

2020 Rules of Golf Webinar

~Third Edition~

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Rules of Golf Webinars

1. Digital Learning and Online Resources
2. Rules Every Golfer (and Official) Should Know
3. R&P Exam Review



Take Home Questions - Answers

On the Par 4, 18th hole of Meadow Brook Club, a player is faced with a hard-breaking 10 foot putt to save par. While reading the *green* the player places a half full water bottle down just behind the *hole* in order to help visualize the slope near the *hole*. The player's *caddie* removes the water bottle before the *stroke* is made. The player *holes* the putt, what is the player's score for the hole?

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

Take Home Questions - Answers

In *stroke play*, a player hits their tee shot into a heavily wooded area right of the fairway. Without announcing anything to her fellow competitors, the player retees and plays a new ball from the *teeing area* intending for it to be a *provisional ball*. Upon finding her original ball within three minutes, a fellow competitor raises concern that the player did not announce that she was playing a *provisional* on the tee, an MGA official is called over. The player should be informed that:

- a. Her original ball is in the ball in play and she may play on with it.
- b. Her original ball is in play but she may proceed under Rule 19 (Unplayable Ball) and play the second ball instead.
- c. Her second ball is the ball in play since she didn't announce that she was playing a *provisional ball*.

Rules Quiz Question #4

A player's first stroke on a par 3 hole hits a tree and comes backward to rest in the teeing area. The player addresses the ball and causes it to move. He doesn't replace the ball and hits it onto the green. He then notices that he played from outside the teeing area on his initial stroke. He tees another ball within the teeing area and hits this ball onto the green and 2 putts. He picks up the first ball. What is the player's score for the hole?

a. 5

b. 6

c. 7

Rule 6.1b(2); Rule 14.6

d. 8

TS – 1 (Tee Shot)

TS – 1 (Second Tee Shot)

TS – 1 (First Putt)

TS – 1 (Second Putt)

PS – 2 (Rule 6.1b(2))

PS – 1 (Stroke & Distance)

Rules Quiz Question #12

On a par 4, a player misses the fairway with his tee shot and his ball comes to rest behind a dune. A spectator is standing on top of the dune and has offered to let the player know when the green is clear. The player and his caddie analyze the shot and use the spectator as an alignment. Standing directly behind the player, the caddie lines up the player with the spectator and confirms his line of play as the player addresses the ball and rehearses the shot. The spectator waves to the player indicating that the green is clear, but before he can move out of the way, the player shouts to the spectator to stay in position because the spectator is on the player's line of play. The player takes a step behind the ball where the caddie previously was to line himself up one more time. The spectator stays in place and the player plays directly over the spectator's head. The ball lands on the green. The player takes two putts. What is his score for the hole?

- a. 4 Interpretation 10.2b(5)/1
- b. 6
- c. 8
- d. 10

TS – 1 (Tee Shot)
TS – 1 (Second Shot)
TS – 1 (First Putt)
TS – 1 (Second Putt)

Rules Quiz Question #17

In a stroke play competition with Local Rule G-4 (One Ball Rule) in effect, it is getting late in the day and it is becoming more difficult to see the golf ball. A player's tee shot embeds in the fairway. As she is taking relief, her caddie advises her to use an orange ball that is the same brand and model as the white ball she has been playing. She places the orange ball next to the spot where her drive embedded, making sure not to repair the pitch mark. She hits her next shot short of the bunker in front of the green and then chunks her next shot into the bunker. Since she is not a good bunker player, her caddie advises her to take unplayable ball relief and play from outside the bunker. She does so properly, noticing that her reference point happens to be on the spot where she hit her previous shot, and pitches onto the green. How many penalty strokes has she incurred?

