

# GOLF AUSTRALIA RULES

## NEWSLETTER

Winter 2015



GolfAustralia

Champion - 2015 PGA Championship



Champion - 2004 Australian Boys' Amateur

## Scotty on Tour at US PGA Championship

**Graeme Scott, the Tournament Operations Manager for the PGA Tour of Australasia, was an invited referee at the recent US PGA Championship. Each day he wrote a blog for the PGA of Australia's website [www.pga.org.au](http://www.pga.org.au). Here is an abridged version of Graeme's reports.**

### Tuesday – Pre-Tournament

Greetings to all from Kohler in Wisconsin, right on the edge of the extremely massive and blue Lake Michigan. Whistling Straits is actually well north of Milwaukee, heading up towards the home of the Green Bay Packers, which some of you that follow NFL would be familiar with.

I was awake bright and early this morning after a pretty settled 6 or 7 hours sleep. I jumped on the 7.00am shuttle bus and arrived at the course around 7.20am. I have been fortunate enough to work

at two previous PGA Championships and so it was great to meet the Championship team again this year. Drafts of the Competitor's Information (Local Rules) and a hole by hole of all the things to be found from a Rules perspective were ready for us to pick up and review during the course inspection. By reviewing these as you go round you can provide the Committee with valuable feedback on things they may have missed or other possible suggestions.

I grabbed a quick breakfast and then set out on my own to walk the course. This year I am stationed on holes 5 and 8 and so, while I was taking note of each hole as I walked, I spent quite a bit more time reviewing those two beasts in particular.

When I got to hole 18 I noticed that the dreaded bunker that cost Dustin Johnson the title in 2010 was no longer exposed as a massive grandstand is now parked over the top of it down the right side. Talking

### Winter 2015: In this edition



**Scotty on Tour at US PGA Championship** - Graeme Scott talks about his experience at the PGA Championship



**Rules on Tour**  
The R&A provides insight into some of the latest rulings on tour in recent months



**Fact or Fiction??**  
Editor Tom Duguid confirms the truths of some common misconceptions in the Rules of Golf



of bunkers, even the course staff don't really know how many there are but it is estimated between 1100 and 1500. Apparently the winters are so severe here in Kohler that by the time it comes round to the playing season again, some bunkers will have relocated themselves and some new ones will have appeared!

Don't worry though, you can't escape the Notice to Competitors regarding all sandy areas being bunkers and that Stones in Bunkers are Movable Obstructions; they are plastered everywhere. Even a call of nature leaves you staring at the notice above the urinal in the locker room! Whistling Straits has been called a "Links" style venue but it is only that in a superficial way. The multitudes of sandy areas can let your eyes deceive you into thinking they are sand dunes but that is as close as it gets.

### Wednesday – Pre-Tournament



An early alarm call at 5.30am this morning as our Rules Committee meeting was scheduled to start at 7.30am in the American Club which is located further down the road from our hotel in Kohler.

These pre-event meetings are very important as it gives the Committee an opportunity to cover off on all aspects of the Championship. The meeting is chaired by the Chairman of the Rules Committee, Ron Hickman and he is assisted by Kerry Haigh who is the Director of Championships for the PGA of America. Once we had covered off everything the meeting concluded around 8.30am, giving us plenty of time to catch the shuttle bus out to the course and conduct another course inspection.

Before we head out to look at the holes that each of us are covering, there is a special TIO discussion to cover off some of the unique situations that can arise here at Whistling Straits due to the number of temporary constructions that sit over the top of the many bunkers. This on-course meeting produced some excellent discussion points regarding possible TIO options in a number of scenarios.

I opted to look over hole 8 first and basically work out a plan of where best to position myself so that I will be able to view both the landing area for the drives and also be close enough to get to the green to assist with any Rules queries. There is not a huge number of problem areas on this hole as there are no grandstands or significant areas of Juniper bushes, the local vegetation which is like a dense ground cover bush. The 8th is a 507 yard par-4 but the wind direction has a significant impact on how it plays.

