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to the right. Play was unbelievably slow as one of the first groups off the back had a number of lost ball searches and a long ruling.

We actually had to wait about 20 minutes on the 12th tee before we could play. Clark, who is not a long hitter by tour standards, hit 3-woods into every one of the first three holes, all par fours, and didn't get to any of the greens in two. He was not a particularly happy camper with the course set-up. He felt it favored the long hitters. By the time we finished the par-3 14th, it was clear from the discussion on the radio that play was close to being suspended. The USGA had positioned squeegee crews at each green and, while our group had not needed their help, a number of greens were quickly becoming unplayable. When we reached the 15th tee Mike Davis, the USGA's Senior Director of Rules and Competitions, radioed that play would be suspended momentarily.

I instructed our guys that play was about to be suspended to see if they wanted to have one player hit their tee ball on No. 15. Since this was not to be a suspension for a dangerous situation, if one player had gotten a ball into play on the next hole, the entire group could finish the hole if they chose to before having to come in. With the conditions as bad as they were, my guys were content to wait until the horn sounded signaling the suspension. That was fine with me, as being able to start a hole fresh when we return is much easier than having to mark balls in the fairway and/or rough so that they can be replaced when we resume play later. It was about 10:15 a.m. when play was suspended. Little did we know at the time that we wouldn't be able to resume play until 7:30 a.m. the next morning. It rained, and it rained, and it rained!! Finally at around 1:45 p.m., when it became apparent that even if it stopped raining they wouldn't be able to get the course ready for play again today, the announcement was made that play would resume for those on the course at 7:30 Friday morning. That meant the rounds scheduled to have begun this afternoon at 12:30 p.m. would begin at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow and that the second round, scheduled to have begun at 7:30 a.m. Friday morning, would begin at 4:00 p.m. Friday afternoon. All of this, assuming that we can actually begin play at 7:30 tomorrow morning and that the weather would not require any more delays.

I'll need to be out to the course by around 6:15 or so in the morning. They've instructed us to be ready to get on the vans to return to the course for the 7:30 re-start at 7:00 a.m. so I want to be sure and be there in plenty of time.

FRIDAY (JUNE 19, 2009)

The beginning of a long day. We actually re-started just before 7:30....every minute might help with the weather being the challenge that is has become. Our re-start took place on No. 15 tee, with 13 holes left to complete our first round. A pretty uneventful round, rules-wise. Clark and Donald both requested relief from casual water on the 18th fairway. That is the worst area on the course relative to drainage and both players clearly had casual water interference. It took only about a minute to get them to an area of relief and we played on. The weather was actually great on Friday, a slight breeze with intermittent sun. We finished our round about 11 a.m. Our scores weren't great but after finishing with two birdies (Donald and Jensen) and a par (Clark) my guys' first round scores were: Clark, 73; Donald, 74 and Jensen, 78.

My roomie Allen had a 6 p.m. flight to catch back to Tennessee so I had told him I would finish his round, if need

be, so he could catch his shuttle to the airport. I caught him on the 17th tee and brought his guys (J.J. Henry, Briny Baird and a Spaniard from the European Tour, Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano) in the last two holes. I quickly had a request for casual water relief from Henry, again on the 18th fairway. With the breezes and sun it was continuing to dry the course, and while he deserved relief, which I granted, it was apparent that the area was firming up. Scores were: Henry and Baird each 73 and Fernandez-Castano, 75.

I had indicated to Jeff Hall, the USGA staff person in charge of scheduling our assignments, that I would walk with Allen's group for the second round if he needed me to....and he did....so I got a quick bite to eat and headed to the 10th tee shuttle to walk with Henry, Baird, and Fernandez-Castano for their second round as well. Our starting time was 4:50 p.m., so hopefully we'll get 13-14 holes in before darkness.

The weather was again good for afternoon/evening play. The guys who drew the late Thursday/early Friday starting times really got a break. They got the best of the weather as they played all of their first round and most of their second round on Friday, when the course was beginning to dry out a bit, and they weren't fighting the rain. It takes great golf, but it also takes a bit of luck to win a major and part of that is how your starting times fall relative to the weather.

The first ruling of my second round came on No. 18 fairway. Henry again thought he was entitled to casual water relief, and called me over. The rule on interference for casual water requires that there be visible water before or after you take your stance, the operative words being 'before' or 'after.' While in the process of taking his stance there was a good bit of visible water around his shoes, but once he actually took his stance (remember the 'before' and 'after' language), as much as I tried, I simply could not see any water showing around his shoes. Consequently, I indicated that he was not entitled to relief. While he didn't argue, it was apparent that he had anticipated that he'd be given the benefit of the doubt. My perception is that on Tour, since there's not a rules official with every group, the players often simply nod when a fellow-competitor says they have casual water. The real reason he wanted to get relief was so he could clean his ball. Because of the wet conditions, balls were picking up mud on occasion and being able to clean your ball in the fairway can be an advantage. The rest of the round was uneventful with Fernandez-Castano providing the highlight of the day when he drained a 20-footer for eagle on the par-5 fourth. We hit our drives on No. 5 and the horn sounded suspending play for darkness. Since this suspension was not for a dangerous situation, the players could actually complete play of the hole if they so desired. It was getting darker quickly so they all decided to stop there. They marked their balls, Baird and Henry in the fairway, and Fernandez-Castano in the right rough. We headed to the evacuation vans beside the fifth tee and then to the clubhouse. It was 8:30 p.m. and it had been a long day. I'll have to be back for the re-start in the morning just as I was today. Because of the weather issues, all rules officials will be walking with the same group we had for the first round (in my case, Clark, Donald, and Jensen). Once I finish the completion of the second round with Baird, Henry, and Fernandez-Castano, I'll have about an hour before my other group starts their second round at 10:06 a.m.

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