



2012 MGA Rules Quiz

- 1) A and B are partners in a four-ball match. B's ball lies just off the green, in front of A's ball and on A's line of play. Without the authorization of A, B marks and lifts A's ball so that he has enough room to swing his club back and play a bump-and-run. What is the ruling?
 - a. B incurs a penalty stroke.
 - b. A incurs a penalty stroke.
 - c. Both A and B incur a penalty stroke.
 - d. Neither A nor B incurs a penalty.

- 2) A and B are opponents in a club tournament. After seven holes, the match is all square. The 8th hole is 180 yards and requires a carry of about 165 yards over a lake. A hits his tee shot into the lake. B, fearing he'll do the same, suggests calling the hole halved. A agrees and they move along to the 9th tee. What is the correct ruling?
 - a. A and B are all square.
 - b. Both players are disqualified.
 - c. A is one up.
 - d. B is one up.

- 3) A competitor has doubt as to whether his tee shot has gone out of bounds. He announces and plays a provisional ball from the tee. When he finds his original ball, he remains unsure whether it is in play or out of bounds. Announcing that he will play a second ball under Rule 3-3, he picks up the ball played provisionally, returns to the tee and plays his next stroke. He holes out both his original ball and the third ball in three more strokes. After he reports the facts to the Committee, it is determined that his original ball was out of bounds. His score for the hole is:
 - a. 6.
 - b. 7.
 - c. 8.
 - d. 9.

4) It is a calm day with no wind. A competitor's ball lies on an incline next to a deep bunker. He addresses his ball and then steps away. As he begins to take his stance the ball rolls into the bunker. The competitor asserts he did nothing to cause the ball to move and suggests gravity was the reason. He plays his next shot from the bunker. What is the ruling?

- a. The competitor incurs a one-stroke penalty.
- b. The competitor incurs a two-stroke penalty.
- c. The competitor committed a serious breach of playing from a wrong place, incurs a two-stroke penalty and must correct his error.
- d. The competitor proceeded correctly.

5) In stroke play, a player whose ball is in casual water and easily retrievable mistakes the casual water for a water hazard. The player drops another ball in accordance with Rule 26-1 and plays it. A fellow-competitor informs him of the fact that his ball had been in casual water and that he was entitled to free relief in accordance with Rule 25-1. How should the player proceed?

- a. The player must continue play, incurring the one-stroke penalty for relief from a water hazard.
- b. The player incurs four penalty strokes, must abandon the ball played under Rule 26-1 which was inapplicable, retrieve the ball in the casual water, and take relief in accordance with Rule 25-1.
- c. The player, with no penalty assessed, must abandon the ball played under the inapplicable Rule and proceed in accordance with Rule 25-1.
- d. The player incurs a two-stroke penalty and must continue play with the substituted ball.

- 6) A competitor's tee shot is found in a lateral water hazard. The ball lies among dry, sparse, dead bushes, which are still rooted in the hazard, and underneath a detached tree limb that rests on the ground outside the hazard but extends over it. The competitor steps a few yards away from the area and takes three practice swings, breaking numerous branches on the bushes with each swing, but not touching the ground. The competitor takes his stance and makes a stroke at the ball. On his backswing, he breaks additional branches on the bushes and strikes the overhanging detached tree limb, which moves. He continues the stroke and plays the ball out of the hazard. Which of the following statements is true?
- The competitor has incurred a two-stroke penalty for multiple acts of testing the condition of the hazard.
 - The competitor has incurred a two-stroke penalty for improving the area of his intended swing by breaking branches on the bushes during his backswing.
 - The competitor has incurred a two-stroke penalty for improving the area of his intended swing by breaking branches on the bushes during his backswing and a second two-stroke penalty for moving the overhanging detached tree limb, for a total penalty of four strokes.
 - The competitor has incurred a two-stroke penalty for moving the overhanging detached tree limb.
- 7) In stroke play, a player hits a five-iron over an elevated green. Upon reaching the green, he realizes there is a large bunker surrounded by thick grass next to the green and a lateral water hazard approximately 25 yards beyond the bunker. The player does not see his ball so he assumes it rolled into the lateral water hazard. He takes relief under R26-1c and plays his next shot onto the green. As he's walking back towards the green, he sees his original ball in the bunker partially covered by leaves. The player should:
- Abandon the substituted ball and play his original ball in the bunker, incurring a two-stroke penalty.
 - Complete the hole with the substituted ball, incurring a two-stroke penalty.
 - Abandon the substituted ball and drop a ball at the spot where he last played his original ball, incurring a total of three penalty strokes.
 - Complete the hole with the substituted ball, incurring a total of three penalty strokes.

