

# Now & Then "New" Definitions

This is the third in a series of articles pertaining to the forthcoming changes to the Rules that will come into effect on January 1, 2019. "Now" represents the Rules as they currently exist, and "Then" represents the Rules as they will be next year.

In this installment of "Now & Then," we examine many of the "new" Definitions in the 2019 Rules. There are currently 54 terms in the Definitions Section of the Rules, but the Definitions Section of the new Rules contains 74 terms. You will be pleased to know that many of these 74 terms are not new, such as "Bunker," "Hole," and "Provisional Ball." Some of the "new" terms are essentially the same, but have been renamed for 2019, such as "Casual Water" vs. "Temporary Water" and "Wrong Putting Green" vs. "Wrong Green."

For the "new" Definitions, you need not be concerned about having to spend days learning the expanded vocabulary before 2019. As you will see, many of the forthcoming "new" Definitions will be relatively familiar to you since they already exist within the current Rules!

NOW	THEN
<p>The Definition of "Burrowing Animal" states, "A <i>burrowing animal</i> is an animal (other than a worm, insect or the like) that makes a hole for habitation or shelter, such as a rabbit, mole, groundhog, gopher or salamander."</p>	<p><b>Animal</b> Any living member of the animal kingdom (other than humans), including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates (such as worms, insects, spiders and crustaceans).</p>
<p>The Note to the Definition of "Burrowing Animal" states, "A <i>hole made by a non-burrowing animal, such as a dog, is not an abnormal ground condition unless marked or declared as ground under repair.</i>"</p> <p>Decision 23/5 [Ant Hill] points out that an ant hill is a loose impediment since it is a cast or heap made by an insect.</p> <p>Decision 23/11 [Loose Soil from Cast of Hole Made by Burrowing Animal] points out that the loose soil, which forms the cast of a hole made by a burrowing animal is not a loose impediment.</p> <p>Decision 25/19.5 [Footprints of Burrowing Animal, Reptile or Bird] advises that such footprints are irregularities of surface from which there is no relief without penalty.</p> <p>Per Decision 25/23 [Molehills], molehills are casts made by a burrowing animal.</p>	<p><b>Animal Hole</b> Any hole dug in the ground by an animal, except for holes dug by animals that are also defined as loose impediments (such as worms or insects). The term <i>animal hole</i> includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The loose material the animal dug out of the hole,</li> <li>• Any worn-down track or trail leading into the hole, and</li> <li>• Any area on the ground pushed up or altered as a result of the animal digging the hole underground.</li> </ul>
<p>The Definition of "Course" states, "The "course" is the whole area within any boundaries established by the Committee (see Rule 33-2).</p> <p>Currently, defined areas of the course include "Bunker," "Lateral Water Hazard," "Putting Green," "Teeing Ground," "Through the Green," and "Water Hazard."</p>	<p><b>Areas of the Course</b> The five defined areas that make up the course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The general area,</li> <li>• The teeing area the player must play from in starting the hole he or she is playing,</li> <li>• All penalty areas,</li> <li>• All bunkers, and</li> <li>• The putting green of the hole the player is playing.</li> </ul>

<p>The term “ball-marker” is mentioned several times in Rule 20-1 [Lifting and Marking], including the following Note: “<i>The position of a ball to be lifted should be marked by placing a ball-marker, a small coin or other similar object immediately behind the ball.</i>”</p>	<p><b>Ball-Marker</b> An artificial object when used to mark the spot of a ball to be lifted, such as a tee, a coin, an object made to be a ball-marker or another small piece of equipment. When a Rule refers to a <i>ball-marker</i> being moved, this means a <i>ball-marker</i> in place on the course to mark the spot of a ball that has been lifted and not yet replaced.</p>