a. 4

b. 5

c. 6

d. 7

Model Local Rule G-4 – 2 Strokes

Rule 14.7 – 2 Strokes

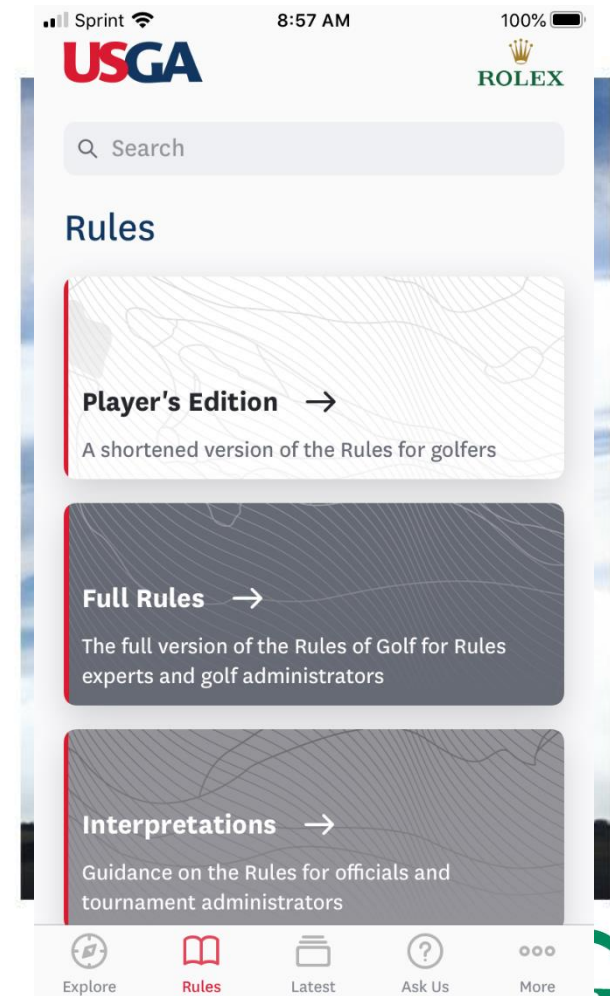
Rule 19.3b – 2 Strokes

Digital Learning

Like the rest of the world, the Rules of Golf are evolving more rapidly than ever...

The Rules of Golf Book itself is no longer the best resource to learn the Rules...

The best resources are now online!



15 Rules Every Golfer Should Know

- Available at USGA.org along with several other resources
- These most common Rulings can help average players as well as tournament players navigate the situations they will typically see on the course.

15 RULES EVERY GOLFER SHOULD KNOW

The USGA and The R&A Rules of Golf, effective January 1, 2019.

BALL MOVED

- 1 Ball Moved During Search**
- If you move any player's ball (even your own) while searching for it, there is **no penalty, just replace the ball.**



- 2 Ball Moved on Putting Green**
- If you accidentally move any player's ball (even your own) on the putting green, there is **no penalty, just replace the ball.**
 - Once you have lifted and replaced your ball on the putting green, **your ball owns that spot.** If it then moves, you will always replace your ball no matter what caused the movement, including wind or gravity.

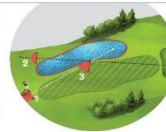


TAKING RELIEF

- 8 Dropping and Measuring Relief Area**
- Drop your ball from knee height so that it lands in and comes to rest in the relief area.
 - Your relief area is **either one or two club-lengths**, measured from the reference point (based on the Rule you are taking relief under).
 - Measure club-lengths using the **longest club in your bag** other than your putter.



- 9 Penalty Area Relief**
- For one penalty stroke, you have **two relief options** from a yellow penalty area and **three relief options** from a red penalty area.



- 1 Stroke-and-Distance (red or yellow)**
Play from the relief area based on where your previous stroke was made.
- 2 Back-On-the-Line (red or yellow)**
Drop a ball within one club-length to either side of a straight line from the hole through the point where your ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area, going back as far as you'd like.
- 3 Lateral Relief (red only)**
Drop a ball within a two club-length relief area measured from where your ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area, and no closer to the hole than that point.

- 10 Changing Balls Allowed When Taking Relief**
- You can use your **original ball or another ball** when taking either free relief or penalty relief.



PUTTING GREEN

- 3 Repairing Damage**
- You can repair **almost any damage** on the putting green, including:
 - Spike marks
 - Animal damage
 - Any damage from a person or a ball



- 4 Touching Line of Play**
- You are **allowed to touch your line of play** for any reason (including on the putting green).



- 5 Flagstick**
- If your ball hits an **unattended flagstick** in the hole, there is **no penalty.**



PLAYING A BALL

- 11 Accidental Deflections**
- There is **no penalty** if your ball in motion is accidentally deflected, including by:
 - You
 - Your equipment
 - Your partner
 - Your caddie
 - A double hit
 - Generally, your ball will be played from **where it comes to rest.**



- 12 Search Time**
- You have **three minutes** to find your ball before it is lost.



- 13 Help with Alignment**
- Your caddie or partner is **not allowed** to stand on or close to a line behind your ball while you are taking your stance and until your stroke is made.
 - If you begin taking your stance with your caddie or partner behind your ball, you can back away and **start over** without penalty.



BUNKERS AND PENALTY AREAS

- 6 Relaxed Restrictions in Bunkers**
- You can **touch or move** loose impediments in a bunker, but be careful you don't move your ball when doing so or you'll get one penalty stroke.
 - You **cannot touch** the sand with your club next to your ball, or during the backswing for your stroke.
 - You also **cannot touch** the sand anywhere to test its condition or when making a practice swing.



