



TIPS ON THE RULES OF GOLF

ADVICE DURING TEAM COMPETITIONS

RULE 8-1 ADVICE

During a *stipulated round*, a player must not:

- a. give *advice* to anyone in the competition playing on the *course* other than his *partner*, or
- b. ask for *advice* from anyone other than his *partner* or either of their *caddies*.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE:

Match play – loss of hole; Stroke play – two strokes.

DECISION 8-1/22

Team Mates Playing as Fellow-Competitors Exchange Advice

Q: The format for a competition between two teams is as follows: Individual stroke play, with the winner being the team with the lowest (medal) aggregate score. Play is in groups of four, with two players from each team in each group. In such an event, may two team members playing in the same group give each other advice?

A: No. The team mates are fellow-competitors and not partners in this type of event, which is not the same as *four-ball* stroke play (Rule 31-1), and they would be penalised for each breach of Rule 8-1.

DEFINITIONS

Competitor: A "competitor" is a player in a stroke play competition. A "fellow-competitor" is any person with whom the competitor plays. Neither is partner of the other.

Partner: A "partner" is a player associated with another player on the same side.

Individual: A competition in which each competitor plays as an individual.

Four-Ball: A competition in which two competitors play as partners, each playing his own ball. The lower (medal) score of the partners is the score for the hole. If one partner fails to complete the play of a hole, there is no penalty.

NB: Furthermore, CONGU® directs that when players in partnership play, or can play, in the same group and the scores of two or more players are aggregated, the competition is not a *Qualifying Competition* and the scores returned should be disregarded for handicap purposes. [Decision 1(l)]



The above tip is based on the Rules of Golf as published by the R&A Rules Limited. The R&A is golf's governing body and organiser of The Open Championship. The R&A is committed to working for golf and operates with the consent of 136 organisations, from the amateur and professional game, and on behalf of over 30 million golfers in 123 countries.