

# Common Golf Rules & Situations

References: USGA Official Guide to the Rules of Golf  
Version: Effective January 2023



Common Golf Rules & Situations	OPTIONS
Out of Bounds (White Stakes)	A
Penalty Area (Yellow Stakes)	A, B, D
Penalty Area (Red Stakes)	A, B, C, D
Lost Ball (Defined as lost after 3 minute search period)	A
Unplayable Lie - Bunkers	A, D, K, L, M
Unplayable Lie (Not in a penalty area)	A, B, C
Hitting Wrong Ball	E, F
Grounding Club in Bunker	E, F
Boundary Objects or Integral Objects	D (No Relief)
Abnormal Course Conditions (Animal Holes, Ground under Repair, Immovable Obstructions or Temporary Water) - IN GENERAL AREA	D, G
Abnormal Course Conditions (Animal Holes, Ground under Repair, Immovable Obstructions or Temporary Water) - IN BUNKER	D, G, H
Abnormal Course Conditions (Animal Holes, Ground under Repair, Immovable Obstructions or Temporary Water) - ON PUTTING GREEN	D, J

	<b>Procedures</b>	<b>Penalty Stroke(s)</b>
<b>A</b>	Stroke and Distance: Play from the relief area based on where your previous stroke was made.	1
<b>B</b>	Back-on-the-Line: Drop the original ball or another 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 (penalty area) or the spot of the ball (unplayable) going back as far as you'd like	1
<b>C</b>	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 (penalty area) or the spot of the ball (unplayable), and no closer to the hole than that point.	1
<b>D</b>	Play Ball as It Lies	0
<b>E</b>	General Penalty (USGA Rules of Golf Term) - Match Play	Loss of Hole
<b>F</b>	General Penalty (USGA Rules of Golf Term) - Stroke Play	2
<b>G</b>	Locate the nearest point of complete relief (no interference with stance or swing) and drop ball within 1 club length, no nearer the hole	0
<b>H</b>	Back-on-the-Line Relief (If you are in Bunker) from ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITION: Drop the original ball or another ball within one club length to either side of a straight line from the hole through the spot of the original ball and keeping the relief area OUTSIDE the bunker	1
<b>J</b>	Locate the nearest point of complete relief (no interference with stance or swing) and PLACE the ball on this spot. Nearest point of complete relief must be on the putting green or in the general area of the course.	0
<b>K</b>	Back-on-the-Line Relief (If you are in the Bunker): Drop the original ball or another ball within one club length to either side of a straight line from the hole through the spot of the original ball and keeping the relief area INSIDE the bunker	1
<b>L</b>	Lateral Relief (If you are in the Bunker): Drop a ball within a two club-length relief area INSIDE the bunker, measured from the spot of the ball and no closer to the hole than that point.	1
<b>M</b>	Back-on-the-Line Relief (If you are in Bunker): Drop the original ball or another ball within one club length to either side of a straight line from the hole through the spot of the original ball and keeping the relief area OUTSIDE the bunker	2