

# WGC Dell Technologies Match Play

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

Austin, Texas, USA

Austin Country Club

## Gary Young

Chief Referee

Quick Quotes

### Q. So what happened?

GARY YOUNG: So I imagine the question is why did we have a situation with Thomas Pieters earlier during his match where he was denied relief from a sprinkler head that was just outside the penalty area, and then later in a match with Bryson DeChambeau, he was granted relief from that same situation.

Obviously match play, each match is its own individual story; let's call it that.

To me, two wrongs don't make a right. To make the correction before Bryson's match got there was important.

When we heard about the original ruling, the way the penalty area is marked, the line -- and as you look at them out on the golf course, the line kind of goes around each sprinkler head, keeping it in the general area of the golf course, not in the penalty area. That play a player is always going to get relief.

When the golf course was marked, the line got a little bit closer. Obviously there's a lot of wind when you're making these golf courses. The line got a little too close to it. The official who ruled on it was going based on what he was looking at, okay.

Obviously the intention was to keep them all outside. But when he was looking at it, he ruled on it based on the fact that that red line was technically touching both the ball and the sprinkler head.

At that time I don't want to say he ruled incorrectly because I think he ruled based on what he was looking at. It then got brought to our attention. We talked about it as a committee and felt very firmly, two wrongs don't make a right. We've got to correct this because clearly it should be outside.



As they were down, on their way down there with some paint to correct the line, Bryson's situation came up. He called me on the phone and asked -- he said, I've got the same situation. Now that I know the intention was to have it outside the penalty area, are you comfortable with me ruling on it that way, and I said, yes, I want you to rule on it that way because we're about to change the marking on it.

There was nothing we could do to fix the Thomas Pieters situation. It was over with. But just to get it right was important.

### Q. How long before Bryson's shot went there was the decision made, we're changing this?

GARY YOUNG: It had already been made prior to his ball getting there. We had discussed it. We were in the process of getting the paint to the location, and the call came from the official: I've got the exact same situation again; how do you want me to handle this. And I said, you've got to rule on it now; now that you know our intention was to keep the ball in the general area, please rule on it that way.

Again, it's the great part of the fact that this is match play and we can make those changes because each individual match you can change something like that. If it was a stroke-play event we would have had to keep it that way through the entire day until all competitors finished their round and then make the change. But because of match play, we did it in between.

### Q. Do you know if Thomas was advised of the change?

GARY YOUNG: I tried to catch up with him. He had already left the property. I've actually texted him a text message that I want to speak to him and explain it, so I'm going to do that.

### Q. Can we call this a painting error?

GARY YOUNG: I don't want to say that because obviously an error would have been to purposely paint and hit that thing and have it in there. It was just, again, windy



conditions when you're marking the golf course. Anyone that's ever done it, it's blowing around on you out there in the wind, and I think the wind just caused it to get a little close, and quite honestly we should have picked up on that as a committee.

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