Hole 5 is a double dog-leg hole of 603 yards, which is not hugely long but it is very well protected. Lateral hazards guard both sides of the fairway with the left hand side one creeping in to guard the front of the green. It is a tiring walk around this course and your path is rarely even or straight. Yesterday I reached 20,000 steps on my fitbit and by the time I returned to the clubhouse having just walked the front nine today I was already close to 9,000 steps.

### Round 1

At last it is Thursday and the final Major of 2015 is set to begin!

The alarm rang at 5.00am as I wanted to catch the 6.00am bus to the

course so that I could fully prepare before the first ball was struck at 6.45am. My position today was on hole 8 down by the lake and, although the first group was not due to be there for a while there are always a few things that you have to complete before you head out to your location. A decent breakfast is always a good start since there is no ducking back to the clubhouse once the day gets underway. Next task is to go to the tournament office and collect all the necessary paperwork, your radio and anything else you may need such as an air horn. Once loaded up you can then start thinking about making the trek out to your location.

Today's view was simply outstanding as I was positioned on the left of hole 8 as the players view it from the tee and all I could see in front of me was the beautiful blue waters of Lake Michigan. I had a constant companion in the form of a coast guard vessel that simply patrolled up and down by the course all day.

The little oddly shaped bunkers make life really tricky for the players, not in the same way as a Scottish pot bunker but just because they are funny shapes and can cause the player to take a strange stance. The little turf islands can also result in an almost impossible lie for the ball.



Pace of play was pretty slow today and, as a result of this, it was close to 7.00pm when the last group went through hole 8 and I was able to head back in to return my radio etc. I just managed to squeeze onto the 7.30pm bus and catch a ride back to our hotel which is 20 minutes from the course.

Nothing massively exciting for you today unfortunately but that can almost sum up the days of a Rules Official on Tour. It has often been said that we endure hours of boredom interspersed with moments of terror! Just a few more emails to complete tonight before I can snuggle down for a few hours kip. Won't be long before that 6.00am bus pulls up outside!

### Round 2

Today started in a calm and pleasant manner and concluded with some mayhem caused by a storm that stalked us from the north.

Another 5.00am alarm broke my slumber and had me heading for the shower before catching the 6.00am bus to the course. It was a glorious morning with less wind than yesterday, thus giving the guys who faced the wind yesterday afternoon a shot at posting a decent score.

I was positioned on hole 5 today and so it was a brisk walk out there to get myself in position before the first groups arrived around 7.50am. It took around 10 groups to come through before someone actually had a crack at the green in two. It was very hot out on the course today and my kidneys must have had a thorough cleansing after all the water that I drank. There is no shade on this hole so I was being blasted by the sun all day.

Around 3pm we got a radio call to say that there was a front coming down from Green Bay that was packing a lot of electricity. It was still 50 miles away and not moving too fast but it was certainly coming right at us. As play continued, the course gradually became dimmer and



dimmer as the storm clouds approached. Over to the west the sky lit up periodically but at least it wasn't coming our way. The weather updates became more frequent and all Rules Officials were placed on a state of alert with air horns primed for use.

Finally at around 5.30pm the call was given to sound the sirens. I have to say that the evacuation plan was executed perfectly and we had all the players and officials under cover before the heavens opened, the sky lit up and Whistling Straits really blew hard! We had to shelter in the tournament office for close to an hour before it had calmed down enough for us to leave. The "Monster Board" which shows every player's score, was flattened completely, the Golf Show studio was damaged and lots of fencing was blown down. There was not a massive deluge of rain and so hopefully the course will not have endured too much damage.

It is 8.30pm now and probably just about time to hit the sack before another big day.

### Round 3

After the sharp conclusion to yesterday's play, today was always going to be a big one with around 60 players yet to complete round 2 before we embarked on round 3.

The last couple of days have been early starts but the 4.15am alarm call was quite a shock to the system this morning and the 5.00am bus to the course was surprisingly full. Our rosters had been shuffled around a bit to accommodate the shotgun restart and I found myself back on hole 8 for the day, meaning that around 8 groups still had to come through my station.

For any restart after a suspension it is essential that the Tournament Director is completely aware of where each group is located and whether they are ready to go before the siren is sounded. The players on hole 8 were all in position but the marker that Ryan Palmer had placed on the putting green had disappeared overnight. In this situation the player must estimate where his marker was and replace his marker or ball on the spot prior to play recommencing. We sorted this out pretty quickly and I gave the all clear for my groups.

