

Quiz Show

Question No. 1

This special Rules Quiz includes a top-10 list of the most intriguing Rules situations ever printed in the magazine

COMPILED BY TONY WIMPFHEIMER

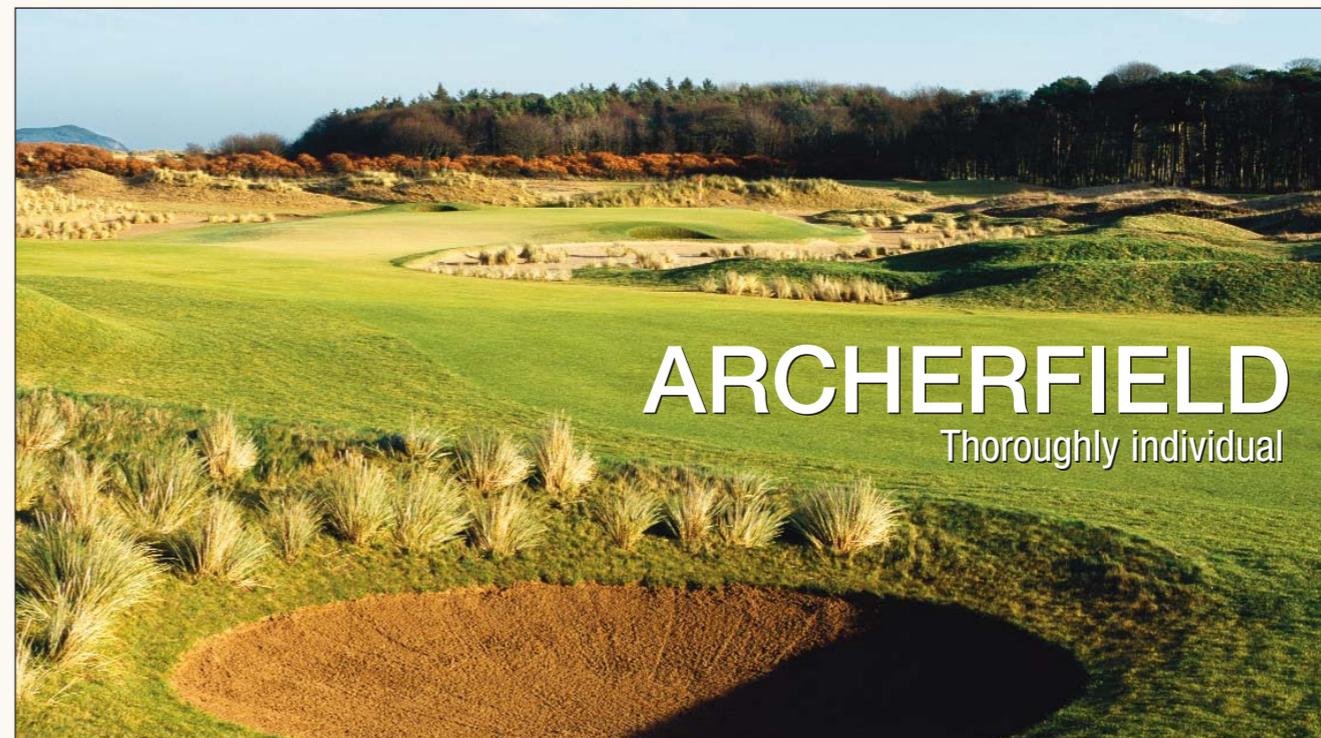
For this year's Rules Quiz, we have combed through every past Rules article in The Met Golfer's history and chosen the 10 Rules situations that we found to be most applicable and, we hope, most interesting. We offer them to you both to jump-start your mind as the 2007 golf season begins in the Met Area, and also as reminders of some of the most important Rules from the USGA's "little book." The situations have been updated to reflect the changes that were made in the Rules during the elapsed years. Remember this is meant to be an "open book" test. So get out your current Rules and Decision books and enjoy!

1) Q: Eddie's ball lay on the apron of a green. Prior to putting, he brushed away some sand that sat on the line of his putt (*illustration, above*). Some of the sand was on the apron, and some was on the green. Was Eddie allowed to do this?

A: It sounds alright, but it isn't. Eddie could remove the sand on the green without penalty, but the sand that was on the apron ("through the green") was "untouchable" since, under the Definitions, sand is a loose impediment only when it lies on the green. Brushing away sand "through the green" is a violation of Rule 13-2 – Improving the line of Play. The penalty is a loss of hole in match play or two strokes in stroke play.

