

# 2020 Rules of Golf Webinar

*~Fourth Edition~*

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# Rules of Golf Webinars

1. Tournament Officials Recap
2. Rules Review
3. Committee Procedures



# Championship Updates

**MGA Senior Amateur Championship:** POSTPONED to October 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>

**MGA Senior Net Four-Ball:** Postponed and working on a reschedule

**Public Links Championship and Qualifiers:** CANCELLED – Pound Ridge will host in 2021

**Ike Qualifiers:** The Bonnie Briar and Garden City qualifiers are cancelled, the four remaining qualifiers and Championship proper continue as scheduled

**LIGA Richardson:** CANCELLED

**LI President's Invitational:** CANCELLED

**LI Open Championship and Qualifying:** Indefinitely postponed

# Championship Updates

**WGA Pub Links Championship:** CANCELLED

**WGA Open Championship Qualifying:** Indefinitely postponed

**WGA Open Championship:** Continuing as scheduled, modifications will be made to qualifying and exemptions.

**U.S. Open LQR's:** CANCELLED

**U.S. Open SQR:** In flux

**U.S. Open Championship @ Winged Foot:** POSTPONED to September 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>

**U.S. Senior Open SQR:** CANCELLED

**U.S. Senior Women's Open SQR:** CANCELLED

# Social Distancing & Golf

- MGA events will begin on June 1st, unless further government guidance prevents it.
- Things that could be different if Social Distancing guidelines are still in effect during an MGA season including the potential for:
  - Reduction of printed and handed out materials
  - Electronic scorecards
  - Spread out tee times
  - One person per cart
  - Equipment (flagstick) modifications
  - PPE for personal on-site
- The MGA will continue to follow all guidance from government authorities and will update the R&C Committee when we have more information.



# 2020 MGA Hard Card

## COURTESY REMINDER

Contestants are reminded that when a club graciously agrees to host an MGA Championship or USGA qualifying tournament, it inconveniences its members and incurs an expense in staffing the club facilities so that the tournament players may be properly served and extended full hospitality.

Due to the time pressures of the day and the need to give full attention to the competitive aspect of play, contestants may forget, as guests, their responsibilities to the host club. Courtesy suggests that players be mindful of the services the club has gone out of its way to provide.

### SPECIFICALLY, CONTESTANTS ARE ASKED TO:

**USE CLUB LOCKER ROOM FOR CHANGES OF CLOTHES AND SHOES.** Players should leave an appropriate gratuity for attendant.

**EAT LUNCH AT THE CLUB, WHETHER THIS BE IN THE RESTAURANT, GRILL, OR HALFWAY HOUSE.** Anticipating your needs, the club has prepared food and scheduled its staff for your pleasure and convenience.

**SUPPORT THE GOLF SHOP AT THE CLUB.** The facility has been staffed to provide conveniences for this day(s).

Your consideration would be greatly appreciated. The opportunity to play competitive golf at quality courses may not continue in years ahead, unless contestants recognize their responsibilities as guests to support the host club in the services it offers for your benefit.

*Thank you for this consideration.*

MGA Rules and Competitions Committee



Effective as of January 1, 2020

## METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

# LOCAL RULES AND TERMS OF COMPETITION FOR 2020 MGA CHAMPIONSHIPS



*The Rules of Golf as approved by the United States Golf Association and The R&A govern play. These Local Rules and Terms of the Competition are in effect at all MGA championships and qualifying rounds. See applicable championship or qualifying round Notice to Players and Entry Form for modifications or additions to these Local Rules and Terms of the Competition. Complete text of the Rules and Local Rules may be found in the Official Guide to the Rules of Golf, effective January 2020.*

**Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule or Term is:**

**MATCH PLAY – LOSS OF HOLE  
STROKE PLAY – TWO STROKES**

## LOCAL RULES

**MODEL LOCAL RULES REFERRED TO BELOW ARE FOUND IN THE OFFICIAL GUIDE TO THE RULES OF GOLF, SECTION 8-COMMITTEE PROCEDURES**

The Notice to Players will be provided at the starter's table and should be reviewed prior to the start of play. Players should not refer to host club scorecards for Local Rules as they may not be in effect.