Having had relatively few rulings in the previous two days I was surprised by the number of times I was called on to assist with situations today. Although hole 8 was predominantly playing downwind and almost every player hit the fairway, there was a surprising number of rulings up by the green mainly due to the fact that the pin was tucked way over on the right side. However, my day of dealing with rules scenarios paled in significance to the round that Jason Day was putting together at Whistling Straits.

Jason was a couple of shots back when he went through 8 but then the fireworks started both in terms of his scoring but also in terms of the situations that Matt Jones found himself in. How good was it for golf viewership when Matt decided to play from the deck of a grandstand left of hole 9? The place went wild as did the commentary. Today was remarkable in many ways. The weather was sensational; the crowds massive. The golf sublime and now we have JD two shots



clear at the top of the leaderboard.

It is bedtime now but I really can't wait to get out there tomorrow and see how this final major of the year is going to unfold. Let's hope that it will be a "Day" to remember.

### Round 4

Sunday was definitely going to be a very exciting day at Whistling Straits with two of the world's most exciting and consistent young players squaring off in the final group. Add to the mix that one of them was Queensland's Jason Day and it was going to be hard not to be looking at scoreboards throughout the final round.

I was scheduled to be back on the par 5 fifth hole which did mean that once everyone had gone through I would be able to follow Jason's progress from the coolness and comfort of the clubhouse. Even as I headed out to my position at around 8.15am it was already getting hot and the breeze was stronger than previous mornings. If it continued to build then it was going to be a tough day at the office for many of the players.



The biggest incident of the day for me was a call from the drive landing zone for a ruling for the Hunter Mahan, Bubba Watson group. I was stationed down near the green and so I had to jog down the fairway to assist. As I passed Hunter Mahan's caddie he said that Bubba's ball was on an ant hill. There are quite a few of these small ant hills around the course created by tiny ants that push the earth up into a small mound or cast and leave a relatively small entry/exit hole in the middle. Unlike some of the nasty fire ants that we come across in Queensland or in other parts of the US, these little rascals are not threatening and certainly not dangerous.

When I arrived, Bubba advised that his ball was on an ant hill and that he wanted to know if he was entitled to free relief from the condition. The Rules of Golf are clear on this that an ant, being an insect, is not a burrowing animal (as defined) and hence this small ant hill was not an abnormal ground condition but the heap is classed as a loose impediment. I advised Bubba of this but he was still keen to debate the point.

I always feel that it is essential to make sure that you have considered every possibility and therefore I called the rover on my section of the course, John Paramor (European Tour), to seek confirmation that there had been no other instances of relief being granted from this condition during the week. JP confirmed my initial decision to Bubba and I advised Bubba that, as the ant hill was not created by a burrowing animal he

was not entitled to free relief. This accepted, he then changed tack and asked about the “danger factor” of a player being bitten by such an ant. I explained that, although concerned about player safety, as these were not fire ants or the like it was not considered to be a dangerous situation and therefore no free relief was available from the condition.

Bubba then accepted the decision and I removed myself from the immediate area. The discussion was relatively light-hearted and I knew that he was just pushing the envelope as far as he could. He went to address the ball then backed off and said “ouch, it bit me!” before addressing the ball and punching it down the fairway. This turned out to be a good play as he then proceeded to stiff his approach shot and knock it in for birdie. As I walked back down the fairway, a CBS TV girl came running after me to ask my name and where I came from. Needless to say it wasn’t because she wanted my phone number but rather that a significant portion of the situation had been filmed and shown as part of the TV coverage.

My day on course was done and now it was time to play the waiting game and see if Jason’s wait for a Major victory was about to end. Jason Day is highly respected by the American public for both his golfing ability and his pleasant and professional demeanor, but I could sense that they were right behind Jordan for a number of reasons. There were more than a few glances my way as I fist pumped and said “Yes!” with every putt that Jason Day holed on his way to posting the lowest ever Major total of 20 under par.

