

GOLF AUSTRALIA RULES

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2014



GolfAustralia

Rules on Tour

Courtesy: The R&A Website - www.randa.org

There have been several high-profile Rules cases in the first few months of 2014. Here are few of these Rules explained:

Wrong Foot Forward

Back in January, Rory McIlroy was left regretting a two-stroke penalty he incurred in the third round of the Abu Dhabi Golf Championship, which eventually saw him finish one stroke behind winner Pablo Larrazábal.

It is common at Tour events for the spectator crossing points to be outlined with white paint and declared by Local Rule to be ground under repair (GUR). The reason for this is that over the duration of the tournament, these areas can become damaged by the volume of spectator traffic crossing the fairways.

Interference by an abnormal ground condition, such as GUR or casual water, occurs when a ball lies in or touches the condition or when the condition interferes with the player's stance or area of intended swing. McIlroy's ball had come to rest within the margins of one of these spectator crossing points on the 2nd hole and he elected to take relief

without penalty under Rule 25-1 (Abnormal Ground Conditions).

McIlroy dropped the ball within one club-length of the nearest point of relief and not nearer the hole, and then played the ball. However, a fellow-competitor's caddie noticed that McIlroy's left foot was still in the GUR when he made the stroke. The caddie mentioned this to McIlroy before he signed and returned his score card so that they could check it out. It is worth remembering that no alteration can be made to your score card once you have returned it to the Committee (Rule 6-6c) so this gave McIlroy the chance to discuss it with the Chief Referee before submitting his score for the third round.

John Paramor, the European Tour's Chief Referee who reviewed the incident with McIlroy said: "When he stood to the ball, his left foot was standing on or just over the line demarking the area of ground under repair which is part of the ground under repair."

When taking relief you must take complete relief. That is, you cannot choose to take relief from the lie of the ball only - you must take relief from everything that is "interference". Therefore, the player must take relief for the lie of the ball, the stance and the area of intended swing. By having

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Robert Crosby relates about his experience at the Fiji International



Teeing the Ball
Are you using a conforming tee? The R&A provides guidance on what is legal



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Scott Wagstaff explains his role in the rules education process at his club





one foot in the GUR, McIlroy technically still had interference from the GUR and by subsequently playing the ball he played from the wrong place incurring a two-stroke penalty.

McIlroy commented, "I knew the rule. I knew you have to take full relief. I just didn't know where my foot was."

Sporting Concession

In playing the 7th hole at the WGC Accenture Match Play Championship, Sergio Garcia

offered to halve the hole with his opponent Ricky Fowler before they had both putted out. At the time, Fowler had a putt of 5m for a par, while Garcia had much shorter putt of 2m for his par.

Under the Rules, an agreement to halve a hole being played is permissible. However, if players agree to consider a hole halved without either player making a stroke on the hole, they should be disqualified under Rule 1-3 for agreeing to exclude the operation of Rule 2-1 by failing to play the stipulated round.

The sporting offer was therefore permitted and was obviously in the favour of Fowler, who had the longer putt for par. But this had followed an incident on the previous hole, where Fowler had been forced to wait for a ruling Garcia had requested. The ruling took some time to conclude and when it was eventually Fowler's turn to play, he missed his makeable birdie putt.

When questioned about it Garcia explained, "I felt guilty that my drop on the 6th took so long. I felt like if I would have been in his position I would have been uncomfortable waiting so long to hit my birdie putt. So I just thought I have to do something. I have to do something to make sure that I feel okay with myself."

Garcia's sporting gesture was applauded, especially in light of the fact that he went on to lose his match by one hole to Fowler.



Divot Dilemma

Playing the final hole of his final round, at the Trophée Hassan II in Agadir, Morocco in March, Alejandro Canizares of Spain, had a seven-stroke lead. His second shot to the 18th hole finished up in a very unlucky lie, when it rolled back down a steep greenside bank and settled immediately behind an attached divot.

Unfortunately, in this case the divot had not been pressed down or repaired properly, almost covering his entire ball, leaving Canizares with a difficult chip back up the bank to the green. Canizares requested a ruling but was not permitted to remove the divot by the referee. A player must

not improve or allow to be improved the position or lie of his ball, the area of his intended stance or swing, or his line of play by moving, bending breaking anything growing or fixed (Rule 13-2).

