

Q #1 There is an area on hole #14, right of the fairway, short of the fairway bunker, that is usually muddy. Do I get relief from the muddy area? If there are tire tracks, do I get free relief?

Answer-Rule #16.1 Casual water is now called temporary water and to get free relief, water must be visible to the eye. There is no relief from muddy areas on the course unless water is visible or the area is roped off by the golf course. There is also no free relief from tire tracks. If the area is roped off and you take free relief, you are also able to clean the ball before dropping, no closer to the pin.

Q #2 The perimeter-How do we play and drop from the perimeter?

Answer-Local rule-The perimeter is a no-play zone and is defined by the red stakes with black tops. If you do not see a stake and are in the bird seed (stone), you are still in the no-play zone. The stakes do not define the edge of the perimeter, the edge of the birdseed does. When you hit a shot into the perimeter, you must drop the ball out at point of entry, 2 club length relief with one penalty shot. If you do not find the ball but are sure it went into the perimeter, use your best judgment on point of entry. One exception-if your ball lies on birdseed on the cart path, you get one club length free lateral relief from the cart path. If your ball is on the edge of the perimeter and on grass, hit it as it lies,

Q #3 Hole #17 I hit my tee shot and my ball hit the concrete border of the lake by the green and bounced back into the water. Do I have to hit from the drop area or can I drop from the place it bounced into the water.

Answer- The concrete border of the lake is considered part of the hazard so you would either re-hit off the tee or go to the drop area.

Q #4 Holes #4, 10 and 15 I hit my ball into the area left of the sidewalk. I saw it go into the acacia but cannot find it. Do I have to go back to the tee and re-hit?

Answer-Rule 17.1 The areas left of 4, 10 and 15 are considered standard penalty areas even if not marked with red stakes. If you find the ball you can hit it or take relief-lateral drop, 2 club lengths, one shot penalty. If you do not find the ball but are certain it went into the penalty area and not out of bounds, you can take the lateral drop from the place you think the ball went in. Do not hit a provisional ball off the tee unless you think the ball went out of bounds.

Q #5 I hit my putt and the ball hit the flag stick and bounced out. Is the ball in the hole?

Answer-No, the ball is not considered in until the hole any part of the ball is lower than the edge of the cup.

Q #6 What if I accidentally hit my ball with a practice stroke?

Answer-Depends on where you are on the course. On the tee box, there is no penalty. (Rule 6.2b) Simply re-tee the ball and hit it. On the putting green, there is no penalty. (Rule 13.1a) Replace the ball and then putt it. Anywhere else on the course, replace the ball and take a 1 stroke penalty. (Rule 9.4a)

Q #7 I hit my tee shot on #17 and the ball embedded in the rough just beyond the hazard. How do I play it? Answer-Rule 16.3b When a player's ball is embedded in the general area (not a sand bunker or penalty area), you are allowed free relief. You may clean the ball and then drop the ball within one club length, no closer to the pin.

Q #8 My ball hit another ball on the green. Is there a penalty?

Answer-Depends. If you are hitting your ball while off the green, there is no penalty. You simply replace the ball that was hit back to its original spot. You play your ball as it lies. (Rule 11.1a) In stroke play, if you are on the green and your putted ball hits another ball at rest, you incur a 2 stroke penalty. In match play, same scenario, no penalty for either player.

Q #9 My ball landed in a skunk hole under the tree on hole #1 but I couldn't get the ball out. How do I take relief?

Answer-Rule 16.1e You may take free relief from an abnormal course condition (ACC) even if you don't find the ball but are certain the ball is in the ACC. Find the nearest point of relief for stance and ball and then take one club length. Drop the ball within that club length, no closer to the hole.

Q #10 My ball was a foot off the green in the first cut. There was maybe a ball mark or something that made a bump in the grass in front of my ball. Was I allowed to tamp it down with my putter before making my stroke?

Answer-Rule 8.1a (3) No, you may not improve the conditions affecting the stroke, unless the condition is on the green. This includes but is not limited to divots, holes or uneven surfaces.

Q #11 I hit my ball in the muddy area right of 10 fairway. What do I do next?

Answer-This is considered ground under repair (GUR). You can take a free, one club length drop out of the muddy area that is roped off, drop fairway side. You can also clean the ball before dropping.

Q #12 What are my options when in a sand bunker?

Answer-Rule 19.2 and 19.3 You have several options.

1. You can play the ball as it lies.
 2. For a 1 stroke penalty you can drop the ball 2 club lengths no closer to the pin in the bunker.
 3. For 2 penalty strokes you can drop outside the bunker keeping the original ball position between you and the pin and go back along that line as far as you want.
- There is one more option and this can be used anywhere and anytime on the golf course. You can rehit the shot that went into the bunker for a one stroke penalty. For example-you are lying 2 in front of a green and shank the ball into the bunker. You can use one of the above options or replace the ball in the same spot in front of the green, now you are hitting your 5th shot.

Q #13 I hit my tee shot from the wrong tee box. What do I do now?

Answer-Rule 6.1 In stroke play, you are assessed a 2 shot penalty (stroke and distance) and must play your 3rd shot from the correct tee box. If you do not correct the mistake before playing the next hole, you are disqualified. In match play (such as in President's Cup) there is no penalty, but your opponent may cancel the stroke. If your opponent cancels the stroke, you must rehit the ball from the correct tee box, no penalty. These same rules apply if you are on the correct tee box but outside of the tee area.

Q #14 I hit my tee shot on #8 into the front bunker. My group all saw it went into the bunker, but we were not able to find it. What do I do?