**CODE OF CONDUCT:** The MGA's Code of Conduct for competitors, caddies and family is in effect at all MGA administered championships and qualifiers, as described in the Code of Conduct on the starter's table.

**OUT OF BOUNDS:** Defined by the line between the course-side points, at ground level, of white stakes and fence posts. Where stone walls define Out of Bounds the wall is a Boundary Object. A ball is considered Out of Bounds when it comes to rest outside the wall. A ball coming to rest on or beyond a road defined as Out of Bounds is Out of Bounds, even though it may lie on another part of the Course that is in bounds for other holes. Gates in boundary fences are Integral Objects.

**PENALTY AREAS:** When a Penalty Area is defined on only one side, it extends to infinity. When a Penalty Area is connected to the Out of Bounds edge, the Penalty Area extends to and coincides with Out of Bounds. Artificial walls and pilings when located in Penalty Areas and Bunkers are Integral Objects. No free relief is available.

**RELIEF ON OPPOSITE SIDE OF RED PENALTY AREA:** When the edge of a Red Penalty Area coincides with the boundary of the course, opposite side relief is available as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures. Model Local Rule B-2.1 is in effect, as amended by Model Local Rule B-2.2 and Clarification to Model Local Rule B-2.

**GROUND UNDER REPAIR:** Defined by white lines. French drains are Ground Under Repair. For grass-covered trenchings, see Temporary Power Lines and Cables.

Ground Under Repair may include areas of unusual damage, including areas where spectators or other traffic has combined with wet conditions to affect materially the ground surface, but only when so declared by an authorized member of the Committee. When immediately adjacent to an Immovable Obstruction, such an area is part of that Obstruction.

**RELIEF FROM SEAMS OF CUT TURF:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule F-7.

**DECORATIVE FLOWER BEDS AND TURF NURSERIES** are No Play Zones and treated as Ground Under Repair. Player must proceed under Rule 16.1.

**BUNKER LINERS:** An authorized member of the Committee may treat an exposed bunker liner as Ground Under Repair, but interference does not exist if the liner only interferes with a player's stance.

**AERATION HOLES:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule E-4.

**STAKES AND CABLES SUPPORTING TREES** (but not the trees themselves) are Immovable Obstructions. Relief is available under Rule 16.1.

**LANDSCAPED OR GARDEN AREAS COMPLETELY ENCIRED BY AN OBSTRUCTION** are treated as a single Abnormal Course Condition.

**WHITE LINES TIED INTO OBSTRUCTIONS:** White-lined areas connected to an Obstruction are a single Abnormal Course Condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1.

**WOOD CHIPS AND MULCH** are Loose Impediments.

**CABLES, RODS, WIRES AND WRAPPINGS** when closely attached to trees are Integral Objects. No free relief is available.

**BALL DEFLECTED BY OVERHEAD POWER LINE:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule E-11 is in effect and modified as follows: if it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball hit a power line in bounds, the stroke does not count. The player must play a ball without penalty from where the previous stroke was made (see Rule 14.6 for what to do).

**TEMPORARY POWER LINES AND CABLES:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule F-22.

**TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule F-23. Either side relief, if provided, is described in the Notice to Players on the starter's table.

**REPLACEMENT OF CLUB THAT IS BROKEN OR SIGNIFICANTLY DAMAGED:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-9.

**LIST OF CONFORMING DRIVER HEADS:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-1.

**LIST OF CONFORMING GOLF BALLS:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-3.

**PACE OF PLAY:** Players shall play without undue delay. See separate pace of play policy posted at the starter's table, if applicable.

**STOPPING AND RESUMING PLAY:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule J-1. All practice areas are closed during an immediate suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open. Players who practice on closed practice areas will be asked to stop practicing; failure to stop practicing might result in disqualification.

An immediate suspension will be signaled by one prolonged airhorn note, and players must immediately suspend play. All other types of suspension will be signaled by three consecutive airhorn notes. Resumption of play shall be signaled by two short airhorn notes.

