

Rule Tip of the Week R&A Open 2018 Quiz

Here is the 18-question Rules quiz issued by the R&A in conjunction with this year's Open Championship

Danny and Jin are playing in a stroke play competition over 18 holes at Carnoustie. As their referee, you must answer each question correctly to ensure that they complete the round in accordance with the Rules of Golf.

1. Jin and Danny are due to tee off at 9:00 a.m. At 8:58 a.m. before they tee off, Danny uses his distance measuring device to measure the distance to the first bunker. What is the ruling? (a) There is no penalty. (b) Danny is penalized two strokes. (c) Danny is disqualified.
2. Jin's drive comes to rest on the concrete path on the 2nd hole. He lifts his ball to take relief and then realizes that his nearest point of relief will be in thick rough. He decides to replace his ball back where it was on the path and play it from there. What is the ruling? (a) There is no penalty. (b) Jin is penalized one stroke. (c) Jin is penalized two strokes.
3. On the 3rd hole, Danny's ball comes to rest on the bridge in the water hazard. He grounds his club and plays the ball onto the putting green. What is the ruling? (a) There is no penalty. (b) Danny is penalized one stroke. (c) Danny is penalized two strokes.
4. The 4th green is a double green shared with the 14th hole. Jin's second shot to the 4th green comes to rest in the hole for the 14th hole. What is the ruling? (a) Jin can take relief without penalty and must place the ball at the nearest point of relief on the green. (b) Jin can take relief without penalty and must drop the ball within one club-length of the nearest point of relief on the green. (c) Jin is on the wrong putting green and must take relief without penalty off the putting green.
5. Before playing his approach to the green, Danny removes a water hazard stake on his line of play. What is the ruling? (a) Danny is penalized two strokes. (b) Danny is penalized one stroke. (c) There is no penalty.
6. Jin's ball comes to rest next to the boundary fence. He stands out of bounds and plays the ball. After the stroke he notices that the shaft of his club has bent significantly due to his club hitting against the fence with his follow through. What is the ruling? (a) The club can be replaced, or repaired, without unduly delaying play, or used in its damaged state without penalty. (b) The club cannot be replaced or repaired and must be declared out of play. (c) The club cannot be replaced or repaired but can be used in its damaged state without penalty.



7. Jin has a short putt for a par. Holding the flagstick in one hand he holes the short putt, gripping the putter with his other hand. What is the ruling? (a) There is no penalty. (b) Jin is penalized two strokes. (c) Jin is penalized one stroke.



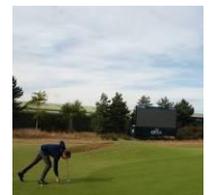
8. Jin plays his tee-shot to the green. Danny is still to play and asks Jin what club he used. Jin does not respond. What is the ruling? (a) There is no penalty. (b) Danny is penalized one stroke for asking for advice. (c) Danny is penalized two strokes for asking Jin for advice.



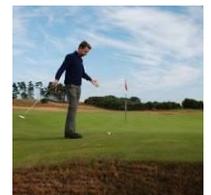
9. Danny searches for his ball in the rough for two minutes, finds it and leaves the area to get a club to play the ball. When he returns, he is unable to find his ball. How long does he now have to find the ball? (a) Two minutes. (b) Three minutes. (c) Five minutes.



10. Danny's ball comes to rest three (3) yards short of the 10th green. Danny decides to putt his ball, but before making his stroke, he repairs a pitch-mark on his line of play that is just off the putting green. What is the ruling? (a) There is no penalty. (b) Danny is penalized one stroke. (c) Danny is penalized two strokes.



11. Danny's ball comes to rest on the apron between the putting green and the bunker. Jin then plays his shot from the bunker and deposits sand on and around Danny's ball. What is the ruling? (a) Danny is not entitled to remove the sand. (b) Danny may lift and clean his ball and remove the sand deposited by Jin's stroke without penalty. (c) Danny may remove the sand deposited by Jin's stroke without penalty, but he may not lift and clean his ball.



12. Jin's tee shot and provisional ball both enter the same area of bushes. Jin finds his original ball after seven (7) minutes of searching and claims that the first five (5) minutes were used for finding his provisional ball. His provisional is found after another two (2) minutes. What is the ruling? (a) Jin must continue play with his original ball. (b) Jin must continue play with the provisional ball. (c) Both balls are considered lost under the Rules.



13. Danny's tee shot comes to rest in a hospitality unit. Rather than taking relief from it, Danny decides to play the ball as it lies and makes a stroke at his ball from the hospitality unit. What is the ruling? (a) There is no penalty. (b) Danny is penalized two strokes. (c) Danny is disqualified.



