

MGA Rules of Golf Webinar

Thursday, January 13, 2021

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Agenda

- MGA Updates
 - Rules & Procedures Exam Release
- Rules Questions and Explanations
- PGA Tour Examples

MGA Updates

MGA Rules & Procedures Exam

- Mandatory exam for all R&C Committee Members
- Consists of 30 questions about Rules of Golf and MGA Procedures
- Some questions will be seen on future webinars

MGA Rules Webinar Question Raffle

- Each Webinar will have a series of 5 questions
- Webinar Attendees will answer these questions during the Webinar
- Attendees will be awarded one point for each question they answer correctly
- Each point equals to one entry into the Raffle
- We will announce Raffle Winners at this year's Regional Rules Workshops

Question #1

In stroke play, Player A's second shot lands near the green and now lies on a cart path. Prior to taking relief, Player A notices their nearest point of complete relief would put them behind a tree. Player A opts instead to drop a ball in the next nearest spot no closer to the hole where the path no longer interferes with their swing. Player A then takes 2 additional strokes to complete the hole. What is their score?

A. 4

B. 5

C. 6

THREE MINUTES TO ANSWER

Nearest Not Nicest Point of Complete Relief

Nearest Point of Complete Relief

The reference point for taking free relief from an *abnormal course condition* (Rule 16.1), *dangerous animal condition* (Rule 16.2), *wrong green* (Rule 13.1f) or *no play zone* (Rules 16.1f and 17.1e), or in taking relief under certain Local Rules.

It is the estimated point where the ball would lie that is:

- Nearest to the ball's original spot, but not nearer the *hole* than that spot,
- In the required *area of the course*, and
- Where the condition does not interfere with the *stroke* the player would have made from the original spot if the condition was not there.

Playing from a Wrong Place

14.7 Playing from Wrong Place

a. Place from Where Ball Must Be Played

After starting a hole:

- A player must make each *stroke* from where his or her ball comes to rest, **except** when the Rules require or allow the player to play a ball from another place (see Rule 9.1).
- A player must not play his or her ball *in play* from a *wrong place*.

Penalty for Playing Ball from a *Wrong Place* in Breach of Rule 14.7a: *General Penalty*.

Question #1

In stroke play, Player A's second shot lands near the green and now lies on a cart path. Prior to taking relief, Player A notices their nearest point of complete relief would put them behind a tree. Player A opts instead to drop a ball in the next nearest spot no closer to the hole where the path no longer interferes with their swing. Player A then takes 2 additional strokes to complete the hole. What is their score?

A. 4

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Talent Strokes	Penalty Strokes
2- Tee Shot and "Second Shot"	2 – General Penalty, R14.7a
2- "2 additional strokes"	

THREE MINUTES TO ANSWER

Questions?

Question #2

In stroke play, a player announces that they will play a second ball under Rule 20.1c(3) and selects the second ball to count. The player plays both balls from a wrong place and has committed a serious breach with the procedure used for both balls. The player plays from the teeing area of the next hole, completes the round and reports to the Committee before returning their scorecard. What is the ruling?

- A. The score with the original ball counts plus a two stroke penalty for playing from a wrong place
- B. The score with the second ball counts plus a two stroke penalty for playing from a wrong place
- C. The player is disqualified

THREE MINUTES TO ANSWER

Rule 20.1c(3)

(3) Playing Two Balls When Uncertain What to Do. A player who is uncertain about the right procedure while playing a hole may complete the hole with two balls without penalty:

- The player must decide to play two balls after the uncertain situation arises and before making a *stroke*.
- The player should choose which ball will count if the Rules allow the procedure used for that ball, by announcing that choice to his or her *marker* or to another player before making a *stroke*.
- If the player does not choose in time, the ball played first is treated as the ball chosen by default.
- The player must report the facts of the situation to the *Committee* before returning the *scorecard*, even if the player scores the same with both balls. The player is **disqualified** if he or she fails to do so.

Rule 20.1c(4)

(4) Committee Decision on Score for Hole. When a player plays two balls under (3), the *Committee* will decide the player's score for the hole in this way:

- The score with the ball chosen (whether by the player or by default) counts if the Rules allow the procedure used for that ball.
- If the Rules do not allow the procedure used for that ball, the score with the other ball played counts if the Rules allow the procedure used for that other ball.
- If the Rules do not allow the procedures used for each of the two balls, the score with the ball chosen (whether by the player or by default) counts unless there was a *serious breach* in playing that ball from a *wrong place*, in which case the score with the other ball counts.

Questions?

Question #3

In a match between Player A & B. Player A's Ball lies in a bunker. While addressing the ball, A's club touches the sand and slightly improves the lie. Player B observes this happen and reminds Player A that it is not permitted under the Rules. A & B agree to overlook the penalty for now but enforce it if it happens again later in the match. What is the ruling?