2) Q: John, playing in a husband-wife "better-ball-of-partners" (four-ball stroke play) event, was having a terrible day on the course. His score was mounting, and he was getting hotter under the collar. On the 13th hole, he topped his drive and the ball

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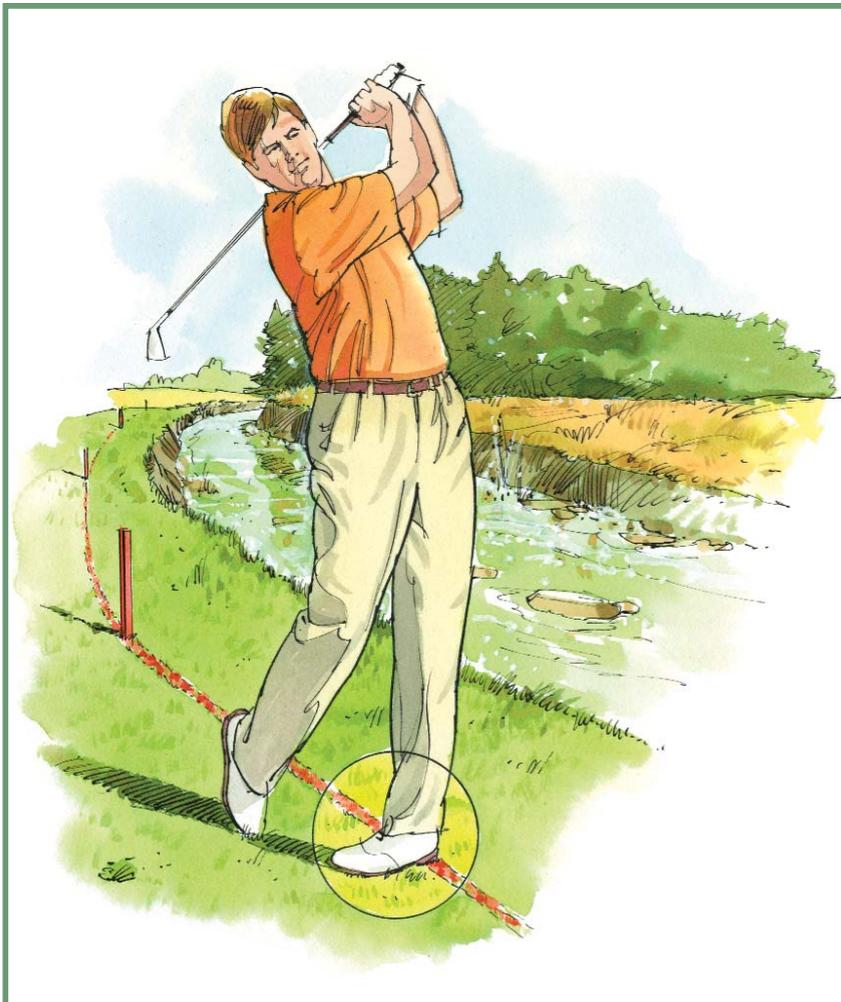
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the ball from where it came to rest?

A: Rule 20-2c lists the seven situations which *require* re-dropping. In this case, Tom *must* re-drop since he still has “interference” from the condition from which he chose to take relief. Taking relief from “abnormal ground conditions” (like GUR) must include lie, stance, and area of intended scoring. This means he still has “interference,” and therefore must re-drop.

4) Q: Bill and Andrew were playing a late-afternoon round when Andrew drove his ball into a lateral water hazard. With the penalty of one stroke, he dropped it within two club lengths of where it last crossed the margin of the hazard, no nearer the hole. He took his stance and hit his ball onto the green. However, his left foot was on the red hazard line when he hit the ball. Was this a violation of the Rules?

A: Not at all. There is an air of confusion because when relief is taken from immovable obstructions or “abnormal ground conditions” such as GUR (see previous question) both the lie of the ball and the player’s swing and stance have to be considered. However, in the case of “relief” from a water hazard (Rule 26-1), you are only required to consider the lie of the ball.

5) Q: Well after leaving the 10th tee but short of reaching the “landing area,” Doug realized that his drive might have gone out of bounds. He started walking back to the tee, telling his fellow competitor he didn’t want to slow the round down so he was going back to hit a provisional “just in case.” Not a bad idea, right?

A: It was a nice idea, but unfortunately Doug had the timing wrong. A provisional ball must be put into play *before* the player or his partners go forward to search for the ball (Rule 27-2). If Doug had gone back and played what he mistakenly called a provisional, that ball would have become the “ball in play” and the original ball would, no matter where it lay, have been deemed “lost.”