- 7 Actions Allowed in Penalty Areas**
- You are **allowed to:**
 - Ground your club
 - Take practice swings
 - Take penalty area relief
 - Touch water
 - Remove loose impediments



EQUIPMENT

- 14 Club Damage**
- You **cannot replace** any club that you damage during the round.
 - Check to see if **Model Local Rule G-9 is in effect**, which would allow you to replace a broken or significantly damaged club.



- 15 Yardage Books**
- There are **limits on the size and scale** of green-reading materials that you are allowed to use.
 - This **applies to all materials**, including yardage books, but only when you use them to read the green when you're playing from it, or when using a putter from anywhere else.
 - If you have questions, you should **ask the Committee** prior to your round.



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The USGA Rules of Golf App
Available for **FREE** on iOS and Android devices

Rule 10.2b(4) - Restriction of Caddie Standing Behind Player

Help with Alignment

- Your caddie or partner is **not allowed** to stand on or close to a line behind your ball while you are taking your stance and until your stroke is made.
- If you begin taking your stance with your caddie or partner behind your ball, you can **back away and start over** without penalty.



Rule 10.2b(4) - Restriction of Caddie Standing Behind Player



- **When a player begins taking a stance for the stroke and until the stroke is made:**
 - The player's caddie must not deliberately stand in a location on or close to an extension of the line of play behind the ball for any reason.
 - If the player takes a stance in breach of this Rule, he or she cannot avoid penalty by backing away.

Rule 10.2b(4) - Restriction of Caddie Standing Behind Player (Clarification)

Rule 10.2b(4) does not allow a player to have his or her caddie deliberately stand on or close to an extension of the line of play behind the ball for any reason when the player begins taking a stance for the stroke. Reference to “the stroke” means the stroke that is actually made.

The player begins to take the stance for the stroke that is actually made when he or she has at least one foot in position for that stance.

If a player backs away from the stance, he or she has not taken a stance for the stroke that is actually made, and the second bullet point in Rule 10.2b(4) does not apply.

Therefore, if a player takes a stance when the caddie is deliberately standing on or close to an extension of the line of play behind the ball, there is no penalty under Rule 10.2b(4) if the player backs away from the stance and does not begin to take a stance for the stroke that is actually made until after the caddie has moved out of that location. This applies anywhere on the course.

Backing away means that the player’s feet or body are no longer in a position where helpful guidance on aiming at the intended target line could be given. *(Added 2/2019)*

BUNKERS AND PENALTY AREAS

6

Relaxed Restrictions in Bunkers

- You **can touch or move** loose impediments in a bunker, but be careful you don't move your ball when doing so or you'll get one penalty stroke.
- You **cannot touch** the sand with your club next to your ball, or during the backswing for your stroke.
- You also **cannot touch** the sand anywhere to test its condition or when making a practice swing.



Rule 12 - Bunkers



- Rule 12
 - Players may now move Loose Impediments when their ball in play lies in a bunker.
 - Players may not touch sand with their club in grounding the club or during the backswing.
 - Players cannot test the condition of the sand anywhere in the bunker or touch the sand in a practice swing.

Rule 17 – Penalty Area

Actions Allowed in Penalty Areas

- **You are allowed to:**

- Ground your club
- Take practice swings
- Take penalty area relief
- Touch water
- Remove loose impediments



Rule 17 – Penalty Area

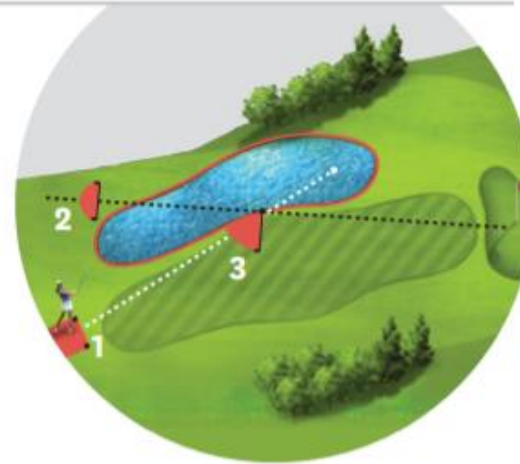
- There are no longer any special restrictions when a ball is in a “penalty area.”
- A player is allowed to touch or move loose impediments and touch the ground with hand or club (such as grounding the club right behind the ball) for any reason, subject only to the prohibition on improving conditions for the stroke (see Rule 8.1a).