A divot which is completely detached and has not been

replaced with the roots downwards in its hole is classed as a loose impediment and through the green may be removed. However, a divot which is not completely detached is not a loose impediment. It is something fixed and therefore its removal or replacement would be a breach of Rule 13-2 as the lie and area of intended swing would be improved.

The Etiquette Section of the Rules of Golf encourages golfers to carefully repair any divot holes out of courtesy to fellow-competitors and to help avoid such situations. Canizares, despite the tough shot he faced, went on to win the tournament.

Unusual Hazards

Pablo Larrazabal has been keeping the Rules Officials on the European Tour busy in the last few months with a couple of unusual incidents. The first of these found Larrazabal jumping almost fully clothed in to a lake in the middle of his second round at the Malaysian Open in April after he was stung by around 30 hornets. As was permitted by the Rules, the Committee gave Larrazabal some time to be treated by a doctor for his stings and remarkably he went on to birdie the hole. Decision 6-8a/3 states that where a player has a physical problem the Committee may permit the player to discontinue play for a short time to recuperate from such a problem, however allowing the player more than 10 to 15 minutes to recover is inadvisable.



Double Trouble

Most Professionals put their own personal identification mark on their golf ball so the Wrong Ball Rule (Rule 15-3) is one which is seldom needed on Tour. It was extremely unusual therefore when Hunter Mahan and Jamie Donaldson both played wrong balls by hitting each other's ball during the second round of the US Open at Pinehurst No 2 last month.

Hunter Mahan's caddie, John Wood believed his player's ball had kicked right and Donaldson's had bounced further left so he walked straight to the ball in the centre of the fairway, calculated the yardage for that ball and both players played a second shot to the green. It was only when they got to the green that the mistake came to light and they realised that it had in fact been Donaldson's ball that was in the centre of the fairway.

Both players were also playing Titleist balls with a similar personal marking which probably explains why neither player noticed they were hitting the wrong ball. Irrespective of who was at fault or what the reason was, the responsibility for playing the correct ball rests with the player (Rule 6-5) and so both players were penalised two strokes and were required to correct their mistake before teeing off at the next hole. Both players returned to where their own ball had come to rest on the fairway and as the exact spot where the balls initially lay were impossible to determine, they each dropped their ball as near as possible to the place where it previously lay (Rules 15-3 and 20-3c). It is worth noting that Rule 15-3 also stipulates that the strokes played with the 'wrong balls' are not

counted in the score for the hole, however, if either player had failed to correct the mistake before teeing off at the next hole then he would have been disqualified.

Unfortunately both players went on to miss the cut; Mahan missed out by just one stroke.





Fiji International

By Robert Crosby

(Chairman, GA Rules of Golf & Amateur Status Sub-Committee & part time Tour Referee)

Bula!

The new Fiji International golf tournament was played recently at the stunning Natadola Bay Championship Golf Course on the Coral Coast of Fiji from 14 – 17 August 2014. It is a co-sanctioned event between the PGA Tour of Australasia and OneAsia. The course was designed by three-time Major winner and local hero, Vijay Singh, who was joined by Nick Price, also a three-time Major winner, as the two drawcards for the event. Other featured players were the No. 1 ranked player from China, Liang Wenchong, and the No. 1 ranked player from India, Anirban Lahira. A large contingent of Australasian players included the popular Craig Parry and Peter O'Malley, Matt Griffin who won the 2009 Fiji Open on this course, and multiple winner on the Japanese Tour, Brendan Jones.

I was fortunate to be invited to join the OneAsia team of referees for the event, and worked with experienced professional referees from both the PGA and One Asia. The tournament was run by PGA Tour Director of Tournaments, Andrew Langford-Jones together with One Asia Director of Tour Operations, David Parkin, ably supported by their teams of referees.

I arrived at our accommodation on Friday 8 August and spent the weekend relaxing and enjoying the pleasant change in climate from cold and wintry Adelaide. A shuttle bus service transported us from our accommodation to the golf course daily, which took about 30 minutes, or less at 5:30 am.