14. Jin's ball comes to rest in a bunker. He takes his golf bag into the bunker with him and places it in the sand. What is the ruling? (a) There is no penalty. (b) Jin is penalized one stroke. (c) Jin is penalized two strokes.



15. Danny hits his tee shot into thick rough and plays a provisional ball to the middle of the fairway. Jin finds Danny's original ball after just two minutes of searching for it and before Danny makes another stroke at his provisional ball. What is the ruling? (a) Danny must continue play with his original ball. (b) Danny may continue play with his provisional ball. (c) Danny may choose which ball to play.
16. Jin's ball lies in a bunker. Jin casually throws the rake into the bunker for use after his stroke and accidentally causes his ball to move in the process. Jin then replaces the ball. What is the ruling? (a) There is no penalty. (b) Jin is penalized one stroke for causing his ball to move and two strokes for throwing the rake into the bunker. (c) Jin is penalized one stroke for causing his ball to move, but there is no penalty for throwing the rake into the bunker.
17. Jin's ball comes to rest on a sprinkler head in the fairway. Jin drops his ball within one club-length of and not nearer the hole than the nearest point of relief. The ball comes to rest in a position where it no longer touches the sprinkler head but where the sprinkler head will now interfere with his stance. Jin continues and makes a stroke at the ball with one foot on the sprinkler head. What is the ruling? (a) There is no penalty. (b) Jin is penalized one stroke. (c) Jin is penalized two strokes.
18. Danny's ball comes to rest in the Barry Burn. Danny decides to play the ball as it lies but in doing so his club touches the water on his backswing. What is the ruling? (a) There is no penalty. (b) Danny is penalized one stroke. (c) Danny is penalized two strokes.



Answers:

1. (a) *Rule 14-3 [Artificial Devices and Unusual Equipment; Abnormal Use of Equipment] states, in part, "Except as provided in the Rules, **during a stipulated round** the player must not use any artificial device or unusual equipment ... (f) for the purpose of gauging or measuring distance" [Emphasis added]. Thus, Danny is not penalized for using a distance measuring device prior to commencing his round.*
2. (b) *Jin was entitled to lift his ball when taking relief from the cart path under Rule 24-2 [Immovable Obstruction]. However, when he decided not to proceed under that Rule, his right to lift the ball was negated so he incurred a penalty stroke under Rule 18-2 [Ball at Rest Moved by Player ...] for having lifted his ball in play. See Decision 18-2/12 [Player Entitled to Relief from Condition Lifts Ball; Player Then Replaces Ball and Plays from Original Position].*
3. (a) *According to the Note to Rule 13-4 [Ball in Hazard; Prohibited Actions], "At any time, including at address or the backward movement for the stroke, the player may touch, with a club or otherwise, any obstruction, any construction declared by the Committee to be an integral part of the course or any grass, bush, tree or other growing thing." See Decision 13-4/30 [Grounding Club on Bridge in Water Hazard].*
4. (a) *Decision 16/7 [Two Holes on Each Green of Nine-Hole Course] points out that a hole not in use on a green is a hole made by a greenkeeper and, thus, is ground under repair. In taking relief from the hole under Rule 25-1b(iii) [Abnormal Ground Conditions: Relief on Putting Green], Jin must lift the ball and place it, without penalty, at the nearest point of relief.*
5. (c) *According to the Definition of "Water Hazard," "Stakes used to define the margin of or identify a water hazard are obstructions." Absent a Local Rule designating such stakes as immovable obstructions, Danny is entitled to take relief by removing the stake pursuant to Rule 24-1 [Movable Obstruction].*
6. (a) *Jin damaged his club in the "normal course of play." See Decision 4-3/1 [Meaning of Damaged Sustained in "Normal Course of Play"]. Thus, in accordance with Rule 4-3a [Damaged Clubs; Repair and Replacement: Damage in Normal Course of Play], Jin may use the club in its damaged state for the remainder of the round. He may also repair it or replace it without unduly delaying play.*

