



METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

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Top 10 Rules of Golf for Caddies

If the caddie's action breaches a Rule or would breach a Rule if the action was taken by the player, the player gets the penalty under that Rule. When application of a Rule depends on whether the player is aware of certain facts, the player's knowledge is treated as including whatever is known by his or her caddie.

1. Flagstick may be left in, taken out, or attended. *Rule 13.2*
 - a. The player must decide which of these three options he or she wants to utilize **before** making a stroke. And if the player has asked to have the flagstick attended before the stroke, the flagstick may NOT be left in the hole after the stroke is made.
2. A player's caddie may mark and lift a ball from the **putting green** without authorization. This must be the ball of the player for which he or she is caddying. Caddies may NOT lift a ball anywhere else on the course without specific authorization. Note: Ball marker + golf ball on putting green = ball in play. *Rule 14.1b Exception*
3. Caddies may repair **damage** to a putting green (pitch marks, spike marks, animal damage); however, may not rub the surface or roll a ball on the putting green to test the condition. *Rule 13.1c*
4. Ball **accidentally** moved on **putting green** = no penalty and replace, unless the ball was moved naturally (by wind or gravity). Then play from the ball's new position. *Rule 9.4b Exception 3*
 - a. Note: If the player or caddie have **marked, lifted, and replaced** the ball on the putting green and then the ball moves for any reason, including by natural forces (wind or water), replace the ball. *Rule 9.3 Exception*
5. Caddies may take actions to **care for the course**, however should be aware if these actions will assist their players in any way (e.g. raking bunkers, moving loose impediments, etc.). *Rule 8.1b*
6. Caddies may **lean on or place equipment** in bunkers or penalty areas so long as they do not improve their player's conditions affecting the stroke or test the conditions in any way. *Rule 12.2b(2) and Rule 17.1(b)*
7. **Knee-height** drop (knee-height is a specific measurement). *Rule 14.3*
8. **3-minute** search time (clock starts when player **or caddie** begins searching). Ball accidentally moved during search = no penalty, replace. *Definition of Lost & Rule 7.4*
9. "Caddie Alignment" *Rule 10.2b(4)*
 - a. When a player **begins taking a stance** for a stroke, the player's caddie must not deliberately stand on or close to an extension of the line of play **behind the ball**.
 - b. Alter your process (always to the side).
 - c. Understand the penalty – the player **may avoid penalty** by stepping out of his or her stance before playing the stroke. *Clarification 10.2b(4)*
10. Shared Caddie (*Rule 10.3a(2)*) – ask yourself two questions:
 - Whose instruction? If a caddie is acting on a player's **specific instruction**, it is that player who is responsible.
 - Whose ball? If a caddie acts without instruction, it is the player of the **ball involved** who is responsible.