The practice rounds on Monday and Tuesday were spent surveying the layout of the course and noting any potential problem areas where rules decisions might be required. Most holes are heavily lined with extreme rough and many were marked with lateral hazards down one or both sides of the fairways and also around the greens. Many of the areas adjacent to the fairways were inaccessible with no hope of finding a wayward ball. In fact, for normal play the Local Rules of the Club provided for the "Irish Drop Rule", that allows any ball lost in the long rough to be treated as a lateral hazard and play from the point of entry with a one shot penalty. Obviously, this needed to be modified for the tournament. Four holes were provided with drop zones as an additional option to Rule 26-1. Another decision that was made to assist with pace of play was that the players would each be provided with a cart to play holes 6 to 9. The drop from the 6th tee to the fairway is some 180 feet and only accessible via the long and winding cart path down to the fairway. The distances between the greens and the next tees of these holes were also extreme and would take considerable time to walk.

The Pro-Am was played on Wednesday, and this day was used to give the course a final inspection to ensure it was marked completely, in particular the Lateral Hazards and Drop Zones, as it was felt that this was the main area that would cause concern during the tournament.

On Thursday the players were met with almost benign conditions; the wind that had been prevalent on previous days had disappeared totally, providing for excellent playing conditions and resulting in some good scoring. The locals said that this was the calmest day they had experienced for the past three weeks.

The wind came back with a vengeance on Friday resulting in the cut line going out to 5 over par which left exactly 60 players to continue on for the weekend.... a pleasing result for the organisers! The wind did not let up on the weekend, which provided extremely testing conditions for the players. It would prove to be the undoing of any player who could not keep his ball on the fairway. The referees had plenty to do with ball searches, transporting players back to the tee, and assisting with unplayable ball drops. The conditions on Saturday did not seem to affect David Small from New Zealand who fired a superb 5 under 67, for the low round of the tournament.

The new champion, Steven Jeffress, proved to be a worthy winner, being one of only five players finishing under par, and the only one shooting sub-par in all four rounds.

The referees were allocated a zone of three or four holes to cover each day. Accessing adjoining holes for urgent rules calls was often difficult due to the terrain, however most calls were responded to in reasonable time.

Some of the more interesting rules decisions I was involved with were:

- Relief from a burrowing animal hole, in particular, a mongoose burrow. Mongooses were frequently seen about the course scurrying in and out of the long grass along the fairways. The image to the right is of one of many mongoose holes at the rear of the 3rd green.





- On the par 3, 4th hole (pictured above) which runs alongside the beach, the lateral water hazard extends along the length of the hole. The margin is the edge of the cart path which is only a few metres from the green. A player's ball had come to rest inside the hazard, but sitting in a clear area amongst some rocks abutting the cart path. He attempted to play the ball over the rocks up onto the green, but the ball ricocheted off a rock, over his head and onto the beach. At this point he asked the status of his ball and whether he could still play it. I advised him that he was still in the lateral water hazard and could still play it if he wished, which he did with some success in getting it out of the hazard, at least. He was fortunate in that the tide was out which gave him a nice clean sandy lie on the beach of the Pacific Ocean.
- A player's tee shot was found inside a lateral hazard adjacent to the fairway. The ball last crossed the margin of the hazard immediately in front of the tee. He attempted two shots to get his ball back on to the fairway but failed to extricate his ball from the hazard, whereupon he requested where he could go to get relief from the hazard. He took the option under Rule 26-2a (iii) and returned to the tee to play his 5th shot.
- On numerous occasions players played a Provisional Ball from the tee unaware that the area where their ball was played into was in fact a lateral hazard and there was no possibility of the ball being lost outside the hazard. In most instances the red stakes were not visible from the tee, and/or they had forgotten the existence of the lateral hazard in that area. Due to the common occurrence of this situation referees relied on Decision 27-2a/2.5 and allowed the player to abandon the Provisional Ball and continue play with the original ball or proceed under Rule 26-1.

Overall, the inaugural Fiji International was a resounding success. With the support of the players, who I believe enjoyed the challenge of this exciting new tournament on a golf course in an idyllic location, it should grow in status in years to come. The live television coverage should also go a long way in promoting Fiji as an ideal golfing holiday destination and deliver a boost for the Fijian economy.

I look forward to the continued success of this event and hope to be involved again next year.

Vinaka Vakelevui.

Gone to Water

A recent rules query: Ball accidentally dropped in nearby water hazard after being retrieved from casual water.