Our instructions as the Rules Committee were to assemble behind the 18th green once the final group walked to 17 tee. This was a tough 10

minutes as I had no way of knowing what was happening on 17. That hole has the potential to stop a score in its tracks, as Matt Jones found out in round three, and I was desperate to see the scores go up on the monster board beside the 18th green. It was a huge relief when it showed that Jason had posted a par and had a few shots up his sleeve coming down the last. I found myself getting quite emotional about the outcome as I have always found Jason to be extremely friendly to me over the years and I know how hard he has worked to get into this position. His heart must have been pumping but he played 18 with absolute class and very nearly holed out for 3, leaving a short tap in to become the winner of the 97th PGA Championship.

I was fortunate enough to be on the putting green when Jason was presented with the Wanamaker Trophy and he spoke extremely well during his acceptance speech. He is definitely all class both on and off the golf course. During the mayhem of photos and interviews I was able to greet Colin Swatton and congratulate him on the achievement and then the big moment – a big man-hug for the Champion with a big lump in my throat. Again this was all captured on the TV broadcast and I have been told that it came across as the special moment that it was.

What an awesome couple of weeks these have been at the WGC Bridgestone Invitational and the 97th PGA Championship. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to represent the PGA of Australia and the PGA Tour of Australasia on the Rules Committee at each event and I hope readers have enjoyed a brief insight into what we experience on Tour.

## Fact or Fiction??

**By Tom Duguid (Editor - Golf Australia Rules Newsletter)**

As most club golfers learn about the Rules from their playing partners, it is no wonder that many myths about the rules prevail. Having tried to answer a multitude of queries from golfers of all levels over many years, I am no longer surprised at some of their perceptions or misconceptions. Even Tour players register amazement at times when denied relief from a situation that they just assume entitles them to a free drop. No doubt at your club there are local interpretations repeatedly based incorrectly on hearsay or precedent rather than on the written laws.

Some of the more common misconceptions include:-

1. You cannot hit a ball with the back of the clubhead. **WRONG!** Rule 14-1 merely states that “the ball must be fairly struck at with the head of the club .....”. Decision 14-1/1 clarifies this.
2. You cannot hold the flagstick with one hand while putting with the other hand. **WRONG!** Provided the ball does not strike the flagstick, this action is legal. See Decision 17-1/5.
3. You always get free relief from wheel marks. **WRONG!** Although many club and tournament Local Rules provide such relief, some players incorrectly expect it at all times. Deep ruts should be marked by the Committee but shallow indentations are not abnormal to a golf course.
4. You always get free relief from staked trees. **WRONG!** Again, you need to check your Local Rules for the particular course. Many clubs and competitions require compulsory relief to protect the tree, while others provide optional relief. If required, a carefully framed Local Rule should also cover other aspects such as tree guards, trenches, mulch and other items used by the ground staff

to encourage tree and shrub growth. Some clubs limit relief to plants under a certain size, for example two club lengths or two metres in height. Club length restrictions are preferred as a club cannot expect players to carry tape measures in their bags!

5. Once the player has declared the ball lost, it is lost. **WRONG!** A ball is lost when one of the five conditions specified in the Definitions for “Lost Ball” has been satisfied. A player’s verbal declaration has no standing.
6. In match play, you lose the hole if you attend the flag without your opponent asking you to. **WRONG!** Provided that the player is aware that you are attending the flag, no penalty is incurred. Unless the player about to putt objects, tacit authorisation is assumed. In any event, the attendance is only a breach if the act may influence the movement of the ball. But see Decisions 17-2/1 and /2 for more clarity.
7. When taking relief from a water hazard, complete relief including stance must be taken. **WRONG!** The specific part of Rule 20-2c requires a re-drop “if it rolls into and comes to rest in a hazard”. It is irrelevant that the player’s stance may be in the water hazard after dropping outside it.
8. My marker said I could do it so I cannot be penalised. **WRONG!** By all means discuss any issue with your marker before taking action but their acquiescence does not provide a safeguard against a penalty for a breach of the Rules.

And there are numerous others. Let us know of misconceptions and regularly abused rules at your club via [rulesnewsletter@golf.org.au](mailto:rulesnewsletter@golf.org.au). We will protect your identity so as not to upset your social standing within the club!

