

## YOU MAKE THE CALL

### Rule 11 – Ball in Motion Accidentally Hits, Person, Animal or Object; Deliberate Actions to Affect Ball in Motion Relief Rule Definitions

#### Rule 15 – Relief From Loose Impediments and Movable Obstructions (Including Ball or Ball-Marker Helping or Interfering With Play)

1. A player makes a pitch shot up a hill toward the putting green and sees the ball returning back down the hill. He or she uses a club that stops the moving ball. The player gets the general penalty and must play the ball as it lies.

True or False?

**Answer: False. Rules 11.2b and 11.2c**

**Note: The player gets the general penalty and must take relief based on the estimated spot where the ball would have come to rest if not deflected or stopped. The size of the relief area is one club-length if the ball would have come to rest anywhere on the course except the putting green.**

2. A player's ball lies in a bunker next to a discarded cardboard water carton that is covered with a detached branch of a bush. The player removes the branch that causes the player's ball to move. The player replaces the ball. The player then removes the water carton and the ball moves while the player is removing the carton. The player replaces the ball and plays the ball from the bunker. The player gets a total of two penalty strokes.

True or False?

**Answer: False. Rules 15.1b and 15.2a(1)**

**Note: The player gets one penalty stroke. The player is allowed to remove loose impediments (the detached branch) anywhere on the course but if the ball moves the player gets one penalty stroke. The player is allowed to move movable obstructions (the cardboard water carton) anywhere on the course and if the ball moves there is no penalty. The player replaced the ball each time it moved.**

3. Ground under repair may not be located on the putting green.

True or False?

**Answer: False. Definition of Ground Under Repair.**

**Note: Ground under repair may be any part of the course the Committee defines**

4. In Four-Ball match play with side A-B, A's ball lies 30-feet from the hole and B's ball lies 3-feet from the hole on the putting green, with both A and B having taken two strokes. The opponents have scored four for the hole. A putts and, as the ball is rolling past the hole, B strikes the ball, returning it in the direction of where A is standing. B holes his or her putt for a score of three. Side A-B wins the hole.

True or False?

**Answer: True. Rules 11.2b and 23.5b**

**Note: Player A gets the general penalty when his partner (Player B) deliberately struck his ball in motion since that action would breach Rule 11.2b if Player A had struck the ball (See Rule 23.5b). Player B gets no penalty and his score of three wins the hole.**

5. In a match, A requests B to lift B's ball that lies on the putting green and is on A's line of play. A's ball lies near but off the putting green. B refuses to do so and A makes a stroke with B's ball in place. B gets the general penalty.

True or False?

**Answer: True. Rule 15.3**

**Note: A player is required to lift a ball that interferes with another player's ball when asked to do so. The player gets the general penalty if they refuse to do so (See 15.3 Penalty Statement).**

6. A player sees his or her uphill chip shot returning to the spot from where he or she played it. The player replaces the large divot taken by the shot into the divot hole and presses it down for the purpose of preventing the ball coming to rest in a bad lie. The ball stops short of the replaced divot. There is no penalty. True or False?  
**Answer: False. Rule 11.3**  
**Note: The player took an action listed in Rule 8.1a and therefore gets the general penalty. It makes no difference that the ball stopped short of the replaced divot (See Rule Interpretation 11.3/1).**
7. If a player's ball in motion from a stroke made from anywhere but the putting green accidentally hits any person or outside influence there is no penalty. True or False?  
**Answer: True. Rule 11.1a.**  
**Note: This is true even if the ball hits the player, the opponent or any other player or any of their caddies or equipment**
8. Loose impediments are easily removable objects, such as scorecards, pens, coins and abandoned balls. True or False?  
**Answer: False. Definitions of Loose Impediment, Obstruction and Movable Obstruction.**  
**Note: These objects are all artificial and are therefore movable obstructions. Loose impediments are unattached natural objects.**
9. In stroke play, A and B agree to leave A's ball in place on the putting green near the hole to help the play of B, who then makes a stroke. If they are aware that this agreement is not allowed by the Rules, both players get a disqualification penalty rather than the general penalty. True or False?  
**Answer: True: Rule Interpretations 1.3b(1)/1 and 15.3a/1**  
**Note: If two or more players deliberately agree to ignore any Rule they are disqualified.**
10. The nearest point of complete relief may be in the middle of a tree trunk. True or False?  
**Answer: True. Definition of Nearest Point of Complete Relief.**  
**Note: The nearest point of complete relief relates solely to the particular condition from which relief is being taken and may be in a location where there is interference by something else. If the nearest point of complete relief is in the middle of a tree trunk the player must estimate the one club-length relief from that point, within which they must drop a ball not nearer the hole.**
11. A player makes a stroke and while the ball is in motion he or she makes a practice swing, taking a divot that accidentally deflects his or her ball in motion. The player gets one penalty stroke. True or False?  
**Answer: False: Rule 11.1a**  
**Note: There is no penalty if a player accidently deflects a ball in motion.**
12. A player may mark and lift their ball if they consider that it interferes with another player's stroke. True or False?  
**Answer: False. Rule 15.3b(2).**  
**Note: A player is not allowed to lift their ball based only on their own belief that it might interfere with another player's play**