A player found her ball in casual water adjacent to a water hazard. After retrieving her ball out of the casual water she accidentally dropped it into the water hazard and was then unable to retrieve it so had to substitute another ball.

Note 2 to Rule 25-1b states that if a ball 'is not immediately recoverable, another ball may be substituted'. But two Decisions appear to relate to this situation: Decision 15-2/1, regarding a player throwing a ball to a caddie and it not being recoverable from a water hazard, and Decision 25-1b/13, where the ball was readily recoverable, but the player chose not to recover it. In both cases,

the player is deemed to have incorrectly substituted a ball when not permitted. Because of the possible conflict between the Note and the Decisions, Golf Victoria sought advice from Golf Australia. The following ruling was provided.

"The R&A advice on this is that there is no authority in the Rules for basing the answer on how careless or not the player was. Whether the ball was thrown, dropped, slipped, etc, the player had the ball originally, so it was recoverable, and she has subsequently created a situation where she is forced to substitute a ball in breach of the Rule.

Only the involvement of an outside agency (i.e. the outside agency being the cause more so than the player) would lead to providing an answer of no penalty, in equity, for the substitution."

Teeing the Ball

Courtesy: The R&A Website - www.randa.org

The act of teeing the ball has changed significantly over the years. In the early days of the game, a golfer generally teed his ball from a small mound of sand or an irregularity in the surface of the ground. Today, there is a vast array of devices available to golfers on which to tee their ball and the modern Rules have had to cater for this by developing a definition of what constitutes a 'conforming' tee.

Whilst Rule 11-1 still permits the player to hit his tee shot from the surface of the ground (which includes an irregularity of surface) and from sand or other natural substance, any other object which has been placed in or on the surface of the ground in order to tee the ball must meet the definition of a tee – as detailed in Appendix IV, 1:

"A tee is a device designed to raise the ball off the ground. A tee must not:

- be longer than 4 inches (101.6 mm);
- be designed or manufactured in such a way that it could indicate line of play;
- unduly influence the movement of the ball; or
- otherwise assist the player in making a stroke or in his play."

It's important to get it right, as a player will be disqualified if they make a stroke at a ball from a non-conforming tee. This article tries to highlight some of the most common questions received in relation to tees and the Rules of Golf:

Traditional Tee Peg

Normally made from plastic or wood, consisting of a pointed, vertical peg which sticks into the ground and a small cup on which to place the ball. The peg can sometimes be shaped to incorporate a ridge to assist the player in obtaining a consistent teeing height. Conforming – as long as the total length of the tee does not exceed 4 inches.

Stacking two or more conforming tees on top of one another is also permitted – again, as long as the total height of the stacked tees does not exceed 4 inches.

Tees with Integrated Alignment Aids

Such tees are expressly prohibited by Appendix IV (as they indicate the line of play) and the photograph above depicts some of the designs that have been submitted to us in the past for a formal ruling – and ruled to be a breach of the Rules. As a general principle, if there is any feature on the tee which can be viewed by the player at address and used as an effective alignment aid, then such a tee is likely to be non-conforming.



Two or More Tees – Connected by a Length of Cord or String

This is a fairly common question and, if considered in the light of the above comments, then you might reasonably assume that such a configuration would be considered non-conforming – as the string could effectively be used to aid alignment. However, this is one of the Rules with an Exception.

In many countries, but particularly in the UK, the use of two or more tees tied together with string has been fairly common for many years – especially in the winter when the ground can be hard due to frost, or when winter mats are in use.

Therefore, within The R&A's area of jurisdiction (i.e. everywhere except the USA and Mexico) the use of a conforming tee which is connected to one or more other conforming tees by a length of cord or string is permissible – provided the cord or string and other tees are not used to aid the player in alignment. Such a practice would render the player in breach of Rule 8-2a (Indicating Line of Play).



Tee Connected to a Weight or Other Anchor (e.g. a pitch mark repair tool)

A tee connected to a pitch mark repair tool or other weight or anchor by a length of cord or string would be regarded as non-conforming as it could be used to aid alignment. The distinction between this configuration and the above example of two or more connected tees is purely on 'traditional' grounds.



Brush Tee

Instead of having a plastic or wooden cup on which to place the ball, a brush tee would generally have a series of bristles extending upwards from the peg and forming a circle on which to place the ball (see image). These have become fairly common in recent years and often include claims of reduced friction. In the absence of any evidence to suggest that a brush tee does "unduly influence

the movement of the ball", as long as such a tee meets all of the other requirements of a conforming tee, then they are permissible under the Rules.