7. (a) *Decision 17-1/5 [Holding Flagstick with One Hand and Putting with Other Hand] points out that this is permissible provided the flagstick has been removed from the hole and the ball therefore does not strike it. If the ball were to strike the flagstick, a breach of Rule 17-3a [Ball Striking Flagstick or Attendant] would occur.*
8. (c) *According to Rule 8-1 [Advice], during a stipulated round, a player must not give advice to anyone in the competition playing on the course other than his partner, or ask for advice from anyone other than his partner or either of their caddies. When Danny asked to know what club Jin had used, he was in breach of Rule 8-1. If Jin had replied, he too would have been penalized two strokes. Fortunately for Jin, he kept quiet!*
9. (b) *Per Rule 27-1c [Ball Not Found Within Five Minutes], Danny has a total of five minutes to find his ball. Decision 27/3 [Time Permitted for Search When Lost Ball Found and Then Lost Again] points out that, if a player finds his ball in high rough after a two-minute search and then leaves the area to get a club, but is unable to find the ball when he returns, the player is allowed only three minutes to search for his ball upon returning to the area.*
10. (c) *Rule 13-2 [Improving Lie, Area of Intended Stance or Swing, or Line of Play] states, in part, "A player must not improve or allow to be improved ... his line of play ... by ... eliminating irregularities of surface...." See Decision 13-2/0.5 [Meaning of "Improve" in Rule 13-2] which advises, in part, "Examples of changes that are likely to create such a potential advantage are if a player ... repairs a pitch-mark through the green ... five yards in front of his ball and on his line of play prior to making a stroke from off the putting green that might be affected by the pitch-mark ... (e.g., a putt or a low-running shot)"*
11. (b) *Although Rule 13-2 prohibits a player from improving the lie of his ball, the area of his intended stance or swing, or his line of play, the player is entitled to the lie, area of intended stance or swing, and line of play that existed when his ball came to rest. See Decision 13-2/8.5 [Player's Lie Affected by Sand from Partner's, Opponent's or Fellow-Competitor's Stroke from Bunker] which confirms that Danny was entitled to the lie, etc., that he had when his ball came to rest. Accordingly, in equity per Rule 1-4, Danny is entitled to remove the sand deposited by Jin's stroke, and lift his ball and clean it, without penalty.*
12. (c) *Rule 27-1c [Ball Not Found Within Five Minutes] limits the time period for searching for a ball to five minutes. However, Decision 27/4 [Time Permitted for Search of Original Ball and Provisional Ball] states, "If the two balls are so close together that, in effect, both balls would be searched for simultaneously, a total of five minutes for search is allowed. Otherwise, the player is allowed to search five minutes for each ball. Per the Definition of "Lost Ball," Jin's original ball and his provisional ball are both lost since neither were found or identified by Jin within the five-minute search period.*
13. (a) *So long as the hospitality unit is in bounds, Danny is permitted to play his ball as it lies. Rule 13-1 [Ball Played as It Lies] advises, "The ball must be played as it lies, except as otherwise provided in the Rules." In Danny's situation, Rule 24-2 [Immovable Obstruction] is the "except as otherwise provided in the Rules" giving Danny the option to take relief from the hospitality unit, but such relief is not mandatory.*
14. (a) *An Exception to Rule 13-4 [Ball in Hazard; Prohibited Actions] states, in part, "Provided nothing is done that constitutes testing the condition of the hazard or improves the lie of the ball, there is no penalty if the player ...places his clubs in the hazard."*
15. (a) *Rule 27-2c [When Provisional Ball to Be Abandoned] states in part, "If the original ball is neither lost nor out of bounds, the player must abandon the provisional ball and continue playing the original ball." Danny's original ball was not lost because his ball was found within the five-minute search period.*
16. (c) *See Decision 13-4/21 [Rake Thrown into Bunker Before Stroke] which points out that placing a rake in a bunker is permissible and tossing a rake into a bunker is the equivalent of placing it. If a rake thrown into a bunker moves the player's ball, the player incurs a penalty of one stroke for causing his ball to move, and the ball must be replaced per Rule 18-2.*
17. (c) *Rule 20-2c(v) [When to Re-Drop] advises, in part, "A dropped ball must be re-dropped, without penalty, if it ... rolls and comes to rest in a position where there is interference by the condition from which relief was taken under Rule 24-2b (immovable obstruction)" In Jin's situation, he was required to re-drop the ball because the ball came to rest where there was still interference by the sprinkler head. Rule 20-7 [Wrong Place] indicates that a player has played from a wrong place if he makes a stroke at his ball in play when the Rules require a dropped ball to be re-dropped.*
18. (c) *Per Rule 13-4b [Ball in Hazard; Prohibited Actions], before making a stroke at a ball that is in a hazard, the player must not touch the ground in the hazard or water in the water hazard with his hand or a club. Also, note that a "stroke" is defined as the **forward** movement of the club made with the intention of striking at and moving the ball. Thus, touching the water during the backswing is a prohibited action occurring prior to making a stroke.*