



WHO'S YOUR CADDIE?

There's the old adage about what it takes to be a caddie ... two strong legs, a strong back, and "Show Up, Keep Up, and Shut Up"! At Mayacama Golf Club, there's a bit more to it than that. We thought that we would share with you exactly what it takes to be *invited* to become a Professional Caddie at Mayacama Golf Club.

The process begins with placing ads in the local papers and posting opportunities on Craig's List. Then comes the fun part ...

The Screening

We begin with a 4-step screening process. The applicant starts with an online screening, which is conducted by an independent agent. Once the applicant successfully completes that step, they will participate in a telephone interview, conducted by Mayacama Caddie Manager, Jim Brooks. During that interview we establish the depth of the candidate's golf knowledge, communication skills, work history, and of course their availability. Not available for the Member-Guest? Can't work the Club Championship? Sorry ... no thank you! Step 4 will be their participation in a group interview, conducted on site by Jim. The group size is usually 12 to 14 candidates, and the group interview is our opportunity to observe the candidates and have them hear first-hand exactly what being a caddie at Mayacama entails. The group interview also introduces the candidates to the caddie program's intensive safety culture. After the group interview, the remaining candidates receive a follow-up telephone interview conducted by another independent agent. Once a candidate successfully completes all of these steps, they are invited to participate in our Five-Day Certification Process.

Five-Day Certification

This program utilizes the services of an independent Certification Specialist, sent by Professional Caddie Association. It is here that we will determine which of the remaining candidates will advance to Certified Professional Caddie status at Mayacama. This certification process is conducted both on-course and in a classroom setting. Candidates are introduced to general caddie techniques in a multitude of situations, including Single Bag Caddies, Double Bag Caddies, and Forecaddies. Also included in their curriculum are sessions on putting green work (including green reading), caddie positioning, the process for properly obtaining yardages, pace of play, and proper golf terminology. Candidates are also introduced to the safety hazards inherent to caddying and safety hazards that are specific to Mayacama. Once this process is complete, caddies are certified and ready to be turned out for their first loop!

How Many Make It?

It is a grueling process, and often times a bit overwhelming to many of the recruits. So how many actually make it through? Typically one in ten applicants manage to actually step on the grass wearing the traditional Mayacama Caddie "whites" and introduce

themselves to you as your Professional Caddie for the day, while of course removing their caps to say hello.

Hats & Handshakes

One of the great customs that our Caddies bring to Mayacama is the removal of caps and the customary handshake with their players and fellow caddies upon greeting them and again on the 18th green. This custom is also part of the Caddie certification process and it's nice to see how it has also influenced our Members to do the same!

Terminology

As part of the certification process, caddies are also exposed to the Rules of Golf, and in particular, schooled in the correct usage of golf terminology when communicating with a Member and their guests. If only our television commentators could do the same! The airwaves have a constant flow of golf terms, which are misused and abused. But your Caddies speak the correct language where the Rules of Golf are concerned. To test your knowledge, check out the "Rules of Golf Definitions" quiz below, which contain some good examples of correct golf terminology, and those terms, which are commonly misused.

GOLF DEFINITIONS QUIZ

1. A "*rub of the green*" occurs when
 - a. A player receives a bad break when their ball strikes an object and then goes out of bounds.
 - b. A player tests the surface of the putting green by brushing it with a hand, club, or other equipment.
 - c. A ball in motion is accidentally deflected or stopped by an outside agency.
 - d. Players play out of turn on the putting green
2. A hazard consisting of a prepared area of ground, often a hollow, from which turf or soil has been removed and replaced with sand or the like is called a
 - a. Sand Trap
 - b. Lateral Water Hazard
 - c. Waste Area
 - d. Bunker
3. A Member of a side against whom you are playing in match play is your
 - a. Opponent
 - b. Playing Partner
 - c. Fellow Competitor
 - d. Marker
4. A *Foursome* in stroke play is
 - a. Four players playing a match and each player is playing his own ball
 - b. Your regular game

- c. Four players playing together in a group regardless of the type of competition that they are playing
 - d. A competition in which two competitors play as partners and play one ball.
- 5. In a Stroke Play tournament, the person in your group with whom you are playing is your
 - a. Playing Partner
 - b. Opponent
 - c. Fellow Competitor
 - d. Referee
- 6. A ball is on the putting green when
 - a. It is within one club length of the putting green
 - b. When any part of it touches the putting green
 - c. All of it is at rest on the putting green
 - d. If the player uses his putter to play a ball from the fringe