Rule 17 - Penalty Area

Penalty Area Relief

- For one penalty stroke, you have **two** relief options from a yellow penalty area and **three** relief options from a red penalty area.



1 Stroke-and-Distance (red or yellow)

Play from the relief area based on where your previous stroke was made.

2 Back-On-the-Line (red or yellow)

Drop a ball within one club-length to either side of a straight line from the hole through the point where your ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area, going back as far as you'd like.

3 Lateral Relief (red only)

Drop a ball within a two club-length relief area measured from where your ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area, and no closer to the hole than that point.

Rule 17 – Penalty Area Relief



1) (RED ONLY) Lateral Relief

- Drop a ball within a two club-length relief area measured from where your ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area.



2) Back-On-The-Line

- Drop a ball within one club-length to either side of a straight line from the hole through the point that your ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area, going back as far as you want.

Rule 17 – Penalty Area Relief



3) Stroke & Distance

- Drop a ball within the relief area based on where your last stroke was made.



4) Play the Ball as it Lies

Rules of Golf Webinar Series

Third Edition



Caddie Standing Behind Player

- Caddie must not deliberately stand on an extension of the line of play.
- (Clarification) Player not penalized if he backs off from shot before a stroke is made.

Bunkers

- May remove loose impediments and movable obstructions.
- Cannot touch sand with your club next to your ball or during backswing of stroke.
- Cannot touch sand to test condition of the bunker.

Penalty Area

- May remove loose impediments.
- May ground your club before the stroke.

Penalty Area Relief

- Stroke & Distance or Back-On-The-Line Relief
- ONLY RED – Two Club-Length Lateral Relief

Lost Ball?

Relief Area?

Q & A

Online Resources?

Search Time?

Ball Moved During
Search?

Rules of Golf?

2020 Rules & Procedures Exam Review

R&P Exam Question #2

While approaching the *putting green*, a player sees her ball at rest begin to slowly roll as a result of a **wind gust**, coming to rest about 5 feet from the *hole*. She **marks the ball** where it has come to rest, **lifts it, cleans it, and replaces it** on that spot. Before making a stroke, **while removing some leaves** from around her ball, she accidentally bumps the ball and moves it a couple of inches. She **replaces** the ball and holes the putt. How many penalty strokes has she incurred?

- a. Two Stroke Penalty
- b. One Stroke Penalty

C. No Penalty

Rule 9.3, Rule 13.1d

R&P Exam Question #7

A player has all of the following options when taking relief from a **yellow penalty area**, except:

- a. Play again from where his previous *stroke* was made.
- b. Determine a line starting from the *flagstick* straight back through where the ball last crossed the edge of the *penalty area*, going back as far as he wants, and *dropping* within a one *club-length relief area*.
- c. Measure two *club lengths* from where the ball last crossed the edge of the *penalty area* and *drop* in that two *club-length relief area*.

Rule 17.1d

R&P Exam Question #8

During the final *round* of the Met Open, Player A plays in the morning. His friend, Player B is scheduled to tee off in the afternoon. After **completing his *round***, Player A offers to *caddie* for Player B. The MGA Starter recognizes Player A from the morning as Player B is preparing to tee off. The Starter should inform Player B that Player A may not *caddie* for him since he already played the golf *course* that morning.

a. True

b. False

Interpretation 10.3a/2

R&P Exam Question #14

Model Local Rule E4, which addresses relief from aeration *holes*, is in **effect**. A player's ball comes to rest in an aeration *hole* on the *putting green*. The nearby MGA Official advises the player that he may take relief by:

a. Placing the original ball or another ball on the spot of the *nearest point of complete relief*. Model Local Rule E4

b. Measuring a one *club-length relief area* from the *nearest point of complete relief* and placing the ball or another ball within that *relief area*.

c. Measuring a one *club-length relief area* from the *nearest point of complete relief* and *dropping* the ball or another ball within that *relief area*.

R&P Exam Question #18

When taking **back-on-the-line** relief from a yellow *penalty area*, the player must *drop* a ball as near as possible to the line in order to *drop* in the correct *relief area*.

a. True

b. False

Rule 17.1d(2)

Lost Ball?

Relief Area?

Q & A

Online Resources?

Search Time?

Ball Moved During
Search?

Rules of Golf?

Thank You

Tournament Officials Webinar

April 23rd at 1:00 p.m.

Registration link included in email as well ([REGISTER HERE](#))

Rules Links

[USGA Rules Resources](#)

[MGA Rules & Procedures Exam](#)

[MGA Rules Quiz](#)

Questions

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