# Golf Rules on Tour

Courtesy: The R&A Website - [www.randa.org](http://www.randa.org)

Bumblebees, trees, bad drops and transportation have in some cases resulted in penalties for players on the various Tours around the world in recent months.

## McDowell Avoids Being Stung for a Penalty



During this year's US Masters, Graeme McDowell tried to brush away a large bumblebee on the putting green and as he did so, he clipped his marker with his hand and moved it from its spot.

McDowell was initially advised that he had incurred a one-stroke penalty, which he accepted. However, Rule 23-1 states that if a ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved in the process of a player removing

a loose-impediment, there is no penalty and the ball or ball-marker must be replaced. The Definitions section clarifies that insects are loose impediments so as per Rule 23-1, no penalty should have applied. The error was quickly discovered and past Captain of The R&A Sir Michael Bonallack and Chief European Tour Referee John Paramor advised McDowell a couple of holes later that he had not in fact incurred a penalty. McDowell joked, "I asked Sir Michael and John if there was any chance they could stay with me for the rest of the round, as they were the only way I'd get back shots around here."

McDowell went on to make the cut by two strokes, finishing the event in a tie for 52nd place.

## Ko's Identity Crisis

World number 1, Lydia Ko continues to impress, however, her first round at the Volunteers of America North Texas Shootout was more adventurous than most.

Ko hit her third shot on the par-4 14th hole straight into a tree from which it failed to come down. Ko and her caddie could see a ball in the tree, but they could not identify it from the ground so her caddie Jason Hamilton climbed up the tree to try to retrieve it. Before Hamilton shook the branch in an attempt to dislodge the ball, Ko confirmed that she wanted to declare the ball unplayable. Despite repeated attempts to shake it free, and then to knock it out of the tree with a club, the ball was firmly lodged in the tree and would not move.

With no markings visible, that left the issue of how to identify the ball. When LPGA Rules Official Brad Alexander arrived at the ruling he discovered from the spectators that several of them had witnessed the ball coming to rest in the tree at the specific point where a ball was now visible. Decision 27/12 clarifies that if a spectator is able to give information which allows a player to positively identify a ball, the ball should not be deemed lost. Alexander was therefore satisfied that the eye witness accounts were sufficient to be able to consider the ball identified as Ko's.

Had it not been possible to identify the ball, Ko's only option would be to play again under stroke and distance from where she played her previous stroke. However, as the ball was identified as hers, Ko then had a reference point which gave her the additional options of either dropping back on a line, keeping the point where the ball lay in the tree between her and the hole (Rule 28b), or dropping within two club lengths of the point directly under where the ball lay in the tree (Rule 28c). Note - Decision 28/11 clarifies that if a ball lies above the ground (e.g. in a tree), then the reference point from dropping under the final option is the point on the ground immediately below the place where the ball lay in the tree.

## Badd Drop

Aaron Baddeley's dislike of the infamous par three 17th hole at TPC Sawgrass continued during this year's second round of The Players' Championship. Having hit two balls into the water he put his third ball onto the green and two putted for what he thought was a quadruple-bogey 7.

However, when dropping his second ball in the dropping zone, Baddeley had failed to ensure that his arm was straight. Rule 20-2 requires a player to stand erect and holding the ball at shoulder height and arm's length when the ball is dropped. As Baddeley clearly had his arm bent when dropping and did not correct the error, he incurred the applicable one-stroke penalty resulting in a score of 8 for the hole.



The additional penalty stroke did not make too much difference to Baddeley as he missed the cut by several shots.

## Costly Lift

The importance of not only the player but the caddie knowing the Rules of Golf was highlighted during the Shenzhen International in China when Eduardo Molinari's caddie caught a ride in a golf cart between the 9th and 10th holes.

The European Tour has a Condition of Competition which prohibits the use of golf carts, unless permitted by the Rules Committee (Rule 33-1). The Rules of Golf apply not just to the actions of the player but also to their caddie's actions. So Molinari should have included a two-stroke penalty in his score for a breach of the condition. Unfortunately for Molinari, he had not seen his caddie take the lift and so he did not include the penalty in his score. As the error was discovered after the score card had been returned to the Committee, Molinari was disqualified for signing for a score lower than actually taken (Rule 6-6d).