Anti-Slice Tee

This is a plastic tee with a shield extending upwards from the tee-cup, which protects the ball from the club. This shield is designed to reduce the spin applied to the ball by the club and, hence, reduce the amount of slice, which is one of the most common problems faced by golfers. As this device is clearly intended to influence the movement of the ball, and it interferes with the impact between the club and the ball, it is a non-conforming tee.



Portable Teeing Mat

A section of artificial turf is not a natural substance and is not interpreted as being a tee. Therefore, playing a ball from such a device – with or without a tee peg – would not be permitted. However, it should be noted that a Local Rule requiring the use of such mats on certain parts of the course is permitted for a limited duration, e.g. in the winter in order to protect the turf, and even all year round on sand courses (where clearly special rules apply).

Home-Made Tees

Home-made tees which have been fabricated out of materials such as rubber piping or bottle corks may be permissible, dependent on the design of the tee. Such a tee would need to be evaluated in accordance with the Rules of Golf – and this can be done via the R&A submissions process. Using another object as a tee – for example a tin can, a bottle or a pencil – would not be permissible as such items were not designed to be tees.

From the General Manager's Desk

By Scott Wagstaff

(Club General Manager & National Referee)

Less is more!

One of the biggest challenges in "club land" is not only to have a strong set of Local Rules that stands up to the rigors of competition play, but is also easy to understand, as well as practical so that the "normal" golfers actually adhere to them.

Having been involved in some significant events as a referee I understand how local rules are written at the highest level, when the stakes are high. This is fine in big professional events where you have a large number of interpreters (also called referees) to explain how to proceed.

In my opinion, simplicity is much more important at the club level and this is what we try to achieve at our club. It is a balance between enough information so that the Rule is clear, and too much information where the average "punter" simply gives up trying

LOCAL RULES	
TO BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE RULES OF GOLF AND ANY TEMPORARY LOCAL RULES	
1. Out of Bounds (OOB) – Rule 27-1	
a. Beyond any boundary fence including temporary fences.	
b. Areas defined by white stakes.	
c. The car park, clubhouse, roads and gardens surrounding the clubhouse.	
2. Ground Under Repair (GUR) – Rule 25-1	
a. Ornamental garden beds surrounded by a border.	
b. Areas marked by blue stakes, white lines, GUR signage and accompanying rope, or as defined in temporary local rules.	
c. Washaways in bunkers and at the margins of bunkers.	
3. Staked or Guarded Trees and Shrubs	
If a tree or shrub, that is either staked and/or protected by a tree guard, interferes with the player's stance or the area of their intended swing, the ball MUST be lifted, without penalty, and dropped in accordance with the procedure prescribed in Rule 24-2b (Immovable Obstruction). NOTE: Stakes and tree guards are IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS .	
4. Immovable Obstructions (Rule 24-2)	
a. Sprinkler Heads – The Specimen Local Rule in Appendix 1 is in effect.	
b. The artificial surfaces and sides of roads and paths (includes gravel paths).	
5. Water Hazards – Rule 26	
Water hazards and lateral water hazards are defined by yellow and red stakes or lines respectively.	
6. Stones in Bunkers	
Stones in bunkers are movable obstructions (Rule 24-1 applies).	
7. Permanent Elevated Cables	
If a ball strikes an elevated power line or cable, the stroke must be cancelled and replayed without penalty (see Rule 20-5). If the ball is not immediately recoverable, another ball may be substituted.	
<i>PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE: Stroke Play – Two Strokes Match Play – Loss of Hole</i>	

to understand the Rules because it's all too hard. Just remember about 90% of your golfers have a very basic understanding of the Rules at best.

