



## INSIDE THE ROPES WITH RULES OFFICIAL CARR MCCALLA AT THE 2008 U.S. OPEN

THURSDAY JUNE 12, 2008

My group today is Bob Gaus from St. Louis, a Brazilian named Phillippe Gasnier, and a young Californian, Garrett Chaussard. I just hope we can finish before dark. With a starting time of 2:42, if the pace of play is less than desirable, or if we have any kind of weather delay, we might not be able to finish. If that's the case, we'll have to be back on the course early tomorrow to finish the round, so that will make for an extremely long day. I go off late again tomorrow my time is 1:36 and my group includes Woody Austin, Pat Perez, and Frenchman Thomas Levet.

Today's round was quite an experience. The USGA gives us cards so that we can document any rules situations that we have to handle. I've never had to even fill out the front of the card previously and as a consequence I only take one card with me. By the 12th hole today I was worried that my card would fill up before I was close to being finished. Even though my guys today were good players (you don't make it here without being an accomplished player) the pressure of the U.S. Open makes good players do funny things. My guys' scores today were 80, 80 and 86. When Mr. Chaussard hit his second shot into the grandstand left of the first green from the middle of the fairway, I knew I might be in for a busy day. In all I had eight rulings, each one of them caused by one of the players having interference from a temporary immovable obstruction (TIO). A TIO is a structure typically constructed specifically for the event (things like grandstands, concession stands, course signage, etc). The rules allow a player to move his ball from behind a TIO without penalty. The USGA has created dropping zones for balls that come to rest in or under the TIOs near the greens, which significantly simplifies the ruling process in those

instances. If the ball is behind the TIO it takes a bit longer to determine where a player needs to drop.

OK, back to Chaussard: his ball rattled around the grandstand and came to rest where he had interference from both the grandstand and an irrigation control box. He had the option of taking relief from either initially so we decided to go on and take relief from the grandstand first which also incidentally took care of the irrigation control box interference. I had TIO rulings quite frequently as my guys continued to spray their approach shots to the greens. When we reached the eighth hole, a relatively short par-3, Gasnier had the honor and proceeded to hit a dead shank that ended up behind the evacuation area (where they park vans in case we need to evacuate for bad weather) 40-50 yards short right of the green. Lexus is one of the USGA's new partners and they have strategically placed a number of their vehicles around the course. One such vehicle was just in front of the evac area. They had instructed us that there would be keys in all of the Lexus vehicles and that they would be treated as movable obstructions (i.e., we would move the vehicle if they interfered with a player's line of play). I anticipated that once we got to Gasnier's ball we would move the car and then take relief from the TIO. Before we left the tee, I received a call on the radio from Jeff Hall, one of the USGA's staff people that had helped mark and set up the course. Fortunately, he was in a cart just to the right of the evac area and he informed me that there were no keys in the vehicle and that we should play the car as a part of the TIO. It made the ruling a bit simpler but I cringe to think what I would have done if Jeff had not been in the area. We might still be looking for the keys to move that Lexus. After a few more TIO rulings (we had eight in all) we finally finished just before 8 p.m. with Gaus rolling in a 20-footer for birdie on the last hole for his only birdie of the day. I quickly headed to the rules trailer to turn in my radio, then on to dinner at USGA Hospitality. I was starving and ready for bed once I finished dinner.

FRIDAY JUNE 13, 2008

I got up about 6:30. Allen Richardson, my roommate this week, is walking with the 8:06 a.m. group today so he was already up and at breakfast. My niece and her boyfriend are coming out today to watch the action and I planned to meet them this morning for breakfast. He's a fighter pilot stationed about five

hours north of here but had been stationed in the San Diego area for a few years and had actually played Torrey Pines South a time or two. We had a leisurely breakfast together and they headed out to the course. They're going to follow my group for a while and then develop a strategy to try and see Tiger, Phil, and Adam Scott at some point during the day. My group today played decent yesterday (Woody Austin shot 72, Thomas Levet 74, and Pat Perez 75). My guess is that I'll not have quite as busy a day relative to rulings and will hopefully see a little bit better play. We go off the first hole at the same starting time that Woods, Mickelson, and Scott go off No. 10 so we hopefully will be able to stay away from the crazy crowds that will be following that group. It was a really fun day today. I couldn't have asked for a better group. Usually the players are not extremely talkative during their rounds but Austin and Levet were great. They were very approachable and Austin's caddy, Brent Henley, had grown up playing junior golf in Tennessee. Being a Tennessee native and having worked a couple of summers for the Tennessee Golf Association, I knew Brent's brother so we had some laughs talking about their days in junior golf. It was amazing the difference in shot making skills from this group compared to my guys from yesterday. They all hit it great but simply couldn't get any putts to fall. The only ruling I had all day came on the 18th hole. Woody tried to get home in two and hit it in the water hazard fronting the green so we determined where his ball last crossed the yellow line and he dropped back along the line created by that point and the flagstick. He pitched about eight feet past the hole and ran his putt in for a good par. Stuart Appleby was in the group in front of us and as we walked down the fairway after our drives on No. 8 Levet and I were discussing the cut. He was at 9-over par and Appleby was at 2-under. The cut at the Open is the low 60 and ties and anyone within 10 shots of the lead. He was hoping Appleby would not make birdie and that he would, getting him within 10 shots, thus allowing him to play the weekend. He had hit a good drive and was planning on going for the green in two to hopefully set up the birdie he needed. As we arrived at our drives a huge roar went up from ahead of us at the green. Appleby had rolled in a snake from the front of the green to give him the lead alone at three under, effectively eliminating all those that would finish at 8-over par. Now Levet needed to make eagle to make the cut. He hit a nice shot that didn't fade quite enough to

*continued on page 16*