

MGA Rules of Golf Webinar

Session #4

Agenda

- Rule 16.3 - Embedded Ball
 - Ian Poulter @ Scottish Open*
- Rule 8.1 - Course Played As Found
 - Patrick Reed Bunker – Hero World Challenge*
 - Patrick Reed Rough – U.S. Open @ Winged Foot
- Temporary Immovable Obstructions
 - "The Great Wall of Dinah" - ANA Inspiration
- Rule 15.3 - Ball Helping or Interfering With Play
 - Amy Olson & Ariya Jutanugarn - Honda LPGA Thailand*
- Rule 12.1 - When Ball is in Bunker
 - Segundo Oliva Pinto - U.S. Amateur @ Bandon Dunes*
- An Entire Rules Book in One Ruling
 - Jordan Spieth – Open Championship @ Royal Birkdale
- Special Feature*

2020 Scottish Open

1st Hole – Ian Poulter



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Rule 16.3 - Embedded Ball

DIAGRAM 16.3a: WHEN A BALL IS EMBEDDED



Ball is embedded

Part of the ball (embedded in its own pitch-mark) is below the level of the ground.

← Level of Ground



Ball is embedded

Despite the fact that the ball is not touching the soil, part of the ball (embedded in its own pitch-mark) is below the level of the ground.



Ball is NOT embedded

Even though the ball is sitting down in the grass, relief is not available because no part of the ball is below the level of the ground.

Rule 16.3 - Embedded Ball

2020 Scottish Open 1st Hole – Ian Poulter



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Question From Last Webinar

A ball cannot be embedded if it was never airborne, correct?

Rule 16.3 - Embedded Ball

TRUE

2020 Scottish Open 1st Hole – Ian Poulter



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Rule 16.3a(2) states:

A ball is not *embedded* if it is below the level of the ground as a result of anything other than the player's previous *stroke*, such as when:

- The ball is pushed into the ground by someone stepping on it,
- The ball is driven straight into the ground without becoming airborne, or
- The ball was *dropped* in taking relief under a Rule.

Rule 16.3 - Embedded Ball

HOWEVER

2020 Scottish Open 1st Hole – Ian Poulter



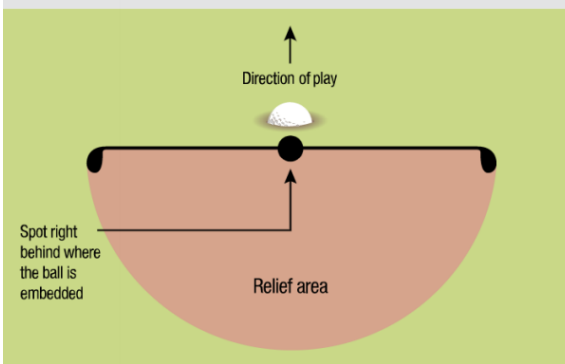
Poulter's ball was airborne, although may only a foot or so off of the ground.

Due to this, Poulter was granted relief for Rule 16.3 Embedded Ball.

REMINDER

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DIAGRAM 16.3b: FREE RELIEF FOR EMBEDDED BALL



When a ball is embedded in the general area, free relief may be taken. The reference point for taking relief is the spot right behind where the ball is embedded. A ball must be dropped in and come to rest in the relief area. The relief area is one club-length from the reference point, is not nearer to the hole than the reference point and must be in the general area.

QUESTIONS?

2019 Hero World Challenge

11th Hole - Patrick Reed



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Rule 8 – Course Played As It Is Found

Rule 8.1

Player's Actions That Improve Conditions Affecting the Stroke

a. Actions That Are Not Allowed:

(1) Move, bend or break any:

- Growing or attached natural object,
- *Immovable obstruction, integral object or boundary object, or*
- Tee-marker for the *teeing area* when playing a ball from that *teeing area*.

(2) Move a *loose impediment* or *movable obstruction* into position (such as to build a *stance* or to *improve the line of play*).

(3) Alter the surface of the ground, including by:

- Replacing divots in a divot hole,
- Removing or pressing down divots that have already been replaced or other cut turf that is already in place, or
- Creating or eliminating holes, indentations or uneven surfaces.

