

RULES ISSUES DURING COMPETITION

PLAYING A SECOND BALL If a player is unsure of a Rule or procedure, before making a stroke at either ball, they should: 1) announce their intent to play a second ball and which ball they wish to score with, 2) then, hole out both balls, and 3) finally, inform the Committee. (R20.1c3)

WITNESS A RULES BREACH? If a player suspects that another player has broken a Rule and may not know it or is ignoring a Rule, they have a duty to the others in the competition to promptly tell that player or inform the Committee. (R20.1c2)

THINGS WHICH MAY BE MOVED

LOOSE IMPEDIMENTS A player may carefully move a loose or unattached natural object (e.g., a stone, a twig, or a pine cone) anywhere on or off the course.

If when moving a loose impediment the ball is moved, the ball must be replaced. *One-stroke penalty.* (Except in the teeing area, during a search, or on the putting green the ball still must be replaced but there is *no penalty*.) (R15.1)

MOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS A player may move an easily-moved artificial object (e.g., a bunker rake or a penalty area stake) anywhere on or off the course. If when moving an obstruction the ball is moved, the ball must be replaced. *No penalty.* (R15.2)

ANOTHER BALL A player can have another player's ball moved which reasonably interferes with their lie, stance, swing, or line of play anywhere on the course. (R15.3)

WRONG BALL or WRONG PLACE

WRONG BALL Two examples of a "wrong ball" are another player's ball or a stray ball. (Definition of Wrong Ball)

If a player plays a "wrong ball" they must go back and find the "right ball" and continue playing the hole with it.
Two-stroke penalty. (R6.3c)

WRONG PLACE Two examples of playing from a "wrong place" are playing a ball after replacing it on the wrong spot or without replacing it when required to do so.
(Definition of Wrong Place)

If a player has played from a wrong place but it is not a serious breach, they must continue playing the hole with that ball. If they have played from a wrong place and it is a serious breach, they must correct the mistake by playing the hole from the "right place". *Two-stroke penalty.*
(R14.7b & Definition of Serious Breach)

BALL MOVED

BALL MOVED Except during a search or on the putting green, if a player causes their ball to move or picks up their ball when not allowed to do so by the Rules, the ball must be replaced. *One-stroke penalty.* (R9.4b & Definition of Moved)

BALL MOVED DURING SEARCH If a player or anyone else accidentally moves a ball while looking for it, the ball must be replaced. *No penalty.* (R7.4)

BALL MOVED ON PUTTING GREEN If a player accidentally moves their ball or ball-marker on the putting green, the ball or ball-marker must be replaced.
No penalty. (R13.1d)

BALL MOVED ON ITS OWN If a player's ball is moved by natural forces such as wind, water, or gravity the ball must be played from its new location. *No penalty.*
(R9.3 & Definition of Natural Forces)

■ Exception: On the putting green, if a player's ball moves on its own after having been marked, lifted and replaced, they may not play the ball from the new location and the ball must be replaced. *No penalty.* (R9.3, Exception)

BALL MOVED BY OUTSIDE INFLUENCE If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball has been moved by someone or something else, the ball must be replaced.
No penalty. (R9.6 & Definition of Outside Influence)

BALL MOVED BY ANOTHER BALL If a player's ball is accidentally moved by another ball or if a player's ball accidentally hits another ball, the "moved" ball must be replaced. (R9.6) The ball which did the "hitting" is played as it lies. (R9.6, R11.1a & b) *No penalty.*

■ Exception: If a player's ball played from the putting green hits another ball at rest on the putting green, the moved ball must be replaced. (R9.6) The player's ball must be played as it lies. (R11.1b) *Two-stroke penalty to the player.* (R11.1a, Exception)

BALL HITS SOMETHING

DOUBLE HIT If a player accidentally hits their ball more than once with a stroke, they must play the ball as it lies.
No penalty. (R10.1a)

BALL HITS PLAYER or THEIR EQUIPMENT If a player's ball accidentally hits them or their equipment the ball must be played as it lies. *No penalty.* (R11.1a)

BALL HITS SOMEONE or SOMETHING ELSE If a player's ball accidentally hits another player, their equipment, or anyone or anything else the ball must be played as it lies. *No penalty.* (R11.1a)

■ Exception: If a player's ball played from the putting green accidentally hits any person, animal, or movable obstruction other than a ball-marker, the flagstick, or person attending the flagstick, the player must replay the stroke. *No penalty.*
(R11.1b, Exception 2)