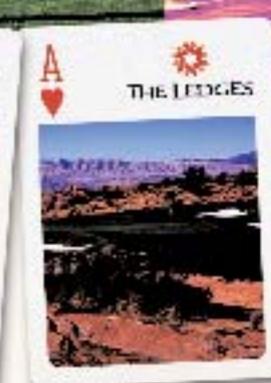
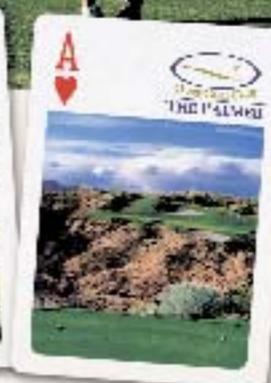
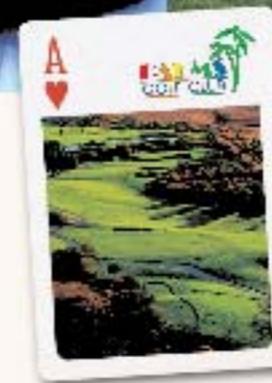
barely dribbled onto the forward tee, well short of the fairway. Hoping “to work out the problem,” John announced to his fellow competitors that he intended to hit a provisional ball. Leslie, his ever-loving wife, took the future of their marriage in hand and pointed out that you cannot just hit a provisional any old time you want to. Was she right?

A: Yes, Leslie correctly knew that, according to Rule 27-2, a player is allowed to hit a provisional only if a ball might be out of bounds or lost outside of a water hazard. If John had struck another ball from the tee, the original ball would have been immediately considered “lost” and the second ball would have been in play – lying three.

3) Q: Tom’s ball came to rest in the middle of the fairway but in an area marked Ground Under Repair (GUR). He lifted the ball, cleaned it and then dropped it in the proper place, using the required technique. His ball came to rest outside the GUR, with a perfect lie, but when Tom took his stance, one foot touched the GUR line. Was he required to re-drop, or could he play

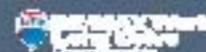
6) Q: Hank and Dick were playing a match and just approaching their drives in the fairway when the lightning warning siren sounded. They both marked and lifted their golf balls and took shelter. When the “all clear” signal was sounded, they returned to the fairway and replaced their balls in the correct places. However, Dick

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noticed that Hank had changed balls. Was he allowed to do this?

A: Yes, he was. Rule 6-8d instructs the golfer to replace “a” ball in this situation. This is a reminder to read every Rule carefully. There will be many references to “the” ball, which refers to your “ball in play,” and an occasional reference to “a” ball, which allows you to legally substitute for the original ball. Now, if you are wondering if Hank needed to replace his ball with a replica, the answer is no – unless they were playing under the “one-ball rule.” This “local rule” was not employed, therefore Hank could use any conforming ball as a replacement.



7) Q: In a recent match at the U.S. Mid-Amateur, Jim was engaged in a tight contest with his opponent, Ken. On the 17th hole, Ken’s putt came up a foot short. Jim, who was 1-up at the time, conceded the tap-in and the hole was halved. But instead of picking his ball up, Ken proceeded to putt – and missed! Did the match go on to the 18th tee, or was it time for Ken to go home?

A: The hole was halved and Jim and Ken were off to the 18th with Jim still holding a 1-up lead. When a ball is deemed to be at rest, an opponent may concede the next stroke. A concession may not be declined or withdrawn (Rule 2-4) so the hole was over when Jim gave his concession.

8) Q: During a match Mary drove her ball into a bunker to the right of the 11th fairway. Her ball came to rest on a grass-covered island in the middle of the bunker. In the process of addressing her ball Mary grounded her club on the grass island. Linda, her opponent, claimed that by grounding her club she had lost the hole. Was she correct?

A: Not this time. Even though Mary was standing in the bunker, grass-covered ground within a bunker or bordering it is not considered part of that bunker. In fact, had she grounded her club in the sand she would not have been penalized either, because her ball was not in the hazard!

9) Q: The vertical fence posts supporting the chain-link fence surrounding the tennis courts were painted white, indicating that the courts are out of bounds. Bob’s drive came to rest touching the golf course side of one of the vertical stanchions. Was his ball out of bounds?

A: There is both good news and bad news for Bob. The good news is that, according to the Definitions, when out of bounds is defined by stakes or a fence, the “O.B.” line is determined by the nearest *inside* points of the stakes or fence posts at ground level. For a ball to be out of bounds, all of it must lie O.B. Since most of Bob’s ball is inside of the O.B. line, it is in bounds. The bad news? Bob gets no relief from the fence post to make room for his swing. Bob must either declare the ball unplayable and take relief and a penalty stroke, or play a very, very difficult shot.

10) Q: Ellen played an iron to the seventh green and Carol, her fellow competitor who faced a similar approach, said “Nice shot... what club did you use?” Ellen answered, “a 5-iron.” Is there anything wrong here, and if so, what is the penalty?

A: This exchange constituted “Advice” (Rule 8-1). Since they were competing at stroke play (denoted by the term “fellow competitor”) the penalty was two strokes for Carol for asking and ditto to Ellen for “giving.” Had they been playing a match as “opponents,” Carol would have lost the hole for asking, but Ellen would not have been penalized, because you cannot lose a hole your opponent has already lost. However, if Ellen gave the advice without Carol asking first, only Ellen would have been penalized. ■

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