Answer-Rule 18.2 You have 3 minutes to search for your ball. In a bunker, you can get very aggressive looking and digging for the ball. Then if the ball is found, repair the bunker and put the ball back where found with just a small area of the ball showing. If the ball is not found, you must rehit the ball from the place where the previous stroke was made. In this case you would go back to the tee box and hit your 3rd shot off the tee.

Q #15 Are there any extra strokes for a double hit?

Answer Rule 10.1a-There is no penalty for a ball accidentally hit twice in one stroke and the ball is played as it lies.

Q #16 My ball hit a goose and went into a hazard. What do I do now?

Answer-Rule 11.1 The ball is played as it lies. In this case, one penalty shot and drop no closer to the hole. If there are visible bird droppings on the ball, you may lift, clean and place.

Q #17 My ball landed in the penalty area left of hole #10, just a couple inches from the sidewalk. Since the sidewalk would be in my swing path, do I get free relief from the sidewalk?

Answer-Rule 16.1 No, you do not get free relief from an abnormal condition when in a penalty area. Your option is to hit it as it lies or take a 2 club length lateral relief for one penalty shot.

Q #18 My ball landed in a sand bunker against a rake. What do I do now?

Answer-Rule 15.2a Without penalty, you may remove the rake and if the ball moves, the ball must be replaced on its original spot in the bunker. Same rule applies if the rake is outside of the bunker.

Q #19 My playing partner and I both hit our 2nd shot onto the green but when we went to mark the balls, we realized we hit each others' balls. What do we do now?

Answer-Rule 6.3c You must correct the mistake by playing the right ball from its original spot. In stroke play, you would incur a 2 stroke penalty. In match play, it is loss of hole. In this case, the one who hit the wrong ball first loses the hole.

Q #20 My ball landed at the base of a tree. When I approached, I observed a large ant hill and swarming ants near my ball. What are my options?

Answer-Rule 16.2b When a dangerous animal condition exists, such as snakes, stinging bees or fire ants, a player may take relief no matter where her ball is on the golf course. Taking relief in this case also gives you relief from the tree. An exception to this rule is if player is unable to make a stroke because of where the ball lies, for example, in a bush.

Q #21 During the last couples event, a man teed off from the gold tees and his ball went into the grassy area in front of the green tee box. He stated he got free relief as this is considered "ground under repair". Does the women's club have this rule?

Answer-Local rule-In order to align with the same rules as the men's club, we are going to consider the thick, unmowed grassy area in front of the green tees on hole #8 and the area left of the fairway bunkers on hole #12 ground under repair or GUR.

If it is reasonable to assume your ball went into the GUR it doesn't have to be found. You can take free lateral relief, one club length drop, no closer to the hole.

Q #22 If my ball is in a bunker, can I smooth the sand under the ball?

Answer-No, we no longer can touch the ball in a sand bunker unless you are taking relief.

Q #23 I hit my ball in a bushy area that is not marked as a penalty area. I can see it and identify it, but cannot hit it. What are my options?

Answer Rule 19.2 You have 3 options, all with a one shot penalty.

1. Take lateral relief, 2 club lengths no closer to the hole.
2. Take back-on-the-line relief keeping the spot where the ball was found between you and the hole. There is no limit to how far you go back.
3. Take stroke and distance by going back to the spot where you hit the ball into the bush and re hit the shot.

Q #24 I hit my tee shot into the rough and watched the golf course mower drive over it. When I found my ball, I took a drop and hit it, but on my next shot noticed it had been cut by the mower. Can I still replace the ball?

Answer-Rule 4.2c Yes, a damaged golf ball that is cut or cracked may be replaced at any time during the play of that hole, but not if the ball is only scratched or scraped. You may however change balls between holes for any reason.

Q# 25 On my back swing in a sand bunker I brushed the sand behind the ball. Is there a penalty?

Answer Rule 12.2b Yes, you will incur a 2 stroke penalty in stroke play and loss of hole in match play if you use your club to test the sand in any way or touch the sand with your club during practice swing or back swing.

Q #25 When may I clean my golf ball during a round of golf?

Answer Rule 14.1c A ball may be lifted and cleaned from anywhere on the green or anywhere else on the course **except** when lifted:

1. To see if the ball is cut or cracked
2. To identify the ball
3. Because another player asks you to move your ball as it interferes with play
4. To see if it lies in a condition where relief is allowed

Under all these circumstances you must handle the ball carefully and replace it on the same spot where it was lifted. If you clean your ball when not allowed, it's a one shot penalty.

You are allowed without penalty to clean your ball when taking free relief or a penalty drop.

Q# 26 On my back swing in a sand bunker I brushed the sand behind the ball. Is there a penalty?

Answer Rule 12.2b Yes, you will incur a 2 stroke penalty in stroke play and loss of hole in match play if you use your club to test the sand in any way or touch the sand with your club during practice swing or back swing.

Q #27 I chipped my ball onto the green and it skipped well by the hole. I dropped my wedge on the front edge of the green and then hit my putt. Unfortunately I hit the putt too firm and it rolled past the hole and onto the fringe, hitting my wedge. Is there a penalty?

Answer Rule 11 No, when this happens accidentally, there is no penalty and the player must accept the result whether favorable or not, and play the ball where it comes to rest.

Q #28 I hit my ball into a water hazard marked with red stakes. What are my options?

Answer Rule 17.1d 1. Stroke and distance-go back to the spot where you hit the ball and re-hit the shot. 2. Back on the line relief-keep the point that the ball crossed into the hazard between you and the hole. 3. Lateral drop-from the point where the ball crossed the hazard line, you get 2-club distance relief no closer to the hole. All options include a one shot penalty. If the hazard is marked with a yellow stake, you only have the first 2 options, not lateral relief.