- 8) A competitor's ball lies in a water hazard after his first stroke from the tee on a par three. He makes a stroke at the ball and the ball comes to rest out of bounds. The competitor drops a ball in the water hazard and the ball comes to rest in a poor lie. He abandons the dropped ball, which was easily retrievable, and drops a second ball, using as the reference point the point where the original ball last crossed the margin of the water hazard before it came to rest in the hazard. He holes out the ball so dropped in two more strokes. His score for the hole is:
- a. 5.
 - b. 6.
 - c. 7.
 - d. 8.
- 9) In stroke play, a player's ball is in a water hazard in a playable position. An abandoned ball lies in the water nearby his ball and he retrieves it with his club. What is the ruling?
- a. The player has tested the condition of the hazard and incurs the general penalty.
 - b. The player has not tested the condition of the hazard, but incurs a penalty for touching the water prior to his stroke.
 - c. The player has not tested the condition of the hazard, but incurs a penalty for touching the abandoned ball with his club.
 - d. The player incurs no penalty.
- 10) A competitor, whose ball is lying in a bunker, takes his stance and grounds his club four inches behind the ball. Gravity then causes the ball to move. He replaces the ball and plays a stroke. The competitor has incurred:
- a. One penalty stroke.
 - b. Two penalty strokes.
 - c. Three penalty strokes.
 - d. Four penalty strokes.

11) A competitor decides his ball lying in a water hazard is unplayable. He asks his caddie to retrieve the ball and tells him where to drop it in the hazard. The caddie substitutes another ball for the original ball and puts it into play by tossing it underhanded into the hazard rather than following the procedure of Rule 20-2a. The competitor makes a stroke at the ball. The competitor has incurred how many penalty strokes?

- a. Two
- b. Three
- c. Four
- d. Five

12) In four-ball match play, during a search for a ball, a player's partner does not see the player's ball lying through the green and runs over it with their golf cart. After inspecting the area where the ball was embedded, the players cannot say for certain where the original ball lay prior to being run over. What is the ruling?

- a. The partner incurs a penalty stroke and the player is entitled to drop the ball in accordance with Rule 25-2.
- b. The player incurs a penalty stroke and he must place the ball in the nearest lie most similar to the original lie within one club-length not nearer the hole.
- c. Since the ball was moved during search, in equity the player was entitled to place his ball as near as possible to the estimated original spot not nearer the hole without penalty to either partner.
- d. The player incurs a penalty stroke and he must drop the ball as close as possible to the estimated original spot not nearer the hole.

13) In stroke play, a player's tee shot creates a small pitch mark in the fairway approximately 140 yards from the green and approximately five yards in front of where his ball comes to rest on his line of play. Before he makes his next stroke, he notices the pitch mark and taps it down. The player then plays his stroke over the pitch mark with a nine iron. What is the ruling?

- a. The player has incurred no penalty.
- b. The player has incurred a one-stroke penalty.
- c. The player has incurred a two-stroke penalty.
- d. The player has incurred a two-stroke penalty and must replay the previous stroke.

14) A competitor, who lies three on the green, putts his ball not realizing that his fellow-competitor's ball is in motion from a stroke played from off the green. The competitor's ball is deflected by the fellow-competitor's ball and comes to rest farther away from the hole than its original position. The competitor marks the position of his ball and lifts it. He then places another ball on the spot where he had marked his original ball and putts the ball into the hole. His score for the hole is:

- a. 5.
- b. 6.
- c. 7.
- d. 8.

15) A competitor addresses his ball on the putting green. Believing that the ball may be balanced on an irregular surface and might move, he steps away to survey the situation. He decides to mark the ball, lift it and replace it on the green. When he does so, and before he has a chance to take further action, the ball, which was at rest after being replaced, moves without apparent cause. The competitor incurs:

- a. No penalty and the ball must be played from its new position.
- b. No penalty and the ball must be replaced.
- c. A one-stroke penalty and the competitor must replace the ball.
- d. A two-stroke penalty and the competitor must replace the ball.

16) A competitor hits his ball onto an artificially surfaced cart path through the green. Although the original ball is immediately recoverable, he properly measures his nearest point of relief and places a new ball onto the ground within two club-lengths of this spot, not nearer the hole and plays it. How many penalty strokes has the competitor incurred?

- a. One penalty stroke.
- b. Two penalty strokes.
- c. Three penalty strokes.
- d. Four penalty strokes.

17) In stroke play, a player hit his second shot out of bounds. He drops another ball in accordance with Rule 27-1 and hits it onto the green. After retrieving the ball hit out of bounds, the player discovers that it is not his original ball. He returns to the area from which he hit the wrong ball out of bounds and finds his original ball, within the prescribed five-minute search period, about 20 yards closer to the hole than where he struck his second shot out of bounds. The player should:

- a. Complete the hole with the ball he hit to the green, incurring two penalty strokes in addition to the stroke and distance penalty for the shot hit out of bounds.
- b. Complete the hole with the ball he hit to the green, incurring two penalty strokes for making a stroke at a wrong ball.
- c. Abandon the second ball played and play out the hole with the original ball, incurring a two-stroke penalty for making a stroke at a wrong ball.
- d. Finish the hole with the original ball, adding a two-stroke penalty for making a stroke at a wrong ball and an additional penalty stroke for hitting a ball out of bounds.

