

# **R&C Committee**

## **End of Year Recap**

*(And Mickelson Rules School)*

# Agenda

- **Tuesday Webinar Recap**
- **COVID-19 into 2021 Season**
- **USGA Rules Workshop Certification Levels**
- **Phil Mickelson Rules School**

# Bryson DeChambeau Rules School



Bryson vs. Fire Ants

# Rule 16.2 - Dangerous Animal Condition/ Definition – Animal Hole

## a. When Relief is Allowed

A “dangerous animal condition” exists when a dangerous animal (such as poisonous snakes, stinging bees, alligators, fire ants or bears) near a ball could cause serious physical injury to the player if he or she had to play the ball as it lies.

## b. Relief for Dangerous Animal Condition

When there is interference by a dangerous *animal* condition:

(1) **When Ball Is Anywhere Except Penalty Area**. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b, c or d, depending on whether the ball is in the *general area*, in a *bunker* or on the *putting green*.

For purposes of this Rule, the *nearest point of complete relief* means the nearest point (not nearer the *hole*) where the dangerous *animal* condition does not exist.

Definition – Animal Hole: Any hole dug in the ground by an *animal*, **except** for holes dug by *animals* that are also defined as *loose impediments* (such as worms or insects).

PGA Tour Rules Official deemed that although there were ants present, there were no dangerous fire ants in the area of Bryson's stance or swing. Additionally, it was determined that Bryson had no interference from Animal Holes as ant hills are not included in the definition of Animal Hole.

# Bryson DeChambeau Rules School



Bryson vs. Sprinklers

# Rule 16.1 - Abnormal Course Condition (Immovable Obstruction)

## a. When Relief Is Allowed

Interference exists when any one of these is true:

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

## Model Local Rule F-5

“Relief from interference by an *immovable obstruction* may be taken under Rule 16.1.

The player also has these extra options to take relief when such *immovable obstructions* are close to the *putting green* and on the *line of play*:

**Ball in General Area.** The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b if an *immovable obstruction* is:

- On the *line of play*, and is:
  - Within two *club-lengths* of the *putting green*, and
  - Within two *club-lengths* of the ball.

**Exception – No Relief If Line of Play Clearly Unreasonable.** There is no relief under this Local Rule if the player chooses a *line of play* that is clearly unreasonable.

# Bryson DeChambeau Rules School



Bryson vs. Out of Bounds

# Definition – Out of Bounds

All areas outside the boundary edge of the *course* as defined by the *Committee*. All areas inside that edge are in bounds.

The boundary edge of the *course* extends both up above the ground and down below the ground.

The boundary edge should be defined by *boundary objects* or lines:

- **Boundary objects**: When defined by stakes or a fence, the boundary edge is defined by the line between the *course*-side points of the stakes or fence posts at ground level (excluding angled supports), and those stakes or fence posts are *out of bounds*.

When defined by other objects such as a wall or when the *Committee* wishes to treat a boundary fence in a different way, the *Committee* should define the boundary edge.

- **Lines**: When defined by a painted line on the ground, the boundary edge is the *course*-side edge of the line, and the line itself is *out of bounds*.

When a line on the ground defines the boundary edge, stakes may be used to show where the boundary edge is, **but** they have no other meaning. Boundary stakes or lines should be white.



# Bryson DeChambeau Rules School



## Bryson vs. Lost Ball

# Definition – Lost

The status of a ball that is not found in three minutes after you or your *caddie* (or your *partner* or *partner's caddie*) begin to search for it.

## Questions?

# COVID-19 Information

## 2020 COVID-19 Policies at Events (Players)

- Pre-Event Email
- Pre-Event Screening
- No Physical Paperwork (Hole Locations, etc.)
- Electronic Scorecards
- Flagsticks, bunker rakes, etc.
- Travel Advisories and notification



# COVID-19 Information



## 2020 COVID-19 Policies at Events (Volunteers)

- Pre-Event Email with Printable Material
  - Pre-Event Screening
- No Physical Paperwork (Hole Locations, etc.)
  - No Radios, all cell phones
  - Volunteer "Shifts"
- Travel Advisories and notification
  - Food Services

# USGA Rules of Golf Workshops

## [USGA - A Short Course on the Rules](#)

A new convenient and interactive way to learn more about the Rules of Golf. Each session will have access to videos, quizzes, and a leaderboard with quiz results.

