

YOU MAKE THE CALL
Rule 8 Course Played As It Is Found (ANSWERS)

1. Apart from being allowed to remove loose impediments or movable obstructions a player may not do anything to improve the relief area where they intend to drop or place a ball.

True or False?

Answer: True. Rule 8.1.

Note: This is one of the restrictions that prevents a player from making improvements to the conditions that could affect their next stroke.

2. A player sees that deep footsteps in a bunker between their ball and the putting green had not been raked by a previous group. Concerned that they may not clear the bunker with their next stroke they picked up a rake and smoothed the trampled area, claiming that they were caring for the course. They are penalised one stroke.

True or False?

Answer: False. Rule 8.2b.

Note: There is a penalty, but it is the general penalty of loss of hole in match play or two strokes in stroke play. A player must not deliberately alter a physical condition that might affect where their ball might go or come to rest after their next stroke or a later stroke.

3. A player may move a divot to see whether it is loose or still partially attached.

True or False?

Answer: True. Rule 8.1b(11).

Note: If the divot is found to be attached, it must stay attached and be returned as nearly as possible to its original position.

4. Loose impediments and movable obstructions are not part of the lie of a ball.

True or False?

Answer: True. Definition of Lie.

Note: Apart from the spot on which the ball is at rest, any growing or attached natural object, immovable obstruction, integral object, or boundary object touching the ball or right next to it are part of the lie, but loose impediments and movable obstructions are not.

5. A player may move loose impediments (e.g. grass cuttings and twigs) to cover a muddy area where they intend to take their stance, so as to avoid slipping during their swing.

True or False?

Answer: False. Rule 8.1a(2) and Definition of Improve.

Note: A player may not move a loose impediment or movable obstruction into position to improve the conditions affecting their intended stance for a stroke.

6. Seeing a branch of a tree overhanging their intended line of play a player hooked the intervening branch around another branch, to hold it out of their way. When advised that this was not allowed by the Rules, the player restored the branch to its original position, but the general penalty still applies.

True or False?

Answer: False. Rule 8.1c(1).

Note: But the player cannot avoid penalty if the improvement is not eliminated, (e.g. if the branch had been bent or broken in a significant way so that it cannot be returned to its original position.

7. In stroke play, a player gets a penalty of two strokes if they improve the conditions affecting the stroke of another player.

True or False?

Answer: True. Rule 8.3b and Definition of Improve.

Note: Similarly, a player must not alter any other physical conditions that might affect where another player's ball might go or come to rest.

8. In taking a stance for the stroke, which action is the player allowed to execute?
- when the player's ball lies in a bunker, knocking down sand on the side of the bunker with a foot to create a level area to stand on.
 - excessively digging feet into soft ground to gain a firmer foundation for the stance.
 - removing loose impediments from the area of intended stance, such as removing large amounts of pine needles or leaves.

Answer: c. Rules Interpretation 8.1a/6

9. A player tees the ball near and behind the left tee-marker but within the teeing area. Then he or she breaks a branch of a small tree not growing in the teeing area that would interfere with his or her intended right-handed stroke at the teed ball. Deciding to make a different stroke at the ball, he or she lifts the ball and tees it near and behind the right tee-marker from where the stroke is made. What is the ruling?
- The player is allowed to break a branch of a tree or otherwise improve the conditions affecting the stroke when playing a ball from within the teeing area.
 - There is no penalty as the player corrected his or her mistake by re-teeing the ball in a different location and played from there.
 - The player gets the general penalty that cannot be avoided by re-teeing the ball in a different location and playing from there.

Answer: c. Rules Interpretation 8.1a/3

10. A player plays a ball from the general area, replaces his or her divot and later learns that he or she must play again from there under penalty of stroke and distance. In addition to the penalty of stroke and distance, what penalty does the player get?
- The player gets no additional penalty.
 - The player gets the general penalty.
 - The player is disqualified.

Answer: a. Rules Interpretation 8.1a/8

11. A player's tee shot comes to rest in an area of ground under repair in the general area, just short of a bunker that is on his or her line of play. The player takes relief behind the bunker from the abnormal course condition and the dropped ball rolls forward out of the relief area into the bunker. While walking into the bunker to retrieve the ball to drop it again, the player creates numerous footprints on his or her line of play when the ball will be dropped again in the relief area. He or she rakes the bunker to restore the bunker to its previous condition. This restoration improves conditions affecting the stroke from the relief area. What is the ruling?
- There is no penalty as restoring the bunker is allowed as the player was caring for the course.
 - In restoring the bunker to its condition prior to his or her walking in the bunker, the player improved conditions affecting the stroke. Because the player was responsible for worsening the conditions, the player is not allowed to restore the bunker and gets the general penalty.
 - Normally, a player is not allowed to restore altered conditions affecting the stroke when it was the player who altered the conditions. However, in this situation the player was required to retrieve the ball and is allowed to restore the conditions without penalty.

Answer: b. Rules Interpretation 8.1d(2)/3

Note: We will learn in Rule 14.3a that the player did not have to retrieve the ball from the bunker. The player can substitute a ball anytime he or she is dropping it.