes.

-President Clinton on shooting his first 79-

I don't enjoy playing video golf because there is nothing to throw.

-Paul Azinger-



I've broken or thrown a few clubs in my day. I guess at one time or another, I probably held distance records for every club in the bag.

-Tommy Bolt-

My swing is so bad that I look like a cave-man killing his lunch.

-Lee Trevino-

The golf swing is like sex. You can't be thinking of the mechanics of the act while you are performing.

-Dave Hill-

Golfers are the greatest worriers in the world of sport.

- Billy Casper-

The trouble with golf is that you are only as good as your last putt.

-Doug Sanders-



It's a heck of a lot harder to stay on top than it is to get there.
- Tom Kite

Nothing goes down slower than a golfer's handicap.
- Bobby Nichols

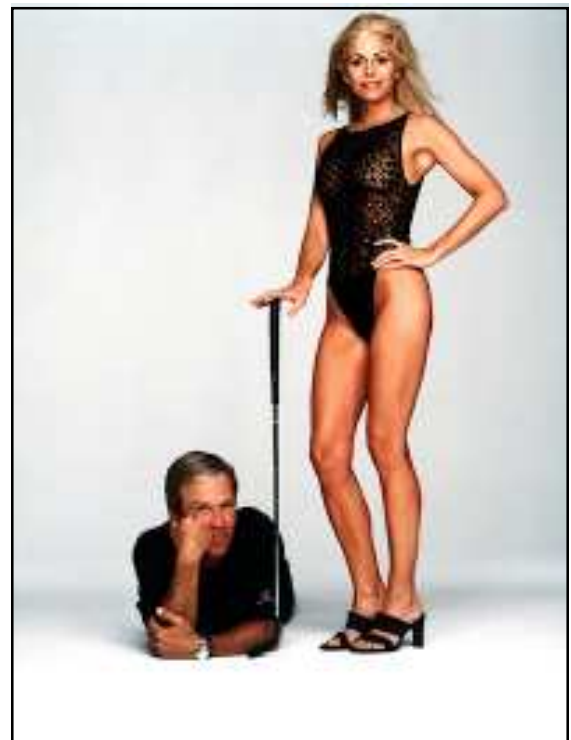
You know it is too wet to golf when your cart capsizes.
- Anonymous

The reason The Road hole at St Andrews is the most difficult par 4 in the world is that it was designed as a par 6.
- Ben Crenshaw -

I lost a ball in the rough today. I dropped another ball over my shoulder and lost it too. And while looking for that one, I lost my caddie.
- Jock Hutchinson on the 1926 US Open course conditions -

If I ever reach a par 5 in two, they change it to a par 4.
- Fred Funk -

Golfers just love punishment. And that's where I come in.
- Peter Dye, Golf Course Architect -



Suggested Rule Amendments for The Iron Thong

Six ways to make golfing more logical

Slices and hooks

A ball sliced or hooked into the rough shall be lifted and placed in the fairway at a point equal to the distance it carried or rolled in the rough. Such veering right or left frequently results from friction between the face of the club and the cover of the ball, and the player should not be penalized for erratic behavior of the ball resulting from such uncontrollable mechanical phenomena.

Hitting a tree

A ball hitting a tree shall be deemed not to have hit the tree. Hitting a tree is simply bad luck and has no place in the scientific game. The player should estimate the distance the ball would have traveled if it had not hit the tree and play the ball from there, preferably from a nice tuft of grass.

Lost balls

There shall be no such thing as a lost ball. The missing ball is on or near the course somewhere and eventually will be found and pocketed by someone else. It thus becomes a stolen ball, and the player should not compound the felony by charging himself with a penalty stroke.

Breaking the law of gravity

If a putt passes over the hole without dropping, it is deemed to have dropped. The law of gravity holds that any object attempting to maintain a position in the atmosphere without something to support it must drop. The law of gravity supersedes the law of golf.

Breaking the law of physics

Same thing for a ball that stops on the brink of the hole and hangs there defying gravity. You cannot defy the law. Same thing goes for a ball that rims the cup. A ball should not go sideways. This violates the law of physics.

Blowing it in

A putt that stops close enough to inspire such comments as "You can blow it in" may be blown in. This rule does not apply if the ball is more than three inches from the hole, because no one wants to make a travesty of the game.