

13/07/2010	<p>Question 1: I was playing with a fellow member and on the 13th hole (Par 3, water right) they hit their tee shot into the left hand greenside bunker. They proceeded to hit their second shot into the water hazard on the opposite side of the green. They walked over to the hazard and dropped their ball at the point of entry and continued play from there. Was this correct?</p> <p>Answer 1: No, this was a breach of rule 26-1 ~ Relief for Ball in Water Hazard The player had 3 options after he/she hit their second shot into the water hazard from the bunker (please note that the hazard of the 13th is a 'water hazard' and not a lateral water hazard – there is a difference). The player may, under penalty of one stroke:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Drop a ball in the bunker at the spot where their second shot came to rest. Rule 26-1a b) Drop a ball on the opposite side of the hazard, keeping the point at which the ball last crossed the hazard between the hole and the spot on which the ball was dropped. Rule 26-1b c) Drop a ball in the drop zone provided. Rule-Local Rule <p>Question 2: During a recent game, one of my playing partners found their ball in a bad lie. There were small plants and bushes behind the ball making it difficult for them to get club on ball. By the time they had made several vigorous practice swings, their backswing path was clear and they were able to advance the ball down the fairway. Is this allowed?</p> <p>Answer 2: No. This was a breach of Rule 13-2 ~ Improving Lie, Area of Intended Stance or Swing, or Line of Play. A player may not improve or allow to be improved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the position or lie of his/her ball • the area of his/her intended stance or swing by any of the following actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - pressing a club on the ground - moving, bending or breaking anything growing or fixed - creating or eliminating the irregularities of surface - removing or pressing down sand, loose soil, replaced divot or other cut turf placed in position removing dew, frost or water
20/07/2010	<p>Question: Dear DOG. About a week ago I came to the 8th hole. As always, I had laid up short of the water off the tee with my 3 wood, as you know I can't hit my Driver off the 8th Tee with my length. I hit a great second shot and although it pitched just inches away from the flag, my immense power and ball striking ability created so much backspin that the ball spun back into the water. My question is: Was I correct in dropping my ball keeping the LAST point of entry into the hazard between me and the flag? My playing partner was convinced that I should have gone back and dropped my ball on the fairway, keeping the original point, the point where my ball first crossed the hazard, between by ball and the flag? In case you were wondering, I got up and down for a 5 and need I tell you that I got up for two on the Par 5 9th!</p> <p>Answer: Using the image below, a player plays a shot from point A. The ball hits the green or bank and rolls back into the water. Provided the ball has crossed the hazard markings on the opposite side of where the ball was played and rolled back into the hazard, then the player has three options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drop and play a ball as near as possible to the spot from which the original ball was last played. One stroke penalty. 2. Drop a ball behind the water hazard, keeping the point at which the original ball last crossed the margin of the water hazard (Point C) directly between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped, with no limit to how far behind the water hazard the ball may be dropped. One stroke penalty 3. Roll up your pants and play it. No penalty but good luck!



27/07/2010

Question: Dear DOG. During a recent round (I don't recall the day as I play nearly every day but it was sometime last week) I hit my ball into the flower bed right of the 9th fairway. As amazing as this may sound, this was the very first time that I had hit this flower bed.....that week. Incidentally, if I can hit the flower bed left of the 6th hole, I would have achieved a very rare feat of hitting every flower bed on the course, in the same calendar year (and it's only July).

My question is: When I found my ball (much easier now that you have thinned out the beds, thank you) I measured two club-lengths from where my ball was lying, to try and get sideways relief. As the two club-lengths did not propel me sufficiently out of the flower bed, I decided to drop my ball back where I had originally played the shot from, with a one stroke penalty of course. I believe I was correct with my ruling as I am seldom wrong, but I often see players declaring their ball unplayable in the flower beds and automatically taking relief out sideways, despite the distance, and dropping their ball in the rough. Is this correct?

Answer: No, the players taking relief out sideways are only permitted to do so, provided that the relief is within two club-lengths, not nearer the hole. Your understanding of the rule was quite correct and good luck hitting that flower bed on the 6th hole. That would be some achievement!