<p>The Definition of “Out of Bounds” states, in part, “<i>Objects defining out of bounds such as walls, fences, stakes and railings are not obstructions and are deemed to be fixed. Stakes identifying out of bounds are not obstructions and are deemed to be fixed.</i>”</p> <p>Decision 24/1 [Steps Attached to Boundary Fence] advises that such a set of steps is an obstruction unless declared by the Committee to be an integral part of the course.</p> <p>Per Decision 24/2 [Angled Supports or Guy Wires Supporting Boundary Fence], any part of such angled supports or guy wires which is in bounds is an obstruction.</p> <p>Decision 24/3 [Concrete Bases of Boundary Fence Posts] advises that concrete bases are part of the boundary fence and thus are not obstructions.</p> <p>Decision 27/18 [Gate in Boundary Fence] advises that a gate in a boundary fence, when closed, is part of the boundary fence and is not an obstruction. If the gate is open, the player may either leave it as he finds it or close it, but he must not move it to any other position.</p>	<p><b>Boundary Object</b> Artificial objects defining or showing out of bounds, such as walls, fences, stakes and railings, from which free relief is not allowed. This includes any base and post of a boundary fence, but does not include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Angled supports or guy wires that are attached to a wall or fence, or</li> <li>• Any steps, bridge or similar construction used for getting over the wall or fence.</li> </ul> <p><i>Boundary objects</i> are treated as immovable even if they are movable or any part of them is movable (see Rule 8.1a). <i>Boundary objects</i> are not obstructions or integral objects.</p>
<p>According to Decision 20/2 [Borrowing Club for Measuring Purposes], “<i>For the purpose of measuring, the player who is required to drop a ball may use any club he has selected for the round ...</i>”</p> <p>Also, Decision 20/1 [Club Used in Measuring] points out the player must continue to use the club he originally used for measuring for all measuring in a given situation.</p>	<p><b>Club-Length</b> The length of the longest club of the 14 (or fewer) clubs the player has during the round (as allowed by Rule 4.1b(1)), other than a putter. For example, if the longest club (other than a putter) a player has during a round is a 43-inch (109.22 cm) driver, a <i>club-length</i> is 43 inches for that player for that round. <i>Club-lengths</i> are used in defining the player’s teeing area on each hole and in determining the size of the player’s relief area when taking relief under a Rule.</p>
<p>Refer to the following, et al:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decision 18-2/0.5 [Weight of Evidence Standard for Determining Whether Player Caused His Ball to Move]</li> <li>• Decision 20-3b/8 [Loose Impediment Affecting Lie of Ball Moved]</li> <li>• Definition of “Stance”</li> <li>• Decision 13-2/0.5 [Meaning of “Improve” in Rule 13-2]</li> <li>• Decision 13-2/1 [Explanation of “Fairly Taking His Stance”]</li> <li>• Decision 13-2/8 [Player’s Lie or Line of Play Affected by Pitch-Mark Made by Partner’s, Opponent’s or Fellow-Competitor’s Ball]</li> <li>• Decision 13-2/10 [Pitch-Mark in Dropping Area Repaired Before Ball Dropped]</li> <li>• Decision 13-2/14 [Breaking Branch Interfering with Backswing on Teeing Ground]</li> </ul>	<p><b>Conditions Affecting Stroke</b> The lie of the player’s ball at rest, the area of intended stance, the area of intended swing, the line of play and the relief area where the player will drop or place a ball.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The “area of intended stance” includes both where the player will place his or her feet and the entire area that might reasonably affect how and where the player’s body is positioned in preparing for and making the intended stroke.</li> <li>• The “area of intended swing” includes the entire area that might reasonably affect any part of the backswing, the downswing or the completion of the swing for the intended stroke.</li> <li>• Each of the terms “lie”, “line of play” and “relief area” has its own Definition.</li> </ul>

<p>Rule 20-2a [Dropping and Re-Dropping: By Whom and How] states, in part, “A ball to be dropped under the Rules must be dropped by the player himself. He must stand erect, hold the ball at shoulder height and arm’s length and drop it. ... If the ball, when dropped, touches any person or the equipment of any player before or after it strikes a part of the course and before it comes to rest, the ball must be re-dropped, without penalty.”</p> <p>Per Decision 20-2a/2 [Spinning Ball When Dropping], it is not permissible to purposely put spin on a ball when dropping it.</p>	<p><b>Drop</b></p> <p>To hold the ball and let go of it so that it falls through the air, with the intent for the ball to be in play.</p> <p>If the player lets go of a ball without intending it to be in play, the ball has not been dropped and is not in play (see Rule 14.4). Each relief Rule identifies a specific relief area where the ball must be dropped and come to rest.</p> <p>In taking relief, the player must let go of the ball from a location at knee height so that the ball:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Falls straight down, without the player throwing, spinning or rolling it or using any other motion that might affect where the ball will come to rest, and</li> <li>• Does not touch any part of the player’s body or equipment before it hits the ground (see Rule 14.3b).</li> </ul>