**PRACTICE:** Prior to and after a round in stroke play, a player may practice on the designated practice areas. Rule 5.2b is modified in this way: A player may not practice on the competition course before or between rounds. Penalty for breach of local rule, see Rule 5.2.

**BALL PLAYED FROM OUTSIDE RELIEF AREA WHEN TAKING BACK ON THE LINE RELIEF:** Local Rule as prescribed in Clarifications of the 2019 Rules of Golf is in effect. Model Local Rule E-12.

**REPLACEMENT OF CLUB THAT IS BROKEN OR SIGNIFICANTLY DAMAGED:** Local Rule as prescribed in Clarifications of the 2019 Rules of Golf is in effect. Model Local Rule G-9.

**SPIKED GOLF SHOES:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-7.

**CADDIE/CARTS:** It is the policy of the MGA that caddies be assigned to players by the club caddie manager. Players may bring and use their own caddie only when specifically noted on the Notice to Players. There may be occasions when players are required to use a cart or a club caddie. Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule H-1.2, as modified by the Notice to Players on the starter's table.

**USE OF MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION PROHIBITED:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule G-6. [This rule may be modified in certain MGA events. See Notice to Players on starter's table.]

**SCORE CARD COLLECTION:** Immediately on completion of a round, the competitor shall return his or her card to the Committee. A score card is considered "returned" once the player has left the score card collection area.

### TERMS OF THE COMPETITION

**WHEN COMPETITION IS FINAL:** The competition is final when the trophy has been presented to the winner or, in the absence of prize ceremony, when all scores have been approved by the Committee. The result of a match is final when the Committee has approved the result as posted on the public scoreboard.

**TIES AND PLAYOFFS:** Contestants are reminded of their responsibility to keep informed regarding the possibility of playoffs due to ties. The method for resolving ties will be posted at the starter's table, if applicable.

**CELLULAR PHONES:** The use of any mobile or smart phone, when used for the purpose of communications, is prohibited on the course. Host course guidelines should be strictly followed with regard to use in locker rooms and parking lots.

# Notice to Players

- Distributed to Players on back of Hole Locations Document before the round
- Outlines Specific Local Rules for day of event.
- Details exact Out of Bounds locations
- Includes Drop Zone information



METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

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## NOTICE TO PLAYERS (Southward Ho)

**LOCAL RULES** (this information supplements the Memo to Players and Terms of Competitions for MGA Championships)

**Out of bounds:** is defined by the line between the course-side points, at ground level of white stakes and fence posts. Out of bounds is defined as follows: **Hole #1** – fence (left side), **Hole #4** – fence (behind green), **Hole #5** – fence (left side & behind green), **Hole #8** – fence (left side), **Hole #13** – fence (behind green), **Hole #14** – fence (right side), **Hole #15** – fence (right side), **Hole #16** – fence (right side & behind green).

**Penalty Areas:** When a penalty area is defined on only one side, it extends to infinity. When a penalty area is connected to the out-of-bounds edge, the penalty area extends to and coincides with out of bounds.

**Immovable Obstruction:**

- All artificially surfaced defined roads and paths include those surfaced with crushed granite, stone or concrete. (See Integral Parts of the Golf Course regarding path on **Hole #8**).
- White lined areas tying into roads and paths are considered an extension of the obstruction.
- Restrooms right of **Hole #13**
- The Halfway House & all lightning shelters
- The Clubhouse, Entrance Road, & Parking Lot
- The Maintenance Area between **Hole #12** & **Hole #13**.

**Integral Parts of the Golf Course:**

- The windmills of **Hole #7**, **Hole #8**, & **Hole #10**.
- The limestone path left of and behind the green of **Hole #8**.

**Ground Under Repair:** Defined by white lines. French drains are ground under repair.

**Temporary Immovable Obstruction:** Model Local Rule F-23 is in effect. Temporary Immovable Obstructions (TIO's) include: scorecard collection, hydration station and starting tents; and championship signs (if not readily movable).

• **Special Relief Procedures:**

- In addition to the available relief options under the Rules, a player having interference (both physical and/or Line of Sight interference) from any TIO may drop the ball, without penalty, on "either side" of the TIO, but not nearer the hole.