- A. No penalty to either player
- B. Player A receives a general penalty regardless of the agreement
- C. Both players are disqualified

THREE MINUTES TO ANSWER

Rule 1.3b

b. Applying the Rules

(1) Player Responsibility for Applying the Rules. Players are responsible for applying the Rules to themselves:

- Players are expected to recognize when they have breached a Rule and to be honest in applying their own penalties.
 - » If a player knows that he or she has breached a Rule that involves a penalty and deliberately fails to apply the penalty, the player is **disqualified**.
 - » If two or more players deliberately agree to ignore any Rule or penalty they know applies and any of those players have started the *round*, they are **disqualified** (even if they have not yet acted on the agreement).

Rule 12.2b

b. Restrictions on Touching Sand in Bunker

(1) When Touching Sand Results in Penalty. Before making a *stroke* at a ball in a *bunker*, a player must not:

- Deliberately touch sand in the *bunker* with a hand, club, rake or other object to test the condition of the sand to learn information for the next *stroke*, or
- Touch sand in the *bunker* with a club:

» In the area right in front of or right behind the ball (except as allowed under Rule 7.1a in fairly searching for a ball or under Rule 12.2a in removing a *loose impediment* or *movable obstruction*),

Penalty for Breach of Rule 12.2: General Penalty.

Questions?

Question #4

A player hits their tee shot towards a road defined as out of bounds. The player then properly plays a provisional ball. After searching for 1 minute, the player is unable to find the original ball and chooses to play the provisional ball from a location nearer the hole than where the original ball was estimated to be. While walking towards the green the player finds the original ball on the course much closer to the hole than expected. The player must:

- A. Continue play with the provisional ball
- B. Continue play with the original ball
- C. Continue play with the original ball only if it was found in less than 3 total minutes

THREE MINUTES TO ANSWER

Rule 18.3c

(2) **When Provisional Ball Becomes Ball in Play.** The *provisional ball* becomes the player's ball *in play* under penalty of *stroke and distance* in either of these two cases:

- **When Original Ball Is Lost Anywhere on Course Except in Penalty Area or Is Out of Bounds.** The original ball is no longer *in play* (even if it is then found on the *course* after the end of the three-minute search time) and is now a *wrong ball* that must not be played (see Rule 6.3c).
- **When Provisional Ball Is Played from Spot Nearer Hole Than Where Original Ball Is Estimated to Be.** The original ball is no longer *in play* (even if it is then found on the *course* before the end of the three-minute search time or is found nearer the *hole* than had been estimated) and is now a *wrong ball* that must not be played (see Rule 6.3c).

Questions?

Question #5

In a match between Player A & Player B, Player A's ball lies in the fairway 10 yards behind B's ball. A plays their next shot which creates a large divot, the divot flies 10 yards ahead and hits B's ball causing it to roll 40 yards down a steep slope and into a large pile of leaves. Player B must retrieve and replace the original ball even if it would take unreasonable effort to do so.

A. True

B. False

THREE MINUTES TO ANSWER

Rule 9.6

9.6 Ball Lifted or Moved by Outside Influence

If it is *known or virtually certain* that an *outside influence* (including another player in *stroke play* or another ball) lifted or *moved* a player's ball:

- There is no penalty, and
- The ball must be *replaced* on its original spot (which if not known must be estimated) (see Rule 14.2).

This applies whether or not the player's ball has been found.

Rule 14.2

a. Original Ball Must Be Used

The original ball must be used when *replacing* a ball.

Exception – Another Ball May Be Used When:

- The original ball cannot be recovered with reasonable effort and in a few seconds, so long as the player did not deliberately cause the ball to become unrecoverable,

2021 Aramco Team Series @ Glen Oaks

Hole #15 – Sophia Popov



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

Rule 14.3c(2)



(2) **What to Do if Ball Dropped in Right Way Comes to Rest Outside Relief Area.** If the ball comes to rest outside the *relief area*, the player must *drop* a ball in the right way a second time.

If that ball also comes to rest outside the *relief area*, the player must then complete taking relief by placing a ball using the procedures for *replacing* a ball in Rules 14.2b(2) and 14.2e:

- The player must place a ball on the spot where the ball *dropped* the second time first touched the ground.
- If the placed ball does not stay at rest on that spot, the player must place a ball on that spot a second time.
- If the ball placed a second time also does not stay on that spot, the player must place a ball on the nearest spot where the ball will stay at rest, subject to the limits in Rule 14.2e.

2021 Ryder Cup

Hole #15– Brooks Koepka



[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

Rule 16.1



a. When Relief Is Allowed

(1) Meaning of Interference by Abnormal Course Condition. Interference exists when any one of these is true:

- The player's ball touches or is in or on an *abnormal course condition*,
- An *abnormal course condition* physically interferes with the player's area of intended *stance* or area of intended swing, or
- Only when the ball is on the *putting green*, an *abnormal course condition* on or off the *putting green* intervenes on the *line of play*.

If the *abnormal course condition* is close enough to distract the player but does not meet any of these requirements, there is no interference under this Rule.

Questions?

Thank You!

Any Questions Contact:

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MGA Rules of Golf Webinar Series #1

Thursday, January 27th

Time: 2:30 p.m.