## Zach Johnson: Rule 16-1c



Since the exciting conclusion of the 144th Open, The R&A has received several enquiries as to the ruling Zach Johnson received on the final hole of the four hole play-off and the player's subsequent actions.

Initially Johnson was not sure if the damage on his line of putt was an old hole plug so he called the referee to seek clarification. With the referee's assistance (who asked for a

second opinion), it was established that it was the remnants of an old hole plug and Johnson was permitted to repair it under Rule 16-1c.

In addition to this, Johnson repaired some damage closer to the hole which, further to video review, proved to be a ball mark. The Rules allow a player to repair ball marks (Rule 16-1c) and in doing so, the line of putt may be touched (Rule 16-1a).

A ball mark (often referred to as a pitch mark) caused by the impact of a ball may be repaired more than once provided it is clearly identifiable as a ball mark. Ball marks on the putting green may be repaired whether or not the player's ball lies on the putting green as this helps to prevent any long term damage to the putting surface if the ball mark can be repaired as soon as possible.

In repairing ball marks and/or old hole plugs, the restoration of the surface may include raising the turf (with a tee or pitch mark reparer) and then levelling off the ground with the putter. In Johnson's case, all that was required was to simply tap down the uneven ground with the putter head.

There is no requirement under the Rules to inform or consult with another player or referee before repairing such damage. However, it is advisable to do so if there are any doubts over the status of the damage. Any other damage to the putting green, such as spike marks, must not be repaired if it might assist the player in the subsequent play of the hole.

# Rules Quiz

By Brian Nesbitt

(Victorian State Level Referee)

*Answers can be found on the back page*

**In this edition, I am going to change the way we try to learn the rules; by taking you through some “situations” that you might observe on the course. In each case, you have three minutes to find the rule and give a ruling. I would like the exact rule, including sub-paragraphs please.**

1. You are a Referee in a stroke play competition and are driving along a fairway when you see a group of players in the rough beside a staked tree. You drive over and are immediately asked for your ruling on whether Player A is allowed a free drop away from the tree.
2. As you drive around the course, you observe a player bend down and flick at an insect near his ball which is on the fairway. The ball moves and the player replaces the ball.
3. At the very next hole you arrive just as a player tees off in front of the tee markers in a stroke play event.
4. As the players approach the green engaged in conversation, one player accidentally hits the ball of his fellow-competitor with his buggy and moves the ball. The players immediately ask you for a ruling.
5. Later on in the round you watch a big hitter going for the green in two strokes on a par 5. Unfortunately he hit a massive hook and pulled the ball straight out of bounds. He immediately dropped another ball as close to the point from where he played. He had stood erect, with his arm at shoulder height and his elbow bent and dropped the ball. Prior to him hitting his next stroke you intervene.
6. As the group approached the green, Player A was playing from a bunker when he seemed to hit a funny shot and everyone wondered what had happened as the ball almost stopped in flight, before coming out onto the green. Someone suggested that Player A had probably hit the ball twice and you are called.
7. Whilst following a group, you glance across to an adjacent fairway and notice that a player is heavily sweeping his foot from side to side behind his ball which is lying on the edge of the fairway in a waste area. You ask him what he is doing and he replies that he is removing loose impediments, such as gum nuts and twigs from behind his ball. In the process he moved sand which would have impeded his backswing.
8. It is a muddy day and Player A plays a full wedge into the green and his ball bounces on the apron and rolls back down the slope about five metres away from the edge of the green. The ball left a sizeable pitch mark about one metre from the edge of the green. Player A calls you over as you are passing and asks if he can repair the pitch mark, which is off the green. You confirm with him that the pitch mark was made by his ball.
9. All four players have come up short of the green on a similar line to the hole. Player A, out of courtesy to his fellow-competitors, marks his ball, which is nearest to the edge of the green, as it could interfere with the play of the members of the group.
10. You are watching a group of players putt out and as the first player is about to putt he approaches the hole and starts to repair a long scrape in the surface of the green caused by someone dragging the flagstick.

