



THE RULES OF GOLF

you've just gotta know!



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Rules & Handicap Chair



Some definitions

- *Stroke:*
 - *Forward movement of the club*
 - *With intention of hitting the ball*
- *Through the Green:*
 - *Whole area of the course EXCEPT*
 - *Teeing ground and green of hole being played*
 - *All hazards on the course*
 - *Ball in Play:*
 - *Ball is in play as soon as player makes a *Stroke* on the teeing ground*
 - *Ball stays in play until holed*

Definitions (cont'd)

- *Loose Impediments:*
 - Natural Objects, i.e.,
 - Stones, twigs, leaves, branches, etc.
 - Dung, worms, insects, etc.
 - Provided they are not:
 - Fixed or growing
 - Solidly embedded
 - Adhering to the ball
 - *Putting Green:*
 - Ball is on the putting green when any part of the ball touches it.

RULE NO. 13

a/k/a Rule No. 1

- ***Play the ball as it lies***
 - Don't move it, fluff it up in the rough, clean it, lift it, etc.
 - UNLESS:
 - The Ball is on the green
 - (MARK, lift, clean & place)
 - The Rules of Golf provide relief

Oh no!
I can't hit that ball



Or that one either...



Ball Unplayable

Rule 28

- Player may declare ball unplayable anywhere on the course (EXCEPT IN A WATER HAZARD)
 - under penalty of 1 stroke
 - Relief:
 - Drop ball within 2 club-lengths of spot where ball lay
 - If ball is in bunker – MUST drop in bunker
 - Drop a ball behind the point where the ball lay
 - Keeping that point directly between the hole and the place the ball is now played from
 - (no limit on how far back that spot is)
 - Play a ball as nearly as possible from the spot ball last played from





Obstructions

- Defined:
 - Anything artificial (including roads and cart paths);
 - EXCEPT:
 - Objects (fences, walls, stakes & railings) that define out of bounds; and
 - Part of immovable obstruction that lies out of bounds; and
 - Construction deemed by Committee to be an integral part of the course

Now, that's just not fair...



I could break my wrist if I hit that



Relief from Obstructions:

- Movable Obstructions (Rule 24-1)



- If ball not in or on obstruction

- Move the obstruction
- If ball moves – replace the ball – **NO PENALTY**

- If ball is in or on obstruction:

- Lift ball
- Remove obstruction
 - Through the green or in bunker:
 - » Drop ball as near as possible to spot where ball was
 - On the green:
 - » Place ball as near as possible in spot under obstruction
- No nearer the hole
- May clean ball

Relief from Obstructions (cont'd):

- Immovable Obstructions (Rule 24.2)
 - Player may take relief
 - When ball lies in or on immovable obstruction; or
 - Obstruction interferes with stance or area of intended swing
 - EXCEPT if ball is in water hazard or lateral water hazard
 - Through the Green:
 - Drop ball within 1 club-length of nearest point of relief
 - But not in hazard or on putting green



Finding the nearest point of relief



Ball in Water Hazard

Rule 26

- Must know or be virtually certain ball is in Hazard

Water Hazard

- Yellow Stakes

Lateral Water Hazard

- Red Stakes



Water Hazard

Defined by Yellow Stakes



Water Hazard Options

- Water Hazard

- Play the ball from the water
- Drop ball behind the water hazard
 - Point where ball last crossed margin of hazard
 - On line with hole
 - Drop as far behind water hazard as desired
- Play ball from a spot as near as possible to where the ball was last played from
- May lift and clean ball – or substitute ball
- ALL UNDER PENALTY OF ONE STROKE!