<p>Note 1 to Rule 25-2 [Embedded Ball] states, “A ball is “embedded” when it is in its own pitch-mark and part of the ball is below the level of the ground. A ball does not necessarily have to touch the soil to be embedded (e.g., grass, loose impediments and the like may intervene between the ball and the soil.”</p> <p>Decision 25-2/0.5 [When Ball Embedded in Ground] provides pictorial representations of when a ball is embedded in the ground.</p>	<p><b>Embedded</b></p> <p>When a player’s ball is in its own pitch-mark made as a result of the player’s previous stroke and where part of the ball is below the level of the ground.</p> <p>A ball does not necessarily have to touch soil to be <i>embedded</i> (for example, grass and loose impediments may be between the ball and the soil).</p>
<p>Appendix II sets forth the general regulations and specifications for clubs.</p> <p>Appendix III sets forth the general regulations and specifications for golf balls.</p> <p>Appendix IV sets forth the general regulations and specifications for devices and other equipment, such as tees, gloves, shoes, clothing and distance-measuring devices.</p>	<p><b>Equipment Rules</b></p> <p>The specifications and other regulations for clubs, balls and other equipment that players are allowed to use during a round. The <i>Equipment Rules</i> are found at usga.org.</p>
<p>The Definition of “Through the Green” states, “Through the green” is the whole area of the course except:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The teeing ground and putting green of the hole being played; and</li> <li>All hazards on the course.”</li> </ol>	<p><b>General Area</b></p> <p>The area of the course that covers all of the course except for the other four defined areas: (1) the teeing area the player must play from in starting the hole he or she is playing, (2) all penalty areas, (3) all bunkers, and (4) the putting green of the hole the player is playing.</p> <p>The <i>general area</i> includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All teeing locations on the course other than the teeing area, and</li> <li>• All wrong greens.</li> </ul>
<p>The words “general penalty” occur many times within the current Rules. For example, the penalty statement for Rule 18-2 [Ball at Rest Moved] states, “If a player who is required to replace a ball fails to do so, or if he makes a stroke at a ball substituted under Rule 18 when such substitution is not permitted, he incurs the general penalty for breach of Rule 18, but there is no additional penalty under this Rule.”</p> <p>Similarly, see Rule 20-3a [Placing and Replacing: By Whom and Where] which states, in part, “If a ball to be replaced is placed other than on the spot from which it was lifted or moved and the error is not corrected as provided in Rule 20-6, the player incurs the general penalty, loss of hole in match play or two strokes in stroke play, for a breach of the applicable Rule.”</p>	<p><b>General Penalty</b></p> <p>Loss of hole in match play or two penalty strokes in stroke play.</p>

<p>The Definition of “Obstructions” states, in part, “<i>An obstruction is a movable obstruction if it may be moved without unreasonable effort, without unduly delaying play and without causing damage. Otherwise it is an immovable obstruction. Note: The Committee may make a Local Rule declaring a movable obstruction to be an immovable obstruction.</i>”</p>	<p><b>Immovable Obstruction</b> Any obstruction that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cannot be moved without unreasonable effort or without damaging the obstruction or the course, and</li> <li>• Otherwise does not meet the definition of a movable obstruction.</li> </ul> <p>The Committee may define any obstruction to be an <i>immovable obstruction</i>, even if it meets the definition of movable obstruction.</p>
<p>Decision 13-2/0.5 [Meaning of “Improve” in Rule 13-2] advises that, in the context of Rule 13-2, “improve” means to change for the better so that the player creates a potential advantage with respect to the position or lie of his ball, the area of his intended stance or swing, his line of play or a reasonable extension of that line beyond the hole, or the area in which he is to drop or place a ball.</p>	<p><b>Improve</b> To alter one or more of the conditions affecting the stroke or other physical conditions affecting play so that a player gains a potential advantage for a stroke.</p>
<p>The Definition of “Obstruction” states, in part, “<i>An “obstruction” is anything artificial, including the artificial surfaces and sides of roads and paths and manufactured ice, except ...Any construction declared by the Committee to be an integral part of the course.</i>”</p>	<p><b>Integral Object</b> An artificial object defined by the Committee as part of the challenge of playing the course from which free relief is not allowed. <i>Integral objects</i> are treated as immovable (see Rule 8.1a). But if part of an <i>integral object</i> (such as a gate or door or part of an attached cable) meets the definition of movable obstruction, that part is treated as a movable obstruction. Artificial objects defined by the Committee as <i>integral objects</i> are not obstructions or boundary objects.</p>
