



**March 2025**



**You just got your first hole-in-one, and you're very excited until your playing partner tells you it's not *really* an ace because you did it on a 9-hole or par-3 course .**

## ***When is an ace not an ace ???***

We have a lot of aces – holes-in-one – at Fairgrounds, more than a lot of courses. One reason is that we have seven par-3 holes to go along with two par-4 holes.

There are varying opinions on what constitutes a “real” hole-in-one, but having checked with the NCGA and even the USGA, there are many different interpretations.

Some of the disqualifying reasons are: After a mulligan; after a penalty shot; multiple attempts on the same hole; a temporary green; using a golf simulator; while playing in a scramble; when somebody else knocks your ball in the hole; when you sign an incorrect scorecard; when you're not keeping score, and a few others. Playing on a miniature golf course is probably an obvious addition.

One additional reason expressed is when you're playing on a par-3 or 9-hole layout. Some people have the opinion “it just doesn't feel right,” although most golfers figure if you knock you tee shot in the cup, it's a hole-in-one . . . regardless.





**Cameron Peter (L) and Steve Clifton, who work as paramedics, are annual weekday cardholders and play Fairgrounds a lot . . . including a very wet and windy Feb. 4. The course was pretty unplayable for most golfers that day, but not for these guys . . .**

Par-3 courses – we are not in that category -- are interesting, because there are par-3 courses with holes of varying distances, and then there are pitch-and putt layouts. For example, our course features holes of 75 yards from the short tees to one that's 180 yards. Most pitch-and-putt courses have holes as short as 30 or 40 yards.

A regulation golf course usually consists of 18 holes of varied length. There are generally four short holes, 130 to 200 yards (par 3); 10 average holes 350 to 400 yards (par 4); and four long holes 450 to 550 yards (par 5).

The Rules of Golf do not actually define a hole-in-one, and there seems to be no position on whether a player who holes their first shot has an “official” hole-in-one.

While certain organizations or competitions might make their own regulations in this regard, there is apparently no such thing as an “official” hole-in-one.

Generally speaking, it's up to the player to decide how to count aces made from temporary tees, on temporary greens, on par-3 courses, without witnesses, playing only 9 holes vs. 18 holes, quitting after the hole where you made the hole-in-one, etc.

So it's pretty much up to the individual golfer. But if you get one here, let us know!