Rule 28 Ball Unplayable



	<p>If the player deems the ball to be unplayable, he must under penalty of one stroke:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played. B. Drop a ball <u>within two club-lengths of the spot where the ball lay</u>, but not nearer the hole. C. Drop a ball behind the point where the ball lay, keeping that point directly between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped, with no limit to how far behind that point the ball may be dropped. <p>When proceeding under this Rule, the player may lift and clean his / her ball or substitute a ball.</p> <p>PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.</p>
03/08/2010	<p>Dear DOG. As you are aware I am a Swallow resident / golfer. We enjoy our time at Pearl Valley and take full advantage of the extreme heat and high winds that November to April provide. We prefer to spend our time back in England during the cold and wet English summer and avoid the windless, cloudless, 25 degrees days back in Cape Town.</p> <p>Question: "I have a question about a free drop.. If after playing your shot you end up on a cart path that is adjacent to a flower bed and wish to invoke a free drop to the nearest point of relief, do you have to drop in a flower bed if that is the nearest point of relief? In a match at PV last year my playing opponent landed on the cart path with the ball coming to rest closer to the flower bed. My understanding, which may be wrong, is that if you wanted to take a free drop then you would have to drop within 1 club length even if that meant dropping in the flower bed. My opponent said that this was not the case and proceeded to drop several metres further back on the other side. I obviously did not want to make an issue of it as I was not entirely sure about the ruling however I would be grateful if you could provide clarification".</p> <p>Answer: Thank you for your email and yes the locals are struggling though the hard Cape Town winter. Not only are we having to deal with windless, cloudless, 25 degree days but the course is also in top condition, with the greens rolling consistently at 10 on the stimp-meter.</p> <p>Your understanding of the rule was 100% correct. When taking relief from an immovable obstruction you are entitled to only 1 club length.</p> <p><u>Rule 24-2 Immovable Obstruction</u></p> <p>b. Relief</p> <p>Except when a ball is in a water hazard or a lateral water hazard, a player may take relief from interference by an immovable obstruction as follows: Through the Green: If the ball lies through the green, the player must lift the ball and drop it, without penalty, within one club-length of and not nearer the hole than the nearest point of relief. The nearest point of relief must not be in a hazard or on a putting green. When the ball is dropped within one club length of the nearest point of relief, the ball must first strike a part of the course at a spot that avoids interference by the immovable obstruction and is not in a hazard and not on a putting green.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Extract from Golf Punk Magazine</p>



Catch it clean from the Cart Path
Don't always drop from the cart path! First weigh up your options and visualise the shots that you have to choose from. Only use the free drop if it will improve your lie.




10/08/2010	<p>Question: Dear DOG. During one of our very many practice rounds (we don't win competitions by being lucky you know), my usual playing partners on the day, had the audacity to question my knowledge of the rules. The fact that the guys questioned my knowledge is astounding, they should know that I read the rule book every night before I go to sleep, and despite popular believe in my view, this is the best bedtime literature in the shops today.</p> <p>My question is: When we came to the short Par 3, 6th hole I found my ball in the flower bed right of the green. My ball was lying on clear guinea fowl scratching and as I am yet to find a portable G.U.R sign that fits in my bag, I called over my playing partners to confirm I was entitled to a free drop under 'abnormal ground conditions'. I eventually received my relief. As I am never wrong, but this time I was right, please can you confirm that this was indeed a free drop?</p> <p>Answer: Yes you were indeed correct. On a personal note, please let me know when you find a portable Ground Under Repair sign, as I have been looking for one for years.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Rule 25-1 Abnormal Ground Condition</u></p> <p>An abnormal ground condition is either casual water, ground under repair or a hole, cast or runway made by a borrowing animal, a reptile or bird. Except when the ball is in a water hazard, free relief is available from abnormal ground condition when the condition physically interferes with the lie of the ball, your stance or your swing. You may lift your ball and drop it within one club-length of the nearest point of relief, not nearer the hole.</p> <p>PENATLY FOR BREACH OF RULE:</p> <p>Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.</p>
17/08/2010	<p>Question: Dear DOG. While enjoying a game over the weekend, I noticed that one of my playing partners was marking his ball (in my opinion) incorrectly. Am I correct in saying that a ball must be marked with a coin or similar object before lifting it on the putting green? This player on a number of occasions lifted his ball to clean it without marking it at all. When replacing the ball am I also correct in saying that it needs to return to its exact position and not nearer to the hole?</p> <p>Answer: Wow. Clearly the last time that this anonymous member will be playing with this individual. Anyone who fails to understand that your ball must be clearly marked prior to lifting it and fails to comprehend the importance of replacing it on the exact spot from where it was marked, in my humble opinion, needs to take up bowls.....but hey that's just me, let's see what the rule book has to say!</p> <p>Rule 20-1 Lifting and Marking</p> <p>The position of the ball must be marked before it is lifted under a Rule that requires it to be replaced. (In other words, if you have played 8 shots on a par 3 and you only get one shot, you can pick up your ball without marking it.....the fact that you didn't pick it up after the 5th shot worries me a little!)</p> <p>If the ball is not marked, the player incurs a penalty of one stroke and the ball is to replaced.</p>