<p>Decision 26-1/1 [Meaning of “Known or Virtually Certain”] states, in part, “<i>In the absence of “knowledge” that the ball is in the water hazard, Rule 26-1 requires there to be “virtual certainty” that the player’s ball is in the water hazard in order to proceed under this Rule. Unlike “knowledge,” “virtual certainty” implies some small degree of doubt about the actual location of a ball that has not been found. However, “virtual certainty” also means that, although the ball has not been found, when all readily available information is considered, the conclusion that there is nowhere that the ball could be except in the water hazard would be justified. ... The same principles would apply for a ball that may have been moved by an outside agency (Rule 18-1) or a ball that has not been found and may be in an obstruction (Rule 24-3) or an abnormal ground condition (Rule 25-1c).</i>”</p>	<p><b>Known or Virtually Certain</b> The standard for deciding what happened to a player’s ball – for example, whether the ball came to rest in a penalty area, whether it moved or what caused it to move. <i>Known or virtually certain</i> means more than just possible or probable. It means that either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is conclusive evidence that the event in question happened to the player’s ball, such as when the player or other witnesses saw it happen, or</li> <li>• Although there is a very small degree of doubt, all reasonably available information shows that it is at least 95% likely that the event in question happened.</li> </ul> <p>“<i>All reasonably available information</i>” includes all information the player knows and all other information he or she can get with reasonable effort and without unreasonable delay.</p>
<p>Decision 18-2/0.5 [Weight of Evidence Standard for Determining Whether Player Caused His Ball to Move] states, in part, “<i>Depending on the circumstances, the relevant considerations may include, but are not limited to: ...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The lie of the ball before it moved (e.g., on a closely-mown area, perched on longer grass, on a surface imperfection, etc.) ...</i>”</li> </ul> <p>Decision 20-3b/8 [Loose Impediment Affecting Lie of Ball Moved] advises that loose impediments are not part of the lie of the ball as contemplated by Rule 20-3b [Lie of Ball to be Placed or Replaced Altered].</p>	<p><b>Lie</b> The spot on which a ball is at rest and any growing or attached natural object, immovable obstruction, integral object, or boundary object touching the ball or right next to it. Loose impediments and movable obstructions are not part of the <i>lie</i> of a ball.</p>

<p>Rule 20-1 [Lifting and Marking] states, in part, “<i>The position of the ball must be marked before it is lifted under a Rule that requires it to be replaced. ... Note: The position of a ball to be lifted should be marked by placing a ball-marker, a small coin or other similar object immediately behind the ball.</i>”</p> <p>Decision 20-1/16 [Method Used to Mark Position of Ball] indicates that placing the toe of a club at the side of, or behind, the ball is a permissible method for marking the position of a ball.</p>	<p><b>Mark</b> To show the spot where a ball is at rest by either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placing a ball-marker right behind or right next to the ball, or</li> <li>• Holding a club on the ground right behind or right next to the ball.</li> </ul> <p>This is done to show the spot where the ball must be replaced after it is lifted.</p>
	<p><b>Maximum Score</b> A form of stroke play where a player’s or side’s score for a hole is capped at a maximum number of strokes (including strokes made and any penalty strokes) set by the Committee, such as two times par, a fixed number or net double bogey.</p>
<p>The Definition of “Obstructions” states, in part, “An obstruction is a movable obstruction if it may be moved without <i>unreasonable effort, without unduly delaying play and without causing damage. Otherwise it is an immovable obstruction. Note: The Committee may make a Local Rule declaring a movable obstruction to be an immovable obstruction.</i>”</p> <p>Per Decision 13-2/32 [Improving Line of Play by Removing Stone from Wall], a wall as a whole is an immovable obstruction and all parts of the wall are deemed to be fixed.</p>	<p><b>Movable Obstruction</b> An obstruction that can be moved with reasonable effort and without damaging the obstruction or the course. If part of an immovable obstruction or integral object (such as a gate or door or part of an attached cable) meets these two standards, that part is treated as a <i>movable obstruction</i>. But this does not apply if the movable part of an immovable obstruction or integral object is not meant to be moved (such as a loose stone that is part of a stone wall). Even when an obstruction is movable, the Committee may define it to be an immovable obstruction.</p>