I try to refer to the Rule book as much as possible when setting Local Rules so that I reduce the amount of words needed for the local rules board. As a couple of examples of this in action, on the board I would have:

Preferred Lies – 1 card length - through the green (as per pages 128-129 of the Rule book)

Distance Measuring Devices – are permitted (as per page 136 of the Rule book)

Have a "go to" person

As we all know, the Rules of Golf can be difficult to understand and interpret at times and I have seen many arguments and lengthy discussions after a round over whether someone was entitled to a drop, or whether there was a penalty. At our club the members know that if they have a question regarding the Rules my door is always open and many take up the opportunity to ask me. I am always happy to answer a Rules query and I am sure most people with a passion for the Rules are the same. By having this approach at our club (and the fact I am usually around) we are able to solve any problems that may have occurred very quickly. Plus occasionally they raise an issue we haven't considered that might just require a change in marking or a definition of an area.

I think it's imperative that each club has this "go to" person and it goes without saying that they must have a good knowledge of the Rules. This is not always the Captain, although this role has probably fallen in this person's lap historically. I believe that a full-time staff member (eg club professional, Golf Manager) is the best person for this role but they should be trained and have a passion for the Rules. Each club will obviously have a different view on who this should be, but a full-time and preferably senior staff member will obviously be

at the club most days, so they will be around when the questions are likely to be asked. Ideally that person will also be someone who is interacting with the members and visitors to your club so it's more likely that they will be asked anyway. I believe that people are very reluctant to come up and ask a question about the Rules, but if they feel comfortable with you it's much more likely.

They should also have the right personality and be able to relate to the level of the golfer. There is no point going deeply into a ruling, quoting Rule numbers and explaining all the sub-sections and exceptions to the rule if they have only just taken up the game. It's just as important to make sure this person knows their limits and when to ask someone more experienced such as the State Association when needed rather than provide bad information.

Whenever I provide information on the Rules I always try to show the person where the answer is in the Rule book so they feel re-assured plus they also have the experience of using the book which might just encourage them to have a look through it themselves next time. Plus it also empowers them so they can show the answer in the book to their fellow golfers, rather than try to repeat what I have told them.

Educate your members

We use our club newsletter as an opportunity to educate our members on the Rules of Golf by including a Rule of the Month. Obviously this is not ground-breaking stuff and I'm sure many clubs are doing the same. It can be hard to come up with new topics each month so I like to include situations that I have been asked about or have provided a ruling on recently. I mix it up though and have found some great video resources from The R&A, Golf Australia and more recently Golf Queensland. Just remember you need to keep it simple and easily explained and these videos can be very useful in getting the message across.

If you choose to explain it using text, add some pictures and make sure the answer and explanation are easy to understand. What I find interesting is when I track what people are interested in for each topic in our newsletter and the Rules section is always in the top 3, showing that golfers all like to know more about the Rules.

In summary, the important part of a club administrator's role with the Rules is to try to make it simple for the majority of golfers rather than scare them off with too much information, or complicated and long Rules. At the end of the day the members and golfers are our customers and the aim of our business is to make them feel special, not inadequate because they don't know the 34 Rules off by heart.

The screenshot shows the Carbrook Golf Club website. The header includes the club name and navigation links: HOME, MEMBERS, VISITORS, MEMBERSHIP, LATEST NEWS, ABOUT, EVENTS. The main content area features a 'Rule of the Month - ball moved by outside agency' article dated 07/06/2014. The article includes a photograph of a dog on a golf course and text explaining the rule and providing a video resource. The text reads: 'What happens when a crow steals your ball? It happens occasionally when someone accidentally picks up your ball, or maybe a mower, a dog or a pesky crow might move your ball that had come to rest in the fairway or rough. The question is what happens and what do you do to rectify the situation. Rule 18-1 on page 75 of the Rules deals with a Ball at rest moved by an outside agency and Rule 19-4 deals with a ball moved by a fellow competitor. Both Rules say that if its known or virtually certain the ball was moved by an outside agency or fellow competitor there is no penalty and the ball must be replaced. "known or virtually certain" What is important here is the term "known or virtually certain". Just because you arrive at the area where you thought your ball was located in the rough near the bunker on the right hand side of the third and its not there, doesn't mean free relief is available. It also says in the absence of such knowledge or certainty then the ball must be played as it lies (if you find it) or played under the Lost Ball rule (27-1). Another important thing to note is that when replacing a ball and the exact spot is "not determinable" Rule 20-3 (c) advises how to proceed. Through the green it must be dropped as near as possible to the place it lay (estimating the point). On the green the ball would be placed at the estimated point.'

Rules Quiz

By Brian Nesbitt

(Victorian State Level Referee)

Answers can be found on the back page

Club Level, No Rule Book Quiz – Rule Numbers Please.