**Dropping Zones:**

- **Hole #18:** If a ball is at rest in the Clubhouse or cart path behind the green **between the blue stakes**, including when it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found came to rest in the Obstruction, the player may proceed under Rule 16 or as an additional option, drop a ball in the Dropping Zone.

**Ball Played from Outside Relief Area When Taking Back-On-the-Line Relief:** Model Local Rule E-12 is in effect.

**Replacement of Broken or Significantly Damaged Club:** Model Local Rule G-9 is in effect.

**Aeration Holes:** Local Rule as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures is in effect. Model Local Rule E-4.

**Grooves and Punch Mark Specifications:** The players clubs **must conform** to the grooves and punch mark specifications in The Rules of Golf that are effective from January 1, 2010 (see Model Local Rule G-2). The exception for Ping Eye2 Irons manufactured before 31 March 1990 is not in effect.

**The 1<sup>st</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> starting areas and 9<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> scoring areas** are defined by the corners of the MGA tents.

**Play-off:** In the event of a tie for qualifying positions for Match Play, a sudden death playoff will begin immediately following the conclusion of play. Announcements regarding the playoff shall be made at the public scoreboard on the back patio.

**Final decisions on any disputed points** will be made by Bob Conyers (OIC) & Nick Roden (SIC).

Hole	Tee	Fairway	Green	Hole	Tee	Fairway	Green
1	CH	CH	B	10	CH	CH	CH
2	B	B	B	11	B	A	A
3	A	B	B	12	A	A	A
4	B	B	B	13	A	A	A
5	B	CH	CH	14	A	A	A
6	CH	CH	B	15	A	A	B
7	B	CH	CH	16	A	CH	CH
8	CH	CH	CH	17	CH	B	B
9	CH	CH	CH	18	B	CH	CH

CH – Clubhouse  
A – Maintenance Area  
B – Halfway House

Holes designated with a blue background have bottled water next to the tee.

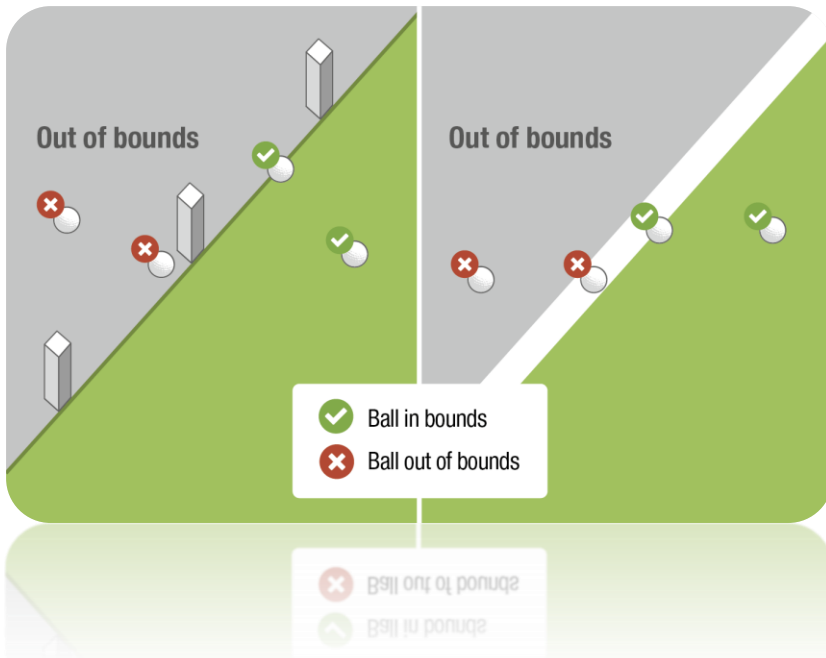
# 2020 MGA Hard Card



- **Hard Card Details**
  - In effect for every MGA/WGA/LIGA Championship and Qualifier.
  - Local Rules & Terms of the Competition
  - These could be modified by subsequent Notice to Players or Entry Forms per specific event.
  - Breach of Rule – General Penalty
  - Both Hard Card & Notice to Players take priority over course scorecard rules.