<p>Decision 18-2/0.5 [Weight of Evidence Standard for Determining Whether Player Caused His Ball to Move] states, in part, “<i>Depending on the circumstances, the relevant considerations may include, but are not limited to: ...</i>”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The condition of the ground near the ball (e.g., degree of slope, presence of surface irregularities, etc.), and</i></li> <li>• <i>Wind, rain and other weather conditions.</i>”</li> </ul>	<p><b>Natural Forces</b> The effects of nature such as wind, water or when something happens for no apparent reason because of the effects of gravity.</p>
<p>Appendix I, Part A, 2.c [Local Rules: Course Protection: Environmentally-Sensitive Areas] states, in part, “<i>If an appropriate authority ... prohibits entry into and/or play from an area on or adjoining the course for environmental reasons, the Committee should make a Local Rule clarifying the relief procedure. The Committee may not declare an area to be environmentally-sensitive. The Committee has some discretion in terms of whether the area is defined as ground under repair, a water hazard or out of bounds.</i>”</p>	<p><b>No Play Zone</b> A part of the course where the Committee has prohibited play. A <i>no play zone</i> must be defined as part of either an abnormal course condition or a penalty area. The Committee may use <i>no play zones</i> for any reason, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting wildlife, animal habitats, and environmentally sensitive areas,</li> <li>• Protecting players from danger, and</li> <li>• Preserving sites of historical or cultural interest.</li> </ul> <p>The Committee should define the edge of a <i>no play zone</i> with a line or stakes, and the line or stakes (or the tops of those stakes) should identify the <i>no play zone</i> as different than a regular abnormal course condition or penalty area that does not contain a <i>no play zone</i>.</p>
<p>See Rule 32.1a [Bogey and Par Competitions]</p>	<p><b>Par/Bogey</b> A form of stroke play that uses scoring in match play where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A player or side wins or loses a hole by completing the hole in fewer strokes or more strokes (including strokes made and any penalty strokes) than a fixed target score for that hole set by the Committee, and</li> <li>• The competition is won by the player or side with the highest total of holes won versus holes lost (that is, adding up the holes won and subtracting the holes lost).</li> </ul>

<p>Per the Definition of “Water Hazard,” “A <i>water hazard</i>” is any sea, lake, pond, river, ditch, surface drainage ditch or other open water course (whether or not containing water) and anything of a similar nature on the course. All ground and water within the margin of a water hazard are part of the water hazard. ... Stakes or lines used to define the margin of or identify a water hazard must be yellow.”</p> <p>Per the Definition of “Lateral Water Hazard,” “A <i>lateral water hazard</i>” is a water hazard or that part of a water hazard so situated that it is not possible, or is deemed by the Committee to be impracticable, to drop a ball behind the water hazard in accordance with Rule 26-1b. All ground and water within the margin of a lateral water hazard are part of the lateral water hazard. ... Stakes or lines used to define the margin of or identify a lateral water hazard must be red.”</p>	<p><b>Penalty Area*</b></p> <p>An area from which relief with a one-stroke penalty is allowed if the player’s ball comes to rest there.</p> <p>A <i>penalty area</i> is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any body of water on the course (whether or not marked by the Committee) including a sea, lake, pond, river, ditch, surface drainage ditch or other open watercourse (even if not containing water), and</li> <li>• Any other part of the course the Committee defines as a <i>penalty area</i>.</li> </ul> <p>There are two different types of <i>penalty areas</i> distinguished by the color used to mark them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yellow <i>penalty areas</i> (marked with yellow lines or yellow stakes) give the player two relief options (Rules 17.1d(1) and (2)).</li> <li>• Red <i>penalty areas</i> (marked with red lines or red stakes) give the player an extra lateral relief option (Rule 17.1d(3)), in addition to the two relief options available for yellow <i>penalty areas</i>.</li> </ul> <p>* Selected portions of the Definition</p>
