

2023 Rules	<u>Explanation 1</u>	<u>Explanation 2</u>	<u>Explanation 3</u>	<u>Explanation 4</u>	<u>Explanation 5</u>
Play course as you find it & ball as it lies (Rule 8, 9 &19) Violation General Penalty (2 strokes)	Player may NOT improve conditions affecting the lie, stance, swing or line of play or relief area. (2 strokes)	Players may take an unplayable lie for 1 stroke penalty (Rule 19)			
Ball moved by natural forces or by player (Rules 7 9, 13)	Ball at rest moved by natural forces on green <u>before</u> it is marked or on the course, play it as it lies, no penalty (Rule 9.3)	Ball moved by natural forces on green or course <u>after</u> being marked, lifted, & replaced, replace on original spot, no penalty. (Rule 9.3)	Ball accidentally moved by player on the green, replace on original spot, no penalty (Rule 13.1d)	Ball accidentally moved by player on the course, replace on original spot (1 stroke) (Rule 9.4b)	Ball accidentally moved while searching/identifying, replace on original spot, no penalty (Rule 7.4)
Playing wrong ball (Rule 6.3c) -a Ball substitution (Rule 6.3b -b) Playing from wrong place (Rule 14.7) -c)	a. Playing wrong ball, 2 strokes , must continue with original ball or substituted ball if original is lost. Failure to correct—disqualified	b. Ball may be substituted when lost, damaged, or taking relief, but not when being placed. Breach is 1 stroke	c. Player must play ball from spot where it comes to rest unless allowed relief under the rules, otherwise. 2 strokes for each		
Obstructions (Rules Movable 15 & Immovable16) (OB markers may not be moved Rule 8.1a – 2 strokes if moved)	Moveable (1) Ball blocked by, but not in or on obstruction, obstruction may be moved, if ball moves replace it on original spot, no penalty	Moveable (2) Ball in or on obstruction, may be lifted and obstruction removed; thru green ball dropped within 1 club length no nearer the hole; on green, ball placed, no penalty	Immovable thru the green; drop within 1 club length of point of nearest relief; not nearer hole, avoids the interference, not in a penalty area or on the green, no penalty	Immovable in bunker; drop within 1 club of point not nearer the hole, avoids the interference, must be dropped in the bunker, no penalty	Immovable on the green; lift and place away from obstruction, not nearer hole, not in penalty area. no penalty
Loose impediments (Rule 15.1)	May remove anywhere on the course, no penalty	If ball moves, except in a search, replace (1 stroke)			
Embedded Ball (Rule 16.3) (Updated 2025)	Ball in its own pitch mark, may be lifted, cleaned and dropped	Reference point is right behind where ball is embedded Only applies in general area (fairway & rough)	Drop 1 club length either side of reference point no nearer the hole (no penalty)	No free lift in penalty area or sand (see Unplayable Lie)	

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Ball moved by natural forces or by player (Rules 7 9, 13)	Ball at rest moved by natural forces on green or on the course, play it as it lies, no penalty	Ball moved by natural forces on green or course after being marked, lifted, & replaced, replace on original spot, no penalty.	Ball accidentally moved by player on the green, replace on original spot, no penalty	Ball accidentally moved by player on the course, replace on original spot (1 stroke)	Ball accidentally moved while searching/identifying, replace on original spot, no penalty (Rule 7.4)
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Abnormal course condition Ground under repair, temp water, animal holes (Rule 16)	In general area, drop 1 club length either side of reference point no nearer the hole (no penalty)	In bunker, drop in bunker, nearest to original spot, away from interference, not nearer the hole (no penalty)	In bunker, drop outside bunker on line from hole thru point of interference to where ball is dropped 1 stroke	On green, lift and place on nearest point of complete relief, no nearer the hole (no penalty)	
Red Stakes (lateral penalty area) (Rule 17)	Play it as it lies (no penalty)	Re-hit from original spot-stroke & distance (1 stroke)	Drop on a point that is back-on-the-line from hole thru spot where ball entered penalty area (1 stroke)	Drop within 2 club of spot where ball last crossed into penalty area, not nearer the hole (1 stroke)	
Yellow Stakes (penalty area) (Rule 17)	Play it as it lies (no penalty)	Re-hit from original spot-stroke & distance (1 stroke)	Drop on a point that is the back-on-the-line from hole thru spot where ball entered penalty area (1 stroke)		
Lost Ball (not in penalty area) (Rule 18.2b)	Stroke & distance: re-hit from original spot (1 stroke)	Alternative to stroke & distance: drop on fairway within 2 clubs from fairway edge closest to where ball was lost, no nearer the hole (2 strokes)			
Provisional Ball (Rule 18.3b)	Ball may be lost outside penalty area, must state “playing a provisional ball” or that ball becomes ball in play (1stroke)	Play provisional ball up to the spot where the original ball may be lost; search for original ball	If original ball is found, it must be played.	If original ball is lost, or OB, provisional ball becomes the ball in play (1 stroke)	
Unplayable Lie in general-area or on putting green (Rule 19)	Drop within 2 club lengths either side of where ball lies, not nearer the hole (1 stroke)	Drop on a point that is back-on-the-line from hole thru spot where ball lies (1 stroke)	Re-hit from original spot–stroke & distance (1 stroke)	Unplayable Lie in bunker (Rule 19)	Additional relief option–outside bunker, back-on-the-line (2 stroke)
Ball hit into woods, not a penalty area, is found	Play it as it lies	If unplayable lie, follow Rule 19, unplayable lie.			

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