# Out of Bounds



Defined by the line between the course-side points, at ground level, of white stakes and fence posts.

Where stone walls define Out of Bounds the wall is a Boundary Object. A ball is considered Out of Bounds when it comes to rest outside the wall.

A ball coming to rest on or beyond a road defined as Out of Bounds is Out of Bounds, even though it may lie on another part of the Course that is in bounds for other holes. Gates in boundary fences are Integral Objects

# Out of Bounds

An aerial photograph of a golf course. The image shows several green fairways, sand traps, and clusters of trees. A road or path runs horizontally across the middle of the image. Two text labels are overlaid on the image: 'Brae Burn Country Club' in the upper left and 'Century Country Club #8' in the lower right.

Brae Burn Country Club

Century Country Club #8

# Ground Under Repair

Defined by white lines. French drains are Ground Under Repair. For grass-covered trenching, see Temporary Power Lines and Cables.

Ground Under Repair may include areas of unusual damage, including areas where spectators or other traffic has combined with wet conditions to affect materially the ground surface, but only when so declared by an authorized member of the Committee.

When immediately adjacent to an Immovable Obstruction, such an area is part of that Obstruction.



# Penalty Areas



When a Penalty Area is defined on only one side, it extends to infinity.

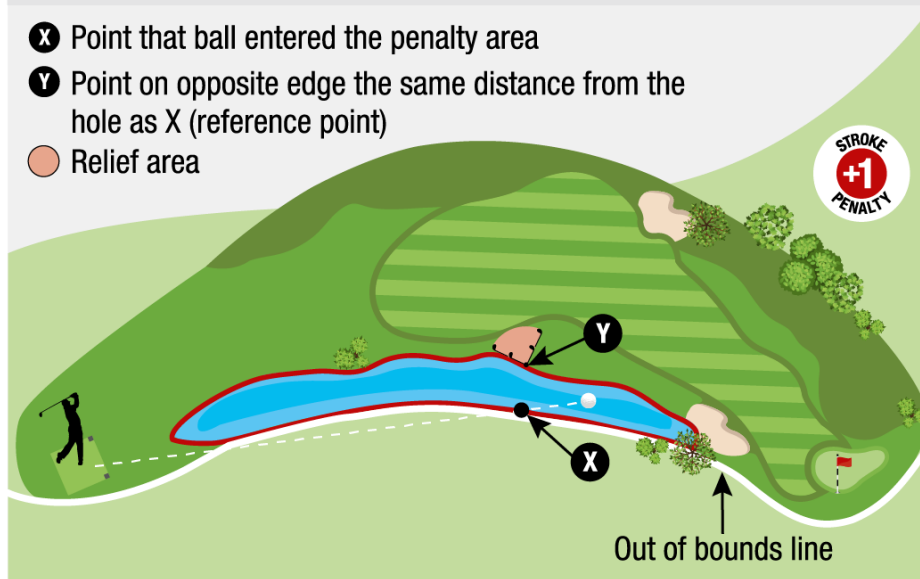
When a Penalty Area is connected to the Out of Bounds edge, the Penalty Area extends to and coincides with Out of Bounds.

Artificial walls and pilings when located in Penalty Areas and Bunkers are Integral Objects. No free relief is available.

# Relief on Opposite Side of Penalty Area

## MLR B-2.1 AND B-2.2: RELIEF ON OPPOSITE SIDE OF RED PENALTY AREA

- X Point that ball entered the penalty area
- Y Point on opposite edge the same distance from the hole as X (reference point)
- Relief area



When the edge of a Red Penalty Area coincides with the boundary of the course, opposite side relief is available as prescribed in Section 8 of the Committee Procedures.

Model Local Rule B-2.1 is in effect, as amended by Model Local Rule B-2.2 and Clarification to Model Local Rule B-2.

Lost Ball?

Relief Area?

Q & A

Online Resources?

Search Time?

Ball Moved During  
Search?

*Rules of Golf?*

# Discussion Topics

Based off feedback from you.

Address situations that you, as an R&C Committee Member have experienced on the course.