<p>Rule 25-1b(ii) [Abnormal Ground Conditions: Relief in a Bunker] states, in part, “If the ball is in a bunker, the player must lift the ball and drop it... if complete relief is impossible, as near as possible to the spot where the ball lay, but not nearer the hole, on a part of the course in the bunker that affords maximum available relief from the condition ....”</p> <p>Rule 25-1b(iii) [Abnormal Ground Conditions: Relief on the Putting Green] states, in part, “If the ball lies on the putting green, the player must lift the ball and place it ... if complete relief is impossible, at the nearest position to where it lay that affords maximum available relief from the condition, but not nearer the hole and not in a hazard. The nearest point of relief or maximum available relief may be off the putting green.”</p> <p>See Decision 25-1b/5 [Explanation of “Maximum Available Relief” from Casual Water in Bunker].</p>	<p><b>Point of Maximum Available Relief*</b></p> <p>The reference point for taking free relief from an abnormal course condition in a bunker (Rule 16.1c) or on the putting green (Rule 16.1d) when there is no nearest point of complete relief. It is the estimated point where the ball would lie that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nearest to the ball’s original spot, but not nearer the hole than that spot,</li> <li>• In the required area of the course, and</li> <li>• Where that abnormal course condition least interferes with the stroke the player would have made from the original spot if the condition was not there.</li> </ul> <p>* Selected portions of the Definition</p>
<p>Refer to the following, et al:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rule 24-2b [Immovable Obstruction: Relief].</li> <li>• Rule 25-1b [Abnormal Ground Conditions: Relief]</li> <li>• Rule 25-3b [Wrong Putting Green: Relief]</li> <li>• Rule 26-1 [Relief for Ball in Water Hazard]</li> <li>• Rule 28 [Ball Unplayable]</li> <li>• Decision 24-2b/1 [Determining “Nearest Point of Relief”]</li> <li>• Decision 25-1b/2 [Diagrams Illustrating Nearest Point of Relief]</li> </ul> <p>Decision 20-2b/2 [Measuring Club-Lengths] states, “In measuring a distance of one club-length or two club-lengths when proceeding under a Rule, a player is entitled to measure directly across a ditch or through a fence, a tree or a constructed wall. However, a player may not measure through a natural undulation of the ground.”</p>	<p><b>Relief Area</b></p> <p>The area where a player must drop a ball when taking relief under a Rule. Each relief Rule requires the player to use a specific <i>relief area</i> whose size and location are based on these three factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reference Point: The point from which the size of <i>relief area</i> is measured.</li> <li>• Size of <i>Relief Area</i> Measured from Reference Point: The <i>relief area</i> is either one or two club-lengths from the reference point, but with certain limits:</li> <li>• Limits on Location of <i>Relief Area</i>: The location of the <i>relief area</i> may be limited in one or more ways so that, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is only in certain defined areas of the course, such as only in the general area, or not in a bunker or a penalty area,</li> <li>• It is not nearer the hole than the reference point or must be outside a penalty area or a bunker from which relief is being taken, or</li> <li>• It is where there is no interference (as defined in the particular Rule) from the condition from which relief is being taken.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>In using club-lengths to determine the size of the <i>relief area</i>, the player may measure directly across a ditch, hole or similar thing, and directly across or through an object (such as a tree, fence, wall, tunnel, drain or sprinkler head), but is not allowed to measure through ground that naturally slopes up and down.</p>

<p>Rule 20-3 [Placing and Replacing] states, in part, “A ball to be replaced under the Rules must be replaced by any one of the following: (i) the person who lifted or moved the ball, (ii) the player, or (iii) the player’s partner. <i>The ball must be placed on the spot from which it was lifted or moved.</i>”</p> <p>Decision 20-4/2 [Ball Lifted from Putting Green and Placed by Caddie Behind Marker] states, in part, “<i>The ball is not considered to be in play until it is repositioned with the intention of replacing the ball as required by Rule 16-1b.</i>”</p>	<p><b>Replace</b> To place a ball by setting it down and letting it go, with the intent for it to be in play. If the player sets a ball down without intending it to be in play, the ball has not been <i>replaced</i> and is not in play (see Rule 14.4). Whenever a Rule requires a ball to be <i>replaced</i>, the Rule involved identifies a specific spot where the ball must be <i>replaced</i>.</p>
