

When can a Player Change Golf Balls?

There is a very good article in the 2024 Nov/Dec Virginia Golfer written by Charles Rolen (Springfield Golf and CC member) about when a player can change golf balls. This is a summary of the article to pass on to your players.

Whenever a player takes free relief or penalty relief, they are able to change golf balls during a round or a hole. "When taking relief under a rule, including when either dropping or placing a ball, the player may use either the original ball or another ball."

1. Cart path relief
2. Embedded ball relief
3. Unplayable ball - The player must identify the unplayable ball, but doesn't need to retrieve it. (The player still has to take the 1 stroke penalty).
4. Temporary Water, Ground Under Repair
5. Stroke and Distance relief

Between the play of two holes, a golfer can always replace or change golf balls.