(4) Remove or press down sand or loose soil.

(5) Remove dew, frost or water.

2019 Hero World Challenge 11th Hole - Patrick Reed



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2020 U.S. Open Championship

Patrick Reed



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Rule 8 – Course Played As It Is Found

Rule 8.1

Player's Actions That Improve Conditions Affecting the Stroke

b. Actions That Are Allowed:

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

- (1) Fairly search for his or her ball by taking reasonable actions to find and identify it.
- (2) Take reasonable actions to remove *loose impediments* and *movable obstructions*.
- (3) Take reasonable actions to *mark* the spot of a ball and to lift and *replace* the ball under Rules 14.1 and 14.2.
- (4) Ground the club lightly right in front of or right behind the ball.

But this does not allow:

- Pressing the club on the ground, or
- When a ball is in a *bunker*, touching the sand right in front of or right behind the ball.

2020 U.S. Open Championship Patrick Reed



Rule 8 – Course Played As It Is Found

Interpretation 8.1b/1

Meaning of "Ground The Club Lightly"

Rule 8.1b allows a player to ground the club lightly directly in front of or behind the ball, even if that *improves* his or her *lie* or area of intended swing.

“Ground the club lightly” means allowing the weight of the club to be supported by the grass, soil, sand or other material on or above the ground surface.

But the player gets the penalty under Rule 8.1a if he or she *improves* the *lie* or area of intended swing by pressing the club down more than lightly.

See Rule 12.2b(1) (When Touching Sand Results in Penalty) for when a player gets a penalty for touching sand in a *bunker*.

2020 U.S. Open Championship Patrick Reed



QUESTIONS?

2020 ANA Inspiration

18th Hole – Mirim Lee, Brooke Henderson & Nelly Korda



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MGA
— 1897 —

2020 ANA Inspiration

18th Hole – Mirim Lee, Brooke Henderson & Nelly Korda



Model Local Rule F-23

“Definition of TIO: A temporary *immovable obstruction* (TIO) is a structure that is temporarily added on or next to the *course*, usually for a particular competition, and is fixed or not readily movable.

Examples of TIOs are temporary tents, scoreboards, grandstands, television towers and toilets.

TIOs include any supporting guy wires connected to them, except when the Committee decides the supporting guy wires are to be treated as immovable obstructions.

2020 ANA Inspiration

18th Hole – Mirim Lee, Brooke Henderson & Nelly Korda



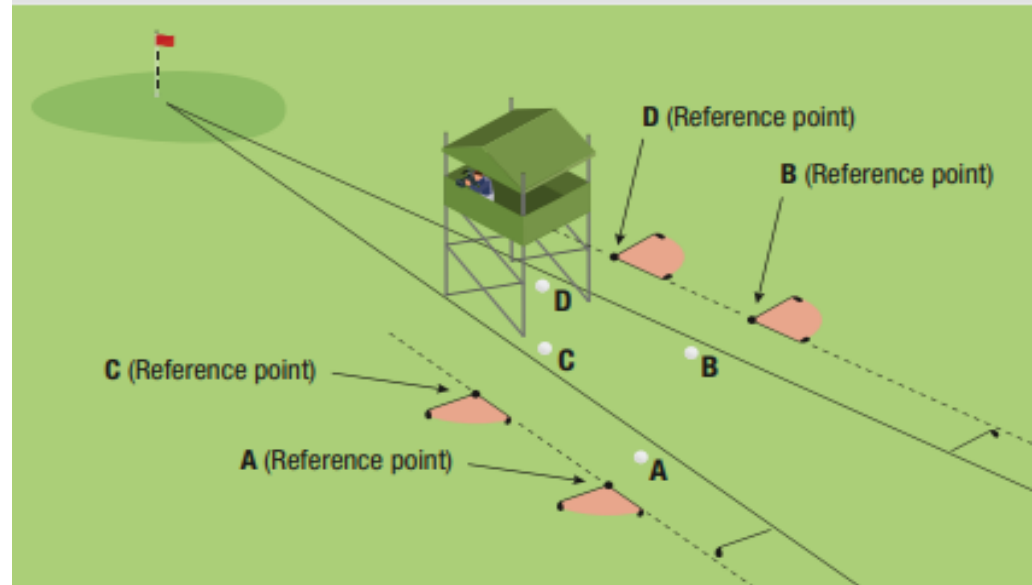
a. When Relief Is Allowed

Relief from a TIO is normally allowed when there is physical interference or line of sight interference from the TIO.