The key here is to try to learn Pages 2 and 3 in the Rule Book

1. Ball Unplayable
2. Ball Played as it Lies
3. Ball at Rest Moved
4. Advice, Indicating Line of Play
5. Teeing Ground
6. Order of Play
7. Loose Impediments
8. Abnormal Ground Conditions, Embedded Ball, Wrong Putting Green
9. The Player

Club Level, you may use the Rule Book if necessary here, but I want the Rule number and sub-para as well please.

1. Ball Out of Bounds
2. Wrong Putting Green
3. Ball at Rest moved by Fellow Competitor
4. Playing from Wrong Place
5. Making Next Stroke from where Previous Stroke was made
6. Striking the Ball more than once
7. Wrong Ball
8. Immovable Obstruction
9. Water Hazard - Relief
10. Touching Line of Putt

Club Level – True or False

1. "Through the Green" is the whole area of the course except the teeing ground and putting green of the hole being played.
2. A competitor is a player in a stroke play competition.
3. A player has addressed the ball when he has grounded his club immediately in front of, or immediately behind the ball, and has taken his stance.
4. The teeing ground is a rectangular area four club lengths in depth, the front and sides of which are defined by the inside edges of two tee markers.
5. Dew and frost are casual water.

Now for a Hole with Briony and Clarissa. Please count the strokes and any penalties involved in each paragraph by Briony and check your score for the hole at the end.

Briony and Clarissa's Matchless Stroke Play

1. After playing from the tee, Briony and Clarissa were searching for Briony's ball in the rough when Briony felt something under her foot. She stopped, called Clarissa over and marked what she thought could be her ball and told Clarissa she wanted to try to identify her ball. Clarissa watched as Briony moved some grass covering the ball and was able to identify the ball as her ball, sitting in the ground. "That's lucky", she said, "I don't think there is a penalty as the ball didn't move sideways as I stood right on top of it." She then struck the ball onto the fairway about 60 metres from the green.
2. Briony approached her ball, assessed the distance and decided she would hit a gap wedge to the front of the green. She stood to the side of the ball and swung a couple of times, but unfortunately hit her ball and nudged it sideways about 30 cms. Furious at her stupidity she hit her ball onto the green and was delighted to see it stop three metres below the hole.
3. Briony hit her putt up the slope to the hole and the ball stopped agonisingly over the lip of the hole. She walked to the hole and waited and, fortunately for her, her ball fell into the hole just within 20 seconds.

It's Your Shot!!!!

The editorial staff would be delighted to have feedback from our readers and as an incentive, a prize or two will be awarded each edition for the best letter/s received and published.

Naturally the theme must be Rules and could be about an interesting or unusual situation you have dealt with, a query to which you seek an answer, a comment about an article in the Newsletter or suggesting a topic for inclusion in a future Newsletter.

We would reserve the right to make minor editorial changes and would not publish your name or club if that is your wish (so as not to embarrass anyone!).

So have a think let's hear from you!

Send your contribution to rulesnewsletter@golf.org.au.



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Rules Quiz Answers

Club Level Quiz - Rule Numbers

1. Rule 28
2. Rule 13
3. Rule 18
4. Rule 8
5. Rule 11
6. Rule 10
7. Rule 12
8. Rule 23
9. Rule 25
10. Rule 6

Club Level Quiz using Rule Book

1. Rule 27-1b
2. Rule 25-3
3. Rule 18-4
4. Rule 20-7
5. Rule 20-5
6. Rule 14-4

7. Rule 15-3
8. Rule 24-2
9. Rule 26-1
10. Rule 16-1a

Club Level – True or False

1. False. Definition of Through the Green
2. True. Definition of Competitor
3. False. Definition of Addressed the Ball.
4. False. Definition of Teeing Ground
5. False. Definition of Casual Water

A hole with Briony and Clarissa:

1. Two strokes (tee shot and shot to fairway). Two penalties. (She should have replaced the ball, assuming it had moved downwards under her weight.) Decision 18/1.
2. One stroke. Two penalties. (The ball should have been replaced.) Rule 18-2 and Decision 18-2a/20
3. One stroke. One penalty. Rule 16-2

Total: 4 Strokes and 5 Penalty strokes = 9 Strokes