<p>Note 1 to Rule 20-7 [Playing from Wrong Place] states, “A competitor is deemed to have committed a serious breach of the applicable Rule if the Committee considers he has gained a significant advantage as a result of playing from a wrong place.”</p> <p>See also Decision 26-1/11 [Water Hazard Treated as Lateral Water Hazard], Decision 26-1/21 [Example of Serious Breach of Lateral Water Hazard Rule], Decision 28/6 [Player Plays Second Shot, Deems Ball Unplayable and Returns to Tee], Decision 28/10 [Ball Dropped Outside Bunker Under Option Requiring Drop in Bunker], et al.</p>	<p><b>Serious Breach</b> In stroke play, when playing from a wrong place could give the player a significant advantage compared to the stroke to be made from the right place. In making this comparison to decide if there was a <i>serious breach</i>, the factors to be taken into account include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The difficulty of the stroke,</li> <li>• The distance of the ball from the hole,</li> <li>• The effect of obstacles on the line of play, and</li> <li>• The conditions affecting the stroke.</li> </ul> <p>The concept of a <i>serious breach</i> does not apply in match play because a player loses the hole if he or she plays from a wrong place.</p>
<p>See Rule 32-1b [Stableford Competitions]</p>	<p><b>Stableford</b> A form of stroke play where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A player’s or side’s score for a hole is based on points awarded by comparing the player’s or side’s number of strokes on the hole (including strokes made and any penalty strokes) to a fixed score for the hole set by the Committee, and</li> <li>• The competition is won by the player or side who completes all rounds with the most points.</li> </ul>
<p>Rule 27-1a [Proceeding Under Stroke and Distance] states, “At any time, a player may, under penalty of one stroke, play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played . . . , i.e., proceed under penalty of stroke and distance. <i>Except as otherwise provided in the Rules, if a player makes a stroke at a ball from the spot at which the original ball was last played, he is deemed to have proceeded under penalty of stroke and distance.</i>”</p>	<p><b>Stroke and Distance</b> The procedure and penalty when a player takes relief under Rules 17, 18 or 19 by playing a ball from where the previous stroke was made (see Rule 14.6). The term <i>stroke and distance</i> means that the player both:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gets one penalty stroke, and</li> <li>• Loses the benefit of any gain of distance towards the hole from the spot where the previous stroke was made.</li> </ul>
<p>Appendix IV.1 [Tees] states, “A tee is a device designed to raise a ball off the ground. A tee must not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be longer than 4 inches (101.6 mm);</li> <li>• be designed or manufactured in such a way that it could indicate line of play;</li> <li>• unduly influence the movement of the ball; or</li> <li>• otherwise assist the player in making a stroke or in his play.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Tee</b> An object used to raise a ball above the ground to play it from the teeing area. It must be no longer than 4 inches (101.6 mm) and conform with the Equipment Rules.</p>
<p>Rule 20-7 [Playing from Wrong Place] states, in part, “A player has played from a wrong place if he makes a stroke at his ball in play: (i) on a part of the course where the Rules do not permit a stroke to be made or a ball to be dropped or placed; or (ii) when the Rules require a dropped ball to be re-dropped or a moved ball to be replaced.”</p> <p>See also Rule 11-4 [Playing from Outside Teeing Ground].</p>	<p><b>Wrong Place</b> Any place on the course other than where the player is required or allowed to play his or her ball under the Rules. Examples of playing from a <i>wrong place</i> are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Playing a ball after replacing it on the wrong spot or without replacing it when required by the Rules.</li> <li>• Playing a dropped ball from outside the required relief area.</li> <li>• Taking relief under a wrong Rule, so that the ball is dropped in and played from a place not allowed under the Rules.</li> <li>• Playing a ball from a no play zone or when a no play zone interferes with the player’s area of intended stance or swing.</li> </ul> <p>Playing a ball from outside the teeing area in starting play of a hole or in trying to correct that mistake is not playing from a <i>wrong place</i> (see Rule 6.1b).</p>