Interference under this Local Rule means that the player has:

- Physical interference,
- Line of sight interference, or
- Both physical and line of sight interference.

DIAGRAM 7: RELIEF FROM A TIO



QUESTIONS?

2019 Honda LPGA Thailand

18th Hole – Amy Olson & Ariya Juntanugarn



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MGA
—1897—

Rule 15.3 Ball or Ball-Marker Helping or Interfering with Play

a. Ball on Putting Green Helping Play

Rule 15.3a applies only to a ball at rest on the *putting green*, not anywhere else on the *course*.

If a player reasonably believes that a ball on the *putting green* might help anyone's play (such as by serving as a possible backstop near the *hole*), the player may:

- *Mark* the spot of the ball and lift it under Rule 13.1b if it is his or her own ball, or if the ball belongs to another player, require the other player to *mark* the spot and lift the ball (see Rule 14.1).
- The lifted ball must be *replaced* on its original spot (see Rule 14.2).

In *stroke play* only:

- A player who is required to lift a ball may play first instead, and
- If two or more players agree to leave a ball in place to help any player, and that player then makes a *stroke* with the helping ball left in place, each player who made the agreement gets the *general penalty* (two penalty strokes).

2019 Honda LPGA Thailand

18th Hole – Amy Olson & Ariya Juntanugarn



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QUESTIONS?

2020 U.S. Amateur

18th Hole – Tyler Strafacci vs. Segundo Oliva Pinto



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Rule 12.1 When Ball is in Bunker

18th Hole – Tyler Strafaci vs.
Segundo Oliva Pinto



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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*),
 - » In making a practice swing, or
 - » In making the backswing for a *stroke*.

QUESTIONS?

2017 Open Championship

13th Hole – Jordan Spieth



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2017 Open Championship

13th Hole – Jordan Spieth



(2020) Rule 19 – Unplayable Ball

(2020) Rule 19.2b
Unplayable Ball Relief –
Back on the Line

2017 Open Championship

13th Hole – Jordan Spieth



(2020) Model Local Rule F-23
Temporary Immovable Obstruction

2017 Open Championship

13th Hole – Jordan Spieth



QUESTIONS?

2013 Masters Tournament

15th Hole – Tiger Woods



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2013 Masters Tournament

15th Hole – Tiger Woods



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Q. How hard is it, that second shot on 15 after getting a bad break like that?

TIGER WOODS: Well, I went down to the drop area, that wasn't going to be a good spot, because obviously it's into the grain, it's really grainy there. And it was a little bit wet. So it was muddy and not a good spot to drop.

So I went back to where I played it from, but I went two yards further back and I took, tried to take two yards off the shot of what I felt I hit.

And that should land me short of the flag and not have it either hit the flag or skip over the back. I felt that that was going to be the right decision to take off four right there. And I did. It worked out perfectly.

2013 Masters Tournament

15th Hole – Tiger Woods



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Under Rule 26 (2013), a player has the option to play the ball from where they last played from. The player must drop a ball as near as possible to that spot.

Since Tiger did not do this, he would be playing from a Wrong Place, and would be given a two-stroke penalty.

In addition, under Rule 33-7, the Committee determined the penalty of disqualification for signing an incorrect scorecard would be waived.

HOWEVER....



In 2020, Under Rule 14.6b, when a player is putting another ball into play from where a previous stroke was made, a relief area must be established. The spot where last played from is your reference point and the player may drop within one club-length of that point.

Would Tiger be penalized in 2020?

QUESTIONS?

**Thank You!
&
Happy Holidays!**