18) A competitor hits his second shot over a water hazard to the fairway. The ball lands beyond the margin of the water hazard but spins back into it. The competitor drops a ball in an incorrect manner within two club-lengths of the point where the ball last crossed the margin of the water hazard and plays his next shot to the green. Believing that he may have committed a serious breach of playing from a wrong place, the competitor returns to the teeing ground side of the water hazard and determines the correct point for taking relief under Rule 26-1b. He places a ball diagonally within two club-lengths of that point, plays his next shot to an area just short of the green, chips on and sinks the putt. Not sure of what to do with the first ball played after the original ball went into the water hazard, he putts out, taking two more strokes. On completion of the round, the competitor reports the facts to the Committee before returning his scorecard. After a review, the Committee determines that the competitor's score for the hole is:

- a. 7.
- b. 8.
- c. 9.
- d. 10.

19) In stroke play, a player's errant tee shot lands in an adjacent fairway. His ball lies 170 yards from the green with a bunker on his line of play about 25 yards from his ball. He walks forward to gauge his distance to the hole creating footprints in the bunker. When returning to his ball, he rakes the bunker. He finishes the hole in three more strokes. A fellow-competitor questions his actions and the player states he restored the bunker for the purpose of caring for the course. What is the player's score for the hole?

- a. 4
- b. 5
- c. 6
- d. 7

20) In a four-ball match, A and B are partners and C and D are partners. D has holed out in four. The other three balls are on the green, with A and B lying three and C lying two. A is away. C marks, lifts and cleans his ball and places it on the green some distance away from his mark. A putts his ball and C, being concerned that his ball might affect the putt, lifts it. A fails to make his putt, as does B. C picks up his mark, at which point A makes a claim under Rule 24-1 that C's lifting of his ball resulted in C and D losing the hole. The Committee rules:

- a. A and B win the hole.
- b. The hole is halved.
- c. C and D win the hole.
- d. C and D are disqualified.

21) A competitor's tee shot is played in the direction of a lateral water hazard left of the fairway. His caddie, who was positioned well ahead of him to follow the path of the ball, arrives at the hazard before him, locates the ball and lifts it. The ball had been lying in an area of very shallow water near the edge of the hazard and appeared to be playable. When the competitor arrived at the hazard, he seemed undecided as to his course of action. After studying the situation, he decided to proceed under Rule 26-1. He took relief under the Rule properly, played the ball onto the green and two-putted for a score of:

- a. 5.
- b. 6.
- c. 7.
- d. 8.

22) A competitor wishes to take relief from an immovable obstruction under Rule 24 so he lifts his ball in play. Believing that he must drop within two club-lengths of the nearest point of relief, he drops another ball more than one club-length from the nearest point of relief. When he addresses the ball, the ball moves. He plays the ball from the ball's new location. The competitor has incurred how many penalty strokes?

- a. Three
- b. Four
- c. Five
- d. Six

23) In stroke play, A plays his tee shot into high rough. He finds a ball and without identifying it, deems it unplayable and takes relief under Rule 28c. With his next stroke, the ball travels approximately 20 feet and remains in the rough in another bad lie. He once again takes relief under Rule 28c without identifying the ball and plays his next stroke to the green, at which point he discovers the ball he last played is not his original ball. The player must:

- a. Complete the hole with the ball last played, treating the ball on the green as lying seven.
- b. Return to the spot from which he played the first dropped ball and drop another ball, playing seven.
- c. Return to the tee, playing seven.
- d. Return to the tee, playing five.

24) In stroke play, A hits his tee shot short of the green. B also hits his ball short of the green, but makes a pitch mark on A's line of play. A then stubs his second shot, leaving his ball still behind the pitch mark created by B's ball. What are A's rights regarding repairing the pitch mark made by B?

- a. He could have repaired the pitch mark before he played his second stroke, but cannot repair the pitch mark before he plays his third stroke.
- b. He cannot repair the pitch mark until it is no longer on his line of play.
- c. He could have repaired the pitch mark before his second stroke and can repair the pitch mark before his third stroke.
- d. He can repair the pitch mark before he plays his third stroke or any subsequent strokes he makes when it intervenes on his line of play.

25) On a par-three hole, a competitor hits his tee shot into an unpleasant lie on a fairly steep slope adjacent to the putting green. Believing that the ball might move at address, he does not ground his club in preparing to play the shot. At that point, the ball rolls backward and is stopped by the competitor's club. He removes the club and the ball rolls farther down the slope into a collection area, where his lie is much improved. The competitor elects to play the ball from its new position. He chips it onto the putting green and two putts. The competitor has scored:

- a. 5.
- b. 6.
- c. 7.
- d. 8.