

The Golf Rules Review

An Intermittent Communique by the WWGA Golf Rules Maven

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Ask the Golf Rules Maven – Questions from our Members

What's the best way to accurately keep track of my score for each hole?

I was in the playing SL18 group on Tuesday and I noticed the group I was in had problems figuring out what their score was for the hole and remembering how many times they hit. Sometimes I have this problem also. What's the best way to track all your strokes for a hole?

All golfers at one time or another have this problem, especially once their score gets too high. Last year I saw Bryson DeChambeau use his fingers to count to make sure his score was really a 10. I was in a tournament on my way to a 13 for one hole and had to stop and start recording each stroke (IIIII.III) on the back of my scorecard to make sure I got them all. My usual method just wasn't going to work for this high of a score. So what is my usual method and what other methods are used.

1. Marilyn Goodman swears by her beads. She has a string of beads attached to her belt loop and every time she hits, she moves a bead down. At the end of the hole she counts her beads, announces/records her score and moves her beads back up for the next hole. I never worry about Marilyn's score being wrong. The key is to make sure you move a bead down after each stroke and then all back up for the next hole. You can buy beads on the internet or get them at stores that have golf supplies.



2. Similar to the Bead Method, is the Penny Method. Put 10 (or more if need be) pennies in your right pocket. Every time you hit the ball (or whiff or penalty stroke), move a penny to your left pocket. When you finish the hole, count your pennies in your left pocket to determine the score and put them back in your right pocket for the next hole. Just like the bead method you must remember to move the penny after each stroke. For whatever reason, this seems to be easier for some people than using the beads and costs very little.



3. With time, everyone eventually gets better at remembering their strokes. This is the method that works well for me now as well as many golfers. As I am playing the hole, I first keep track of the number of strokes needed to reach the green. As I am walking to the green with my putter, I say to myself "I am on in 4 (or however many strokes it took)". Once on the green I track only my putts, and as I walk off the green I say to myself, "Okay, I was on in 4 and 3 putted for a 7".
4. There are also click counters you can buy on the internet but I have noticed the reviews are mixed. The above 3 methods seem to be tried and true and cost very little.

Remember, it is your responsibility to accurately count your strokes or you can be disqualified. Also bear in mind, the golfers in your group have the right to question your score if they feel you have miscounted. Accept this with grace regardless of whether you are right or wrong.

Do you have a tried and true method you would like to shared, email me at wwgagolfmaven@gmail.com