Water Hazard



Water Hazard



Lateral Water Hazard Options

- Same options as Water Hazard
- Additional options:
 - Drop ball within 2 club lengths of where ball last crossed margin of hazard
 - Not nearer the hole
 - Drop ball at point on opposite margin of water hazard
 - Equidistant from hole
 - May lift and clean ball – or substitute ball

Lateral Water Hazard

Defined by Red Stakes



Lateral Water Hazard



Last crossed margin of hazard

Lateral Water Hazard



I can't find my ball



- Ball Lost (Rule 27-1)
 - If ball not found after 5 minutes* of searching
 - Player must play another ball from the spot where the first ball was played from
 - UNDER PENALTY OF STROKE & DISTANCE
 - Unless known or virtually certain:
 - » Ball is lost in obstruction (Rule 24-3) or abnormal ground condition (Rule 25-1c)
 - » Ball has been moved by outside agency (Rule 18-1) or is in water hazard (Rule 26-1)

*League rules limit search time to 1 minute during major tournaments.

I found my ball but it's beyond those white stakes

- Out of Bounds (Rule 27-b)
 - Ball is out of bounds when it is beyond boundaries of the course; or
 - Ball is in an area marked by fences, railings, walls or white stakes; or
 - By white lines drawn
 - Player may stand out of bounds to hit ball lying in bounds
 - Ball is out of bounds when all of it lies out of bounds



Out of Bounds (cont'd)

- If ball is out of bounds, a player **MUST** play a ball as nearly as possible from the spot the original ball was last played from
- **UNDER PENALTY OF STROKE AND DISTANCE**



Provisional Ball (Rule 27-1b)



- If ball is thought to be lost or out of bounds
 - Player may hit a second ball to speed play
 - Must declare as provisional ball to playing partners
 - If original ball is then found – or found to be in bounds
 - Must pick up provisional ball and play original ball
 - Player may continue to play provisional ball until reaching place where ball is thought to be lost or out of bounds

Balls in motion deflected or stopped (Rule 19)

- Moved by outside agency
Greens crew, dog, rake, etc.
- or fellow competitor, her caddie or equipment in Stroke Play
 - No penalty – play ball as it lies
 - Except on green:
 - Stroke cancelled
 - Must be replaced and replayed

Balls in motion (Cont'd)

- Moved by player, partner, or their caddies or equipment
 - One stroke penalty – play ball as it lies
- Moved by opponent, her caddie or equipment in Match Play
 - May cancel stroke, replace and replay ball; or
 - May play ball as it lies

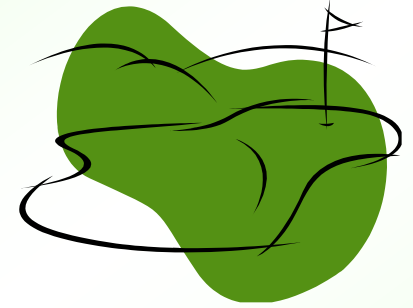
Balls at Rest Moved (Rule 18)

- Moved by outside agency
- Or by another ball
 - No penalty
 - Ball must be replaced
- If player's ball moves after address
 - Must be replaced
 - One stroke penalty

Ball at Rest Moved (Cont'd)

- Ball moved by player, her partner, caddie or equipment
 - Replace
 - One stroke penalty
- By Opponent, opponent's caddie or equipment
 - No penalty in stroke play – must replace
 - In Match play – no penalty during search
 - Other than during search
 - Opponent incurs one stroke penalty

Odds and Ends



- On the Green:
 - Ball must not strike the flagstick (Rule 17-3)
 - Or another player's ball at rest on the green (Rule 19-5a)
 - If player's ball is on green when stroke is made
 - **Two stroke penalty** and play ball as it lies
 - Player may lift & clean ball (Rule 16-1a)
 - Must mark first (Rule 20-1)

Odds and Ends

- The Teeing Ground
 - Defined as Rectangular area
 - Two club-lengths deep
 - Front and sides of which are defined by tee markers
- May stand outside to hit ball inside teeing ground
- Ball is outside teeing ground when all of it is outside
- Ball not in play until stroke is made

Good Night & Happy Golfing!