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

1. Stroke and Distance
2. Playing from Outside the Teeing Ground in Match Play
3. Ball in Motion deflected by Player's Equipment
4. Touching Line of Putt
5. Improving Lie
6. Ball at Rest moved by Player's Caddie
7. Ball in Hazard
8. Unplayable Ball in Bunker
9. Lifting Ball for Identification
10. Assistance. Positioning of Caddie behind the ball

**This next Section will require the use of the Decisions Book and is aimed at State Level Referees. Please give the Decision number, but you may be able to give the Rule number and possibly the sub-para from memory! Ideally we want a decision within 3 minutes.**

**First, however, write down the rule heading for the following Rule Paragraphs and sub-paras:**

1. Rule 7-2
2. Rule 8-2
3. Rule 20-2
4. Rule 24-2
5. Rule 26-2

**Now give the Rule Numbers for the following Headings:**

1. Ball Unplayable
2. Ball Interfering with Play
3. Flagstick- Unauthorised attendance
4. Ball out of Bounds
5. Wrong Ball

**Now we will need the Decisions Book. Please give the rule number and sub-para if possible.**

1. A player's ball came to rest in bullrushes overhanging a water hazard about a metre from the surface of the water. The opponent disputes whether the ball is in the hazard and you are called.
2. A player's ball came to rest through the green near some trees whose roots were exposed. Believing that some more roots might be just below the surface, the player took a tee and probed around his ball to see if his club would strike a root or stone in making his stroke. His opponent immediately lodged a protest and you are called.
3. If a player starts his downswing and his clubhead is deflected or stopped by an agency other than himself, e.g. the branch of a tree, is he deemed to have made a stroke?
4. In making a practice swing near his ball, a player moves a loose impediment, which causes his ball in play to move. What is the ruling?
5. A player removes a post defining out of bounds on his line of play. He realises he has made a mistake and replaces it before playing his next stroke. What is the ruling?

# R&A Rules Academy

The Rules Academy is The R&A's free online course that covers Etiquette and the most frequently occurring Rules of Golf.

Since the website was launched in July 2013, over 10,000 golfers from over 120 countries have accessed the Rules Academy. The website has also won awards at both the 2013 Herald Digital Awards and the 2014 Digital Impact Awards.

Following the invaluable feedback we received to last year's user survey, we have added to the Rules Academy with:

- enhanced Home page
- the provision of feedback on errors made in answering revision questions
- making the optional exam FREE of charge.

## Who is the Rules Academy aimed at?

It is aimed at teaching golfers of all abilities and ages the fundamental Rules and Etiquette. It features videos, images and diagrams of Rules situations and includes revision questions after each section. Users are guided through the course by selecting Pdraig Harrington or Suzann



Pettersen, both R&A Working for Golf Ambassadors. At the end of the course there is the opportunity to take The R&A's Level 1 Exam.

The Rules Academy is available at [www.RandA.org/RulesAcademy](http://www.RandA.org/RulesAcademy).

## Why do it?

A better understanding of Etiquette and the basic Rules of the game can help every golfer increase their enjoyment of the game. The online course should take no more than a couple of hours to complete and it can be taken when you want and where you want.

## We need your help...

We strongly believe that a sound knowledge of Etiquette and the basic Rules is important and beneficial for golfers and administrators alike. Following the improvements to the Rules Academy there is no better time for golfers to learn about, or to refresh their knowledge of, Etiquette and the basic Rules.

If you've not had a look at the Rules Academy take the opportunity to do so. More importantly, tell others about the Rules Academy and help us to promote it, for example:

- mention the Rules Academy in your next club's newsletter
- add a permanent link to the Rules Academy from your own club website

To help promote the Rules Academy, website promotional materials are available from The R&A on request. Please email us if you would like some more information at: [Rules@randa.org](mailto:Rules@randa.org).

With your help and working together we can ensure more golfers have a better knowledge of the Rules and Etiquette of the game.