RELIEF CONCEPTS

RELIEF AREA A semicircle or portion thereof with a radius of either one or two club-lengths where the player must drop when taking relief. (Definition)

DROPPING The player must drop from knee height and the ball must be dropped into and come to rest in the relief area. They may drop the original ball or may substitute a ball. (R14.3)

REPLAY RELIEF (*A* for “again”) At anytime and from anywhere, at the cost of a *one-stroke penalty*, a player may always replay their shot by playing a ball from where the previous stroke was made. (R14.6 & R18.1)

BACK-ON-THE-LINE RELIEF (*B* for “back”) This relief area is determined by going back on an extension of the line from the flagstick through either:
1) the crossing point at the edge of a penalty area, or
2) from the ball in an unplayable lie.

The player may go back on that line as far as they wish, choose a reference point on the line and drop within one club-length, not nearer the hole. (R17.1d2)

LATERAL RELIEF (*C* for “club-lengths”) A relief area, not nearer the hole, of two club-lengths radius from either:
1) the crossing point at the edge of a penalty area, or
2) from the ball in an unplayable lie. (R17.1d3)

ABC PENALTY RELIEF

BALL in PENALTY AREA A penalty area is any body of water or any other part of the course the Committee marks as a penalty area. Penalty areas may be marked as yellow penalty areas or red penalty areas. (Definition of Penalty Area)

If a player's ball lies in a yellow penalty area, or they know or are virtually certain that their ball is lost in the yellow penalty area, for a *one-stroke penalty*, they may take relief outside that yellow penalty area in only two ways:

A) replay, or *B*) back-on-the-line. (R17.1d)

If a player's ball lies in a red penalty area, or they know or are virtually certain that their ball is lost in the red penalty area, for a *one-stroke penalty*, they may take relief outside that red penalty area in three ways:

A) replay, *B*) back-on-the-line, or *C*) lateral. (R17.1d)

BALL is UNPLAYABLE Except in a penalty area, if a player decides their ball is unplayable, for a *one-stroke penalty*, they may take relief in three ways:

A) replay, *B*) back-on-the-line, or *C*) lateral. (R19.1 & 2)

Note: player must find their ball to use option B or C

Ball unplayable in a bunker? If the player chooses *B*) or *C*), with the *one-stroke penalty*, they must drop in the bunker. Or, for a *two-stroke penalty*, they may take relief outside the bunker by dropping back-on-the-line. (R19.3)

ONE CLUB-LENGTH FREE RELIEF

ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS Except in a penalty area, *free relief* for interference for lie, stance, or swing is allowed from temporary water, ground under repair, animal hole, or immovable obstruction, (*but not boundary objects, such as city streets, private property fences and walls, and white stakes*). (Definitions of Temporary Water, Ground Under Repair, Animal Hole, Immovable Obstruction, & Boundary Object)

When taking *free relief*, the player must drop a ball within one club-length of the nearest point of complete relief, but not nearer the hole. After taking relief, their lie, stance, and swing must be completely clear of the abnormal course condition. (R16.1)

Temporary water is an accumulation of water on the course outside a penalty area. To qualify for *free relief*, it is not enough for the ground to be merely wet, muddy, or soft; water must be present around the ball or around the player's shoes after they've taken their stance. (Definition of Temporary Water)

Ball Lost in an Abnormal Course Condition? If a player knows or is virtually certain that their ball is lost in an abnormal course condition such as temporary water or GUR, they may take *free relief*. (R16.1e)

They must drop a ball within one club-length, but not nearer the hole, of the estimated point where the ball last crossed the edge of the abnormal course condition. (R16.1e)

Ball in a bunker? To take *free relief* from abnormal course conditions, the player must drop a ball in the bunker, but not nearer the hole. (R16.1c) Or, for a *one-stroke penalty*, they may take relief outside the bunker by dropping a ball back-on-the-line. (R16.1c)

Ball on the putting green? To take *free relief* from abnormal course conditions (*including line of play*), the player must place a ball on the spot of the nearest point of complete relief, but not nearer the hole. (R16.1d)

BALL is EMBEDDED Except in a penalty area or a bunker, *free relief* is allowed for a player's ball embedded in its own pitch-mark. The relief area is a one club-length radius right behind the spot where their ball was embedded. (R16.3)

REPLAY ONLY PENALTY RELIEF

BALL LOST or OUT OF BOUNDS If a player's ball is out of bounds, or not found within three minutes of their starting a search, they must go back and play a ball from where their previous stroke was made.

One-stroke penalty. (Definitions & R18.2)