	<p>Note: The position of a ball to be lifted should be marked by placing a ball-marker, a small coin or other similar object immediately behind the ball.</p> <p>Although the rule book clearly provides a clear recommendation of best practice, there is no penalty for marking a ball with other object. Here are some examples of methods that people use that are not recommended, but are permissible (in other words people who don't carry cash on them or are too lazy to find a ball marker in the bottom of their bag).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placing the toe of a club at the side of, or behind the ball • Using a tee • Using a loose impediment • Scratching a line, provided the putting green is not tested <p>If your don't have a ball marker or a coin to correctly mark your ball, then please take the time to call into The Golf Shop to purchase one. Either that or stop in at my office and I will gladly provide you with one. Just remember though I am from Leeds so don't expect anything bigger than a 5c piece).</p> <p>Rule 20-3 Placing and Replacing</p> <p>If a ball is to be replaced, the player, his partner or the person who lifted or moved it must place it on the spot from which it was lifted or moved. If a ball to be replaced is placed other than on the spot from which it was lifted or moved, the player incurs the general penalty, loss of hole in Match play or two strokes in stoke play.</p>
24/08/2010	<p>Question: Dear DOG. While enjoying a round over the weekend, we came across an interesting situation that I hope you will be able to clarify for me.</p> <p>On the Par 4, 5th. I hit a good drive down the right, which unfortunately ran into the fairway bunker. My playing who doesn't hit it very long hit his ball short of the bunker. On playing his second shot he hit a large divot that landed directly behind my ball in the bunker. Now the question is: was I allowed to remove the divot or not?</p> <p>Answer: According to the rule book you are entitled to the lie which your stroke gave you. In other words, if the divot was there prior to your tee shot being played, then no you could not remove it. On this occasion, as your playing partner was the one who hit the divot there after your tee shot had already landed there, you were entitled to remove it without penalty. The same would apply if a player's ball was lying in a water hazard.</p>
31/08/2010	<p>Question: Dear DOG. Here is a situation that can easily happen at Pearl Valley during the windy summer months. The other day I was addressing my ball on the putting green when I backed away due to the wind. After I stepped away a gust blew across the green moving my ball a good three inches away from its original position. What is the correct ruling?</p> <p>Answer: If the ball moved after you addressed it, then you incur a penalty of one stroke, and the ball must be replaced (Rule 18-2b). Even though you had backed away and at the time of the ball moving you were not addressing it, the penalty still stands. According to the rules of golf once you have addressed the ball it is in play. There is no time limit when applying this rule.</p> <p>Tip: When playing in high winds try not grounding your putter. It is not easy but this way if the ball moves you are not penalized, provided your action did not cause the ball to move. I must warn you though that should the ball move due to wind or slope of the green, before you address it, then you need to continue play from where it stops. Great if it rolls closer to the hole but not so great if it rolls into a bunker!</p> <p><u>Rule 18-2 b</u></p>

