

Defined Terms Within the Text of the Rules of Golf

(i.e Definitions embedded in the Rules)

Revised 12/27/15

Anchor Point (Rule 14-1b Note 2)

Note 2: An “anchor point” exists when the player intentionally holds a forearm in contact with any part of his body to establish a gripping hand as a stable point around which the other hand may swing the club.

Anchored Directly (Rule 14-1b, Note 1)

Note 1: The club is anchored “directly” when the player intentionally holds the club or a gripping hand in contact with any part of his body, except that the player may hold the club or a gripping hand against a hand or forearm.

Close of Competition (Rule 34-1b, sentence 2)

A competition is closed when the result has been officially announced or, in stroke play qualifying followed by match play, when the player has teed off in his first *match*.

Closely Mown Area (Rule 25-2, Note 2)

“Closely mown area” means any area of the *course*, including paths through the rough, cut to fairway height or less.

Club (Appendix II-1a)

A club is an implement designed to be used for striking the ball and generally comes in three forms: woods, irons and putters distinguished by shape and intended use. . . . The club must be composed of a shaft and a head.

Conforming Club (Rule 4-1b)

A club that conforms with the *Rules* when new is deemed to conform after wear through normal use. Any part of a club that has been purposely altered is regarded as new and must, in its altered state, conform with the *Rules*.

Dormie (Rule 2-1, last sentence)

A *side* is “dormie” when it is as many holes up as there are holes remaining to be played.

Embedded Ball (Rule 25-2, Note 2)

A ball is “embedded” when it is in its own pitch-mark and part of the ball is below the level of the ground. A ball does not necessarily have to touch the soil to be embedded (e.g. grass, *loose impediments* and the like may intervene between the ball and the soil).

Flagstick – Deemed Attendance (Rule 17-1, Note 1)

If the *flagstick* is in the *hole* and anyone stands near it while a *stroke* is being made, he is deemed to be attending the *flagstick*.

Flagstick – Deemed Authorization to Attend (Rule 17-1, Note 2)

If, prior to the *stroke*, the *flagstick* is attended, removed or held up by anyone with the player's knowledge and he makes no objection, the player is deemed to have authorized it.

Flagstick—Duration of Attendance (Rule 17-1, Note 3)

If anyone attends or holds up the *flagstick* while a *stroke* is being made, he is deemed to be attending the *flagstick* until the ball comes to rest.

Halved Hole / Half (Rule 2-2)

A hole is halved if each *side* holes out in the same number of *strokes*.

When a player has holed out and his *opponent* has been left with a *stroke* for the half, if the player subsequently incurs a penalty, the hole is halved.

Incorrect Information (see Wrong Information in Rule 9-2b, sentence 3)

Match (Rule 2-1, sentence 1)

A *match* consists of one *side* playing against another over a *stipulated round* unless otherwise decreed by the *Committee*.

Putter (Appendix II-1a, paragraph 1)

A “putter” is a *club* with a loft not exceeding ten degrees designed primarily for use on the *putting green*.

“Rules Permit the Procedure used for a ball” (Rule 3-3b., Note 1)

“Rules permit the procedure used for a ball” means that, after Rule 3-3 is invoked, either: (a) the original ball is played from where it had come to rest and play is permitted from that location, or (b) the *Rules* permit the procedure adopted for the ball and the ball is put into play in the proper manner and in the correct place as provided in the *Rules*.

Serious Breach – of Rule 1-2 (Rule 1-2 Note)

A player is deemed to have committed a serious breach of Rule 1-2 if the *Committee* considers that the action taken in breach of this Rule has allowed him or another player to gain a significant advantage or has placed another player, other than his *partner*, at a significant disadvantage.

Serious Breach—Wrong Place (Rule 20-7c, Note 1)

A *competitor* is deemed to have committed a serious breach of the applicable *Rule* if the *Committee* considers he has gained a significant advantage as a result of playing from a *wrong place*.

Stroke and Distance, Deemed Proceeding Under (Rule 27-1a, paragraph 2)

Except as otherwise provided in the *Rules*, if a player makes a *stroke* at a ball from the spot at which the original was last played, he is deemed to have proceeded under penalty of stroke and distance.

Stroke Play (Rule 3-1)

A stroke-play competition consists of *competitors* completing each hole of a *stipulated round* or *rounds* and, for each round, returning a score card on which there is a gross score for each hole.

Strokes Taken (Rule 9-1)

The number of *strokes* a player has taken includes any *penalty strokes* incurred.

Surface of the Ground (Rule 11-1, paragraph 2)

The surface of the ground includes an irregularity of surface (whether or not created by the player) and sand or other natural substance (whether or not placed by the player).

Unfit for Play – Ball (Rule 5-3)

A ball is unfit for play if it is visibly cut, cracked or out of shape. A ball is not unfit for play solely because mud or other materials adhere to it, its surface is scratched or scraped or the paint is damaged or discolored.

Unfit for Play – Club (Rule 4-3a, Note)

A *club* is unfit for play if it is substantially damaged, e.g. the shaft is dented, significantly bent or breaks into pieces; the clubhead becomes loose, detached or significantly deformed; or the grip becomes loose. A *club* is not unfit for play solely because the *club's* {lie or loft} has been altered, or the clubhead is scratched.

Wrong Information (Rule 9-2b, sentence 3)

A player is deemed to have given *wrong information* if he:

- (i) fails to inform his opponent as soon as practicable that he has incurred a penalty, unless he was obviously proceeding under a *Rule* involving a penalty and this was observed by his opponent, or he corrects the mistake before his opponent makes his next *stroke*; or
- (ii) gives incorrect information during play of a hole regarding the number of *strokes* taken and does not correct the mistake before his opponent makes his next *stroke*; or
- (iii) gives incorrect information regarding the number of *strokes* taken to complete a hole and this affects the opponent's understanding of the result of the hole, unless he corrects the mistake before any player makes a *stroke* from the next *teeing ground* or, in the case of the last hole of the *match*, before all players leave the *putting green*.

Wrong Place (Rule 20-7a, paragraph 1)

A player has played from a *wrong place* if he makes a *stroke* with his *ball in play*:

- (i) on a part of the *course* where the *Rules* do not permit a *stroke* to be played or a ball to be {dropped or placed}; or
- (ii) when the *Rules* require a dropped ball to be re-dropped or a *moved* ball to be replaced.