Also, address any question or clarification from our previous webinars or general rules questions.

Not just based on rules, we will also cover Committee Procedures at MGA events.



# 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.

## Notes to Remember:

1. Player must always have COMPLETE Relief.
2. The rule is Nearest Point of COMPLETE Relief, not nicest relief.



# Nearest Point of Complete Relief



# Assisting in Ball Search



If you're spotting and the ball is heading to a nasty spot (like the thick woods on Knollwood #10 on the right).

Should the spotter start looking before the player/caddie arrives or wait to see if they would want to even look for it?

# R&C Committee Procedures

## Spectators

Spectators are always welcome at MGA events.

Things to Remember:

- 1) No Spectator Carts
- 2) Stay on Cart Path or when not available, stay in rough
- 3) Stay off Putting Greens
- 4) Do not delay play behind group they are following
- 5) May carry snacks, drinks, umbrellas for participants

# R&C Committee Procedures

## Volunteer Cart Policies



Committee will have a golf cart at all events (if available)

### Things to Remember:

- 1) Be mindful of play around you. Never move cart, if players are hitting
- 2) Never cut across fairways without triple-checking that no one is hitting onto same fairway
- 3) Park carts away from play, ideally on cart path
- 4) When spotting, always park and spot from a place 30 – 40 yards further than what you "think is far enough away"

Special Note: Never Drive in Fescue!

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# 2020 Rules & Procedures Exam Review

# R&P Exam Question #6

An MGA Official sees a spectator in a golf cart following a group. The spectator is observing all cart signs and is not disturbing any golfers on the golf *course*. How should the Official proceed?

- a. Approach the spectator and inform them that there are no carts permitted.
- b. Ask the players in the group if they know the spectator.
- c. Inform the Staff-In-Charge over the radio and explain the situation.

# R&P Exam Question #12

A player's ball comes to rest in *temporary water* in a *bunker*. Which of the following statements is **FALSE** regarding his free relief options?

a. The *nearest point of complete relief* and the *relief area* must be in the *bunker*.

b. The player may *drop* the original ball or another ball outside the *bunker* using the back-on-the-line relief option.

Rule 16.1c

c. Before dropping in the bunker, the player may remove leaves and twigs from the relief area.



# R&P Exam Question #13

A player approaches her tee shot that has come to rest on a cart path. Under Rule 16.1, she takes relief from the *abnormal course condition*. She estimates her *relief area* and *drops* a ball from knee-height. As she takes her *stance*, she notices the heel of her shoe is **touching** the cart path. She **doesn't move her foot** and hits her next shot onto the *green*. How many total penalty *strokes* has she incurred?

a. 1

b. 2

c. 3

Rule 16.1b

# R&P Exam Question #16

An MGA Official is called over from a distance by a player. The player describes a situation in which he is unsure how to proceed. The Official is pretty sure that he knows what the rule is but has some doubts. The Official should:

- a. Use his best judgment, give the player a ruling, then use his radio to inform the rest of the committee.
- b. Ask the players to stop play for a few minutes so he can look up the correct ruling in the Rules Book.
- c. Use the radio to ask the committee and Official in Charge (OIC) for assistance.

# R&P Exam Question #17

A player's tee shot rolls down a steep slope and comes to rest **against a boundary object**. For one penalty *stroke*, he proceeds under **Rule 19 (Unplayable Ball)**. He marks the position of the ball with a tee, lifts and cleans the ball, and measures two *club-lengths* from the tee. He drops the ball from knee height; **it lands in and comes to rest in the relief area** but has rolled back down the slope, against the same *boundary object*. He *re-drops* the same ball and this time the ball comes to rest higher on the slope, away from the boundary object. He plays the ball onto the *green* and takes two putts. What is score for the hole?

- a. 4
- b. 5
- c. 6
- d. 7

Rule 19; Rule 14.7

Lost Ball?

Relief Area?

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# Thank You

## Rules Links

[USGA Rules Resources](#)

[MGA Rules & Procedures Exam](#)

[MGA Rules Quiz](#)

## Questions

Email MGA Staff

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

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