	<p>b. Ball Moving After Address If a player's ball in play moves after he has addressed it (other than as a result of a stroke), the player is deemed to have moved the ball and incurs a penalty of one stroke. The ball must be replaced, unless the movement of the ball occurs after the player has begun the stroke or the backward movement of the club for the stroke and the stroke is made.</p> <p>*PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE: Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes. *If a player who is required to replace a ball fails to do so, or if he makes a stroke at a ball substituted under Rule 18 when such substitution is not permitted, he incurs the general penalty for breach of Rule 18, but there is no additional penalty under this Rule.</p>
07/09/2010	<p>Question: My ball lies against a rake in a bunker, am I entitled to relief?</p> <p>Answer: Yes. A bunker rake is a movable obstruction which the player may remove in accordance with Rule 24-1.</p> <p>If the ball is touching the sand in the bunker (or another part of the course) then the rake may be removed in accordance with Rule 24-1a.</p> <p>If the ball is resting solely on the rake (i.e. not also touching a part of the course) then Rule 24-1b permits the player to lift the ball, remove the rake, and drop the ball as nearly as possible to the spot directly beneath where the ball lay on the rake (but not nearer the hole).</p> <p>Rule 24-1 - Movable Obstruction</p> <p>a) If the ball does not lie in or on the obstruction, the obstruction may be removed. If the ball moves, it must be replaced, and there is no penalty, provided that the movement of the ball is directly attributable to the removal of the obstruction. Otherwise, Rule 18-2a applies.</p> <p>b) If the ball lies in or on the obstruction, the ball may be lifted and the obstruction removed. The ball must through the green or in a hazard be dropped, or on the putting green be placed, as near as possible to the spot directly under the place where the ball lay in or on the obstruction, but not nearer the hole.</p> <p>The ball may be cleaned when lifted under this Rule. When a ball is in motion, an obstruction that might influence the movement of the ball, other than equipment of any player or the flagstick when attended, removed or held up, must not be moved. (Exerting influence on ball – see Rule 1-2)</p> <p>Note: If a ball to be dropped or placed under this Rule is not immediately recoverable, another ball may be substituted. PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE: Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.</p>
14/09/2010	<p>Question: My ball comes to rest close to the putting green and I wish to use my putter for the next stroke. However, there is a divot hole just in front of the ball on my line of play. May I replace the divot before playing my next stroke?</p> <p>Answer: No. Rule 13-2 prohibits a player from improving his line of play by eliminating an irregularity of surface.</p> <p>Rule 13-2 - Improving Lie, Area of Intended Stance or Swing, or Line of Play</p> <p>A player must not improve or allow to be improved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the position or lie of his ball, • the area of his intended stance or swing,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • his line of play or a reasonable extension of that line beyond the hole, or • the area in which he is to drop or place a ball, • by any of the following actions: • pressing a club on the ground, • moving, bending or breaking anything growing or fixed (including immovable obstructions and objects defining out of bounds), • creating or eliminating irregularities of surface, • removing or pressing down sand, loose soil, replaced divots or other cut turf placed in position, or • removing dew, frost or water. <p>However, the player incurs no penalty if the action occurs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in grounding the club lightly when addressing the ball, • in fairly taking his stance, • in making a stroke or the backward movement of his club for a stroke and the stroke is made, • in creating or eliminating irregularities of surface within the teeing ground (Rule 11-1) or in removing dew, frost or water from the teeing ground, or • on the putting green in removing sand and loose soil or in repairing damage (Rule 16-1). <p>PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE: Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.</p>
21/09/2010	<p>Question: A player searches for his ball for five minutes and does not find it. He continues to search, finds his ball and plays it. What is the ruling?</p> <p>Answer: The ball was lost and therefore out of play when the five minute period allowed for search expired .When the player played a stroke with the ball out of play, he played a wrong ball and incurred a penalty of loss of hole in match play or two strokes in stroke play – Rule 15-3. In stroke play, he was disqualified if he did not correct the error by proceeding under Rule 27-1 before playing from the next tee.</p> <p>15-3 - Wrong Ball</p> <p>a. Match Play If a player makes a stroke at a wrong ball, he loses the hole. If the wrong ball belongs to another player, its owner must place a ball on the spot from which the wrong ball was first played. If the player and opponent exchange balls during the play of a hole, the first to make a stroke at a wrong ball loses the hole; when this cannot be determined, the hole must be played out with the balls exchanged. Exception: There is no penalty if a player makes a stroke at a wrong ball that is moving in water in a water hazard. Any strokes made at a wrong ball moving in water in a water hazard do not count in the player’s score. The player must correct his mistake by playing the correct ball or by proceeding under the Rules.</p> <p>b. Stroke Play If a competitor makes a stroke or strokes at a wrong ball, he incurs a penalty of two strokes. The competitor must correct his mistake by playing the correct ball or by proceeding under the Rules. If he fails to correct his mistake before making a stroke on the next teeing ground or, in the case of the last hole of the round, fails to declare his intention to correct his mistake before leaving the putting green, he is disqualified. Strokes made by a competitor with a wrong ball do not count in his score. If the wrong ball belongs to another competitor, its owner must place a ball on the spot from which the wrong ball was first played. Exception: There is no penalty if a competitor makes a stroke at a wrong ball that is moving in water in a water hazard. Any strokes made at a wrong ball moving in water in a water hazard do not count in the competitor’s score.</p>

