**YOU MAKE THE CALL**

**Rule 7 Ball Search: Finding and Identifying Ball**

1. Based on information given by a spectator, a player identifies his or her ball within three minutes of search time; his or her ball is not lost in these circumstances.

True or False

**Answer: True. Rule 7.2 and Rules Interpretation 7.2/1**

**Note: Rules Interpretation 7.2/1 states that a player can identify a ball in a tree that cannot be retrieved when a spectator or another player saw the ball come to rest in a specific location after a player’s stroke.**

1. While searching for their ball, a player happens to improve their area of intended swing by breaking several long grasses using a slashing action with a club. There is no penalty because they were searching for their ball.

True or False?

**Answer: It Depends. Rule 7.1a and Rule 8.1a.**

**Note: If the improvement results from actions that exceeded what was reasonable for a fair search, the player gets the general penalty for breach of Rule 8.1a.**

1. In stroke play, if a player accidentally moves their ball or another player’s ball while searching for it there is no penalty, but in match play, if a player accidentally moves an opponent’s ball they incur a penalty of one stroke.

True or False?

**Answer: False. Rule 7.4.**

**Note: In all cases where a ball is moved accidentally during search it must be replaced on its original spot, which if not known must be estimated, Rule 14.2.**

1. If a ball is accidentally moved during search it must be replaced if the spot where it originally lay is known, or dropped if the spot is not known.

True or False?

**Answer: False. Rule 7.4.**

**Note: In either case, the ball must be replaced on its original spot, which if not known must be estimated, Rule 14.2.**

1. If a ball that was accidentally moved during search is not replaced at the spot where it lay or was estimated to lay, the player gets a general penalty.

True or False?

**Answer: True. Rule 7.4.**

**Note: The general penalty is loss of hole in match play and two strokes in stroke play, Definition of General Penalty**

1. A player is playing a common brand of ball, but cannot remember the number and has not put any identifying mark on it. The player walks straight to a point in rough where he or she are sure the ball landed and soon find a ball of the same brand and condition lying there. The player may continue play with this ball without penalty.

True or False?

**Answer: True. Rule 7.2.**

**Note: A player’s ball at rest may be identified by the player or anyone else seeing a ball come to rest in circumstances where it is known to be the player’s ball**

1. A player is not sure if a ball lying on a general area is theirs. They lift it without marking its spot, completely clean it with their towel and replace it where it lay. They get two one stroke penalties.

True or False?

**Answer: False. Rule 7.3.**

**Note: If a player lifts their ball to identify it when not reasonably necessary, fails to mark the spot of the ball before lifting it or cleans it when not allowed, they get just one penalty stroke for multiple Rule breaches arising from related acts, Rule 1.3c(4).**

1. A player who has not marked their ball with a personal identification mark, finds two balls of the same brand, model, number and condition as the ball they had played, in an area where they expected it to be. They may choose which ball is theirs and continue play with that ball.

True or False?

**Answer: False. Rule 7.2.**

**Note: If a player cannot positively identify a ball they are searching for within 3 minutes of search beginning for it, they must treat their ball as lost**

1. A player may rotate a ball lying on the general area, in order to identify it, without marking its spot first, providing they do not lift it from the surface where it lies.

True or False?

**Answer: False. Rule 7.3.**

**Note: The spot where the ball lies must be marked before it is touched**

1. While searching for their ball, a player may move sand and water in trying to find and identify it.

True or False?

**Answer: True. Rule 7.1a.**

**Note: A player may fairly search for their ball by taking any reasonable actions to find and identify it**