## [USGA/PGA Virtual Introductory Rules of Golf Workshop](#)

An Introduction to the USGA Rules of Golf Workshops. You will have access to 4 hours of on-demand Rules Presentations, two 1-hour live webinars to ask questions. You may also register for the 80-question or 100-question exam on top of the Virtual Workshop.

## [USGA/PGA Rules of Golf Workshop](#)

An advanced, in-depth workshop for the Rules of Golf taught by staff of the USGA and PGA of America. Access to all Rules Presentations and content as well as live webinars lead by instructors. Rules of Golf Exam is included, but optional for attendees.

# USGA Rules of Golf Exams

## **Advanced Level Certification:**

Must be achieved to be considered for on-site MGA & USGA  
Rules Committees.

80-Question Exam: 70+

100-Question Exam: 75+

## **Expert Level Certification:**

Must be achieved to be considered for Official-in-Charge roles  
on-site at MGA & USGA qualifiers.

100-Question Exam: 90+

**Questions?**



# Congratulations!

## Jerry Mahoney Award

Rules & Competitions Volunteer of the Year

**Michael Schlein**

Ridgewood, New Jersey





# Phil Mickelson Rules School

# Phil vs. Fescue



# Phil vs. Fescue

## Rule 8.1

### Actions That Improve Conditions Affecting Your Stroke

#### a. Actions That Are Not Allowed

**Except** in the limited ways allowed in Rules 8.1b, c and d, you must not take any of these actions if they *improve* the *conditions affecting your stroke*:

- ***Move, bend or break any growing or attached natural object, or immovable obstruction, integral object or boundary object, or tee-marker for the teeing area when playing a ball from that teeing area.***
- Move a *loose impediment* or *movable obstruction* into position (such as to build a *stance*).
- Alter the surface of the ground.
- Remove or press down sand or loose soil.
- Remove dew, frost or water.

**Penalty for Breach of Rule 8.1a: *General Penalty.***

# Phil "Fairly Taking His Stance"



## b. Actions That Are Allowed

In preparing for or making a *stroke*, you may take any of these actions and there is no penalty even if doing so *improves the conditions affecting your stroke*:

- Fairly search for your ball by taking reasonable actions to find and identify it.
- Take reasonable actions to remove *loose impediments* and *movable obstructions*.
- Take reasonable actions to *mark* the spot of your ball and to lift and *replace* your ball.
- Ground your club lightly right in front of or right behind your ball (**but** you cannot do this in a *bunker*).
- Firmly place your feet in taking a *stance*, including a reasonable amount of digging in with your feet in sand or loose soil.
- **Fairly take your *stance* by taking reasonable actions to get to your ball and take your *stance*. But when doing so you are not entitled to a normal *stance* or swing and you must use the least intrusive course of action to deal with the particular situation.**
- Make a *stroke* or the backswing for a *stroke* which is then made. **But** when your ball is in a *bunker*, touching the sand in the *bunker* in taking your backswing is not allowed.
- On the *putting green*, remove sand and loose soil and repair damage.
- Move a natural object to see if it is loose. **But** if the object is found to be growing or attached, it must stay attached and be returned as nearly as possible to its original position.