	<p>Rule 27-1c Ball not found within five minutes</p> <p>If a ball is lost as a result of not being found or identified as his by the player within five minutes after the player's side or his or their caddies have begun to search for it, the player must play a ball, under penalty of one stroke, as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played.</p>
05/10/2010	<p>Question: The playing partner who is preparing to play a chip shot from off the putting green touches the green with a club to indicate the line of play. What is the ruling?</p> <p>Answer: There is no penalty. The prohibition against <i>touching</i> the putting green to indicate the line of play applies only if the player's ball lies on the putting green.</p> <p>Rule 8-2 - Indicating Line of Play</p> <p>a. Other Than on Putting Green Except on the putting green, a player may have the line of play indicated to him by anyone, but no one may be positioned by the player on or close to the line or an extension of the line beyond the hole while the stroke is being made. Any mark placed by the player or with his knowledge to indicate the line must be removed before the stroke is made. Exception: Flagstick attended or held up – see Rule 17-1.</p> <p>b. On the Putting Green When the player's ball is on the putting green, the player, his partner or either of their caddies may, before but not during the stroke, point out a line for putting, but in so doing the putting green must not be touched. A mark must not be placed anywhere to indicate a line for putting.</p> <p>PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.</p>
12/10/2010	<p>Question: A ball is half buried in the rough. Having announced his intention in advance to his opponent, marker or fellow-competitor, the player, for the purpose of identifying the ball, touches the ball and rotates it. By so doing he identifies the ball as his ball. Is there a penalty?</p> <p>Answer: Yes, for touching the ball other than as provided for in the Rules (Rule 18-2a). Under Rules 12-2 and 20-1, a ball may be lifted (or touched and rotated) for identification purposes after its position has been marked. If the player had marked the position of the ball before rotating it, there would have been no penalty, assuming the rotating did not result in the ball being cleaned beyond the extent necessary to identify it.</p>
19/10/2010	 <p>The image is an aerial photograph of a golf course green. A player's position is marked with a black dot and the word "PLAYER" below it. A dashed line indicates the intended line of play from the player's position towards the hole. The hole is marked with a small black flag. The surrounding area includes a fairway, a bunker, and a water hazard.</p>

	<p>Question: After hitting his approach shot on the 4th Hole into the lateral water hazard (demarcated by red poles or lines), is the player allowed to drop his ball at point A on the opposite side of the hazard from where the ball last crossed the margin? By doing so the player would now have a direct shot to the pin without having to cross the hazard again with his next shot.</p> <p>Answer: Under rule 26-1 option (c) this is allowed.</p> <p><u>Rule 26-1</u></p> <p>c. As additional options available only if the ball last crossed the margin of a lateral water hazard, drop a ball outside the water hazard within two club-lengths of and not nearer the hole than (i) the point where the original ball last crossed the margin of the water hazard or (ii) <i>a point on the opposite margin of the water hazard equidistant from the hole.</i></p> <p>Please note that on the 4th hole there are both frontal (demarcated by yellow poles or lines) as well as lateral water hazards. This ruling would only apply to a ball that crossed the margin of a lateral water hazard (red pole or line).</p>
26/10/2010	<p>Question: A player dropped his ball twice under a Rule and each time the ball rolled nearer the hole. He then dropped the ball a third time instead of placing it as required by Rule 20-2c. What is the ruling?</p> <p>Answer: Before playing a stroke, the player may lift the ball and place it as prescribed in Rule 20-2c, without penalty (Rule 20-6). If he fails to do so and plays the ball, he incurs a penalty of loss of hole in match play or two strokes in stroke play for a breach of Rule 20-2c.</p>