**Fully Illustrated**  
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## Rules Quiz Answers

### Club Level Quiz - Situations

1. First, look on the score card for the Local Rule. Or Appendix 1, Part B, Specimen Local Rules Para3. If you should find a reference to free relief under Rule 24-2b, your ruling should be: Nearest point of relief, one club length, drop the ball and the ball may be cleaned. No penalty is incurred. If no Local Rule is in operation then no free relief.
2. "Ball at Rest Moved" Rule 18. As it was moved by the player, sub-para 2a applies. The player replaced the ball, so no further penalty was incurred and the player incurs a penalty of one stroke for moving his ball at rest.
3. Rule 11 governs the Tee. In this case Rule 11-4b is appropriate and the player incurs a penalty of two strokes and must play a ball from within the teeing ground. Note the score with the first ball is not counted and he must correct his error before teeing-off at the next tee or be disqualified.
4. Ball at Rest moved – Rule 18. But who moved it and what is the penalty if any? In this case, it is sub-para 4, ball moved by a fellow-competitor and there is no penalty and the ball should be replaced.
5. The player, quite rightly dropped a ball as near as possible from where he played his last stroke which went out of bounds. However, when dropping the ball he stood erect, with his arm at shoulder height and his elbow bent. This does not conform with Rule 20-2a. Provided the player corrects his error under Rule 20-6 and drops the ball correctly, there is no penalty.
6. In this case, as everyone considered something unusual had happened and the flight of the ball was also unusual, it is reasonable to assume that Player A had hit the ball twice. Therefore, Rule 14-4 applies and Player A is penalised one stroke.
7. Whilst the player is entitled to move the gum nuts and twigs from behind his ball, by picking them up; the player clearly moved sand and loose soil from around the ball with his foot. Rule 13-2 states that sand and loose soil must not be removed or pressed down if by doing so the lie or area of intended swing is improved. The player incurs a two stroke penalty.
8. No, the player cannot repair the pitch mark. The player would have been in breach of Rule 13-2 which prohibits improving the area of swing, and in this case, line of play, by eliminating irregularities of surface. The player would incur a two stroke penalty if he repaired the pitch mark.
9. Rule 22-2, Note 1: "Except on the putting green, a player may not lift his ball solely because he considers that it might interfere with the play of another player. If a player lifts his ball without being asked to do so, he incurs a penalty of one stroke for a breach of Rule 18-2a, but there is no additional penalty under Rule 22. NOTE: If the ball is lifted under Rule 22, IT MAY NOT BE CLEANED.
10. Repair of scratch marks on the green is not permitted under Rule 16-1c. The only repair that can be made is to an old hole plug and the mark made by a ball. The player would incur a penalty of two strokes. Players should note Decision 16-1c/4 which specifically addresses the repair of spike marks around the hole. The penalty for which is two strokes.

### Club Level Quiz using Rule Book

1. Rule 27-1a
2. Rule 11-4a
3. Rule 19-2
4. Rule 16-1a
5. Rule 13-2
6. Rule 18-2a
7. Rule 13-4
8. Rule 28
9. Rule 12-2
10. Rule 14-2

### State Level Decisions Book

#### – Rule Headings

- |              |                                   |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Rule 7-2  | Practice During a Round           |
| 2. Rule 8-2  | Indicating Line of Play           |
| 3. Rule 20-2 | Dropping and Re-dropping the Ball |
| 4. Rule 24-2 | Immovable Obstruction             |
| 5. Rule 26-2 | Ball played within Water Hazard   |

#### - Rule Numbers

1. Rule 28
2. Rule 22-2
3. Rule 17-2
4. Rule 27-1b
5. Rule 15-3

### Decision Book Answers

1. Decision 26/1. Yes, the ball is in the hazard. The margin of a water hazard extends vertically upwards and downwards.
2. Decision 13-2/27. The player is entitled to probe the area provided the lie of the ball, area of intended swing or the line of play is not improved (Rule 13-2) and the ball is not moved (Rule 18-2).
3. Yes. Decision 14/1.
4. Decision 18-2a/20.5. The player is deemed to have caused his ball in play to move in breach of Rule 18-2a; he incurs a one stroke penalty and must replace his ball.
5. Decision 13-2/25. The player was in breach of Rule 13-2 the moment he moved the post and there was nothing he could do to avoid the penalty. The replacement of the post before the next stroke was irrelevant.

