

De Jonge hit with 4-stroke penalty for damaged club

LOS ANGELES – **Brendon de Jonge's** day at the **Northern Trust Open** got off to a solid start with a two-putt birdie at the first hole.

Things quickly became more complicated, however, when he missed the green at No. 2 and reached for his 60-degree lob wedge. That's when he noticed the shaft near the butt of the grip had been dented.

The damage occurred a day earlier when de Jonge had to play a chip shot on his final hole on Thursday with the same wedge from a difficult lie. De Jonge thought was plugged, but he was not allowed relief by a **PGA Tour** official.

Frustrated, de Jonge swung the handle of the wedge into his golf bag, but didn't realize he had damaged the club.

Because he doesn't warm up with that club prior to a round, it wasn't until the second hole on Friday that he noticed the damage and informed a rules official.

Since de Jonge didn't use the club on Friday, he wasn't disqualified; he was, however, penalized four strokes (two strokes for each hole he had it in the bag, with a maximum of four strokes).

"My head really wasn't in it after that," said de Jonge, who shot a second-round 77 for a 6 over total to miss the cut. "It was my fault, I should have checked it."

The unnatural damaging of the club made it unplayable for the remainder of his first round, which lasted only a few more strokes. However, not realizing he still had the damaged club in his bag and not using the 60° to warm up, de Jonge began his second round with an unnaturally damaged club in his bag.

Having birdied the first hole and then missing the second green, de Jonge went to pull his 60° to play a greenside shot on No. 2. Realizing he had the damaged — and thus non-conforming — club in the bag meant that he had incurred a penalty, but which one?

Under Rule 4-3b

b. Damage Other Than in Normal Course of Play

If, during a stipulated round, a player's club is damaged other than in the normal course of play rendering it non-conforming or changing its playing characteristics, the club must not subsequently be used or replaced during the round. PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 4-3b: **Disqualification**.

The use of the damaged club would result in disqualification but since de Jonge had not used the club, he fell under the alternate penalty of the rule.

Stroke Play – Two strokes for each hole at which any breach occurred; maximum penalty per round – Four strokes (two strokes at each of the first two holes at which any breach occurred).

Therefore, de Jonge's start to the second round, which was completed as 4-4 was bumped up by four strokes to 6-6 for his infraction.

ROUND 2 - Riviera Country Club

HOLE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT
PAR	5	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	35
ROUND 2	6	6	5	3	4	4	4	4	4	40
STATUS	1	3	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	-

De Jonge would go on to shoot a 6-over par 76 and miss the cut.