# Phil vs. Immovable Obstruction





# Rule 16.1 Abnormal Course Conditions

## a. When Relief Is Allowed

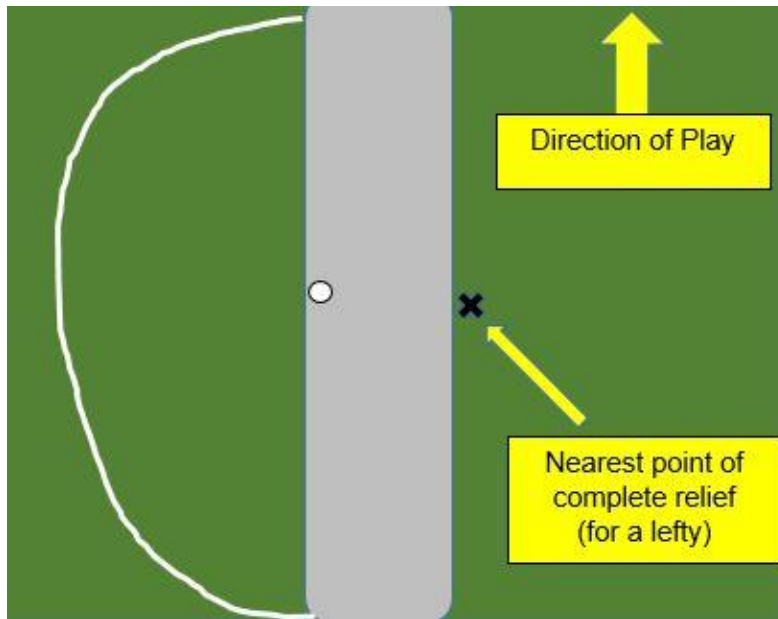
Interference exists when any one of these is true:

1. The player's ball touches or is in or on an abnormal course condition
2. An abnormal course condition physically interferes with the player's area of intended stance or area of intended swing, or
3. 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.



**REMINDER: It is nearest point of COMPLETE relief,  
not nicest relief**

# Important to Remember



## MGA Notice to Players

"White Lined areas tying into roads and paths are considered an extension of the obstruction."



# Phil vs. Out of Bounds



# Definition: Out of Bounds



All areas outside the boundary edge of the *course* as defined by the *Committee*. All areas inside that edge are in bounds.

The boundary edge of the *course* extends both up above the ground and down below the ground:

- This means that all ground and anything else (such as any natural or artificial object) inside the boundary edge is in bounds, whether on, above or below the surface of the ground.
- If an object is both inside and outside the boundary edge (such as steps attached to a boundary fence, or a tree rooted outside the edge with branches extending inside the edge or vice versa), only the part of the object that is outside the edge is *out of bounds*.

**The boundary edge should be defined by *boundary objects* or lines:**

- **Boundary Objects: When defined by stakes or a fence, the boundary edge is defined by the line between the *course*-side points of the stakes or fence posts at ground level (excluding angled supports), and those stakes or fence posts are *out of bounds*.**

When defined by other objects such as a wall or when the *Committee* wishes to treat a boundary fence in a different way, the *Committee* should define the boundary edge.

- **Lines**: When defined by a painted line on the ground, the boundary edge is the *course*-side edge of the line, and the line itself is *out of bounds*.

When a line on the ground defines the boundary edge, stakes may be used to show where the boundary edge is, **but** they have no other meaning.

# Phil vs. Ball in Motion



# Rule 10.1

## Making A Stroke

### Rule 10.1d

#### d. Playing Moving Ball

A player must not make a *stroke* at a moving ball:

- A ball *in play* is “moving” when it is not at rest on a spot.
- If a ball that has come to rest is wobbling (sometimes referred to as oscillating) but stays on or returns to its original spot, it is treated as being at rest and is not a moving ball.



**Penalty for Breach of Rule 10.1: General Penalty**

# Video Links

[Mickelson – Improving Line of Play](#)

[Mickelson – Fairly Taking Stance](#)

[Mickelson – Cart Path & Extension Relief](#)

[Mickelson - Out of Bounds](#)

[Mickelson - Ball in Motion Penalty](#)

# THANK YOU!

Contact MGA Staff:

Sean Murphy: [smurphy@mgagolf.org](mailto:smurphy@mgagolf.org)

Chris Gaffney: [cgaffney@mgagolf.org](mailto:cgaffney@mgagolf.org)

Nick Roden: [nroden@mgagolf.org](mailto:nroden@mgagolf.org)