13. In stroke play, a player's ball, putted from a spot on the putting green, struck the edge of the hole-liner and bounced out of the hole. The player did not count the stroke, replaced another ball on the original spot and holed the putt. The player played from the next teeing area. There is no penalty.

True or False?

**Answer: True. Rule 11.1b Exception 2**

**Note: The cup liner is considered to be a movable obstruction.**

14. Two balls are lying about two feet (61 cm) apart in a general area. The player whose turn it is to play first may require that the other ball is marked and lifted, claiming that it is a distraction to their intended stroke.

True or False?

**Answer: True. Rule 15.3b(1).**

**Note: Interference under this Rule exists when another player's ball at rest is close enough to distract the player.**

15. When dropping a ball at the nearest point of complete relief from interference by an immovable obstruction, it may never be played from a point that is nearer to the hole than where it originally came to rest.

True or False?

**Answer: True. Definition of Nearest Point of Complete Relief.**

**Note: The nearest point of complete relief is the estimated point where the ball would lie that is nearest to the ball's original spot, but not nearer the hole than that spot, in the required area of the course and where the condition does not interfere with the stroke the player would have made from the original spot if the condition was not there.**

16. Seeing that a ball in motion after a putt from another player was going to strike the removed flagstick lying close to the hole, a player quickly picked it up to avoid the ball hitting it. Neither player gets a penalty.

True or False?

**Answer: True. Exception to Rule 11.3.**

**Note: Even when a ball is in motion a player may move a removed flagstick, a ball at rest on the putting green or any other player equipment (other than a ball at rest anywhere except the putting green or a ball-marker anywhere on the course).**

17. A stone that forms part of a wall, but is loosely affixed and therefore can be easily moved, is a movable obstruction.

True or False?

**Answer: False. Definition of Movable Obstruction.**

**Note: If a movable part of an immovable obstruction is not meant to be moved then it must not be.**

18. A ball comes to rest on a spectator's chair in a general area. The player may lift the ball, move the chair and place a ball under where the ball was at rest on the chair, without penalty.

True or False?

**Answer: False. Rule 15.2a(2)**

**Note: There is no penalty, but the player must drop, not place, a ball in a general area within one club-length, not nearer the hole from the estimated reference point right under where the ball was at rest on the chair.**

19. A player may take relief from loose material that a fox has dug out of a hole that it is making, because it is an abnormal course condition.

True or False?

**Answer: True. Definitions of Animal Hole and Abnormal Course Condition.**

**Note: Animal hole includes: loose material the animal dug out of the hole, any worn-down track or trail leading into the hole and any area on the ground pushed up or altered as a result of the animal digging the hole underground**

20. Loose soil may be removed anywhere on the course.

True or False?

**Answer: False. Rule 8.1a and Definition of Loose Impediment.**

**Note: Rule 13.1c(1) only allows sand and loose soil on the putting green to be removed without penalty.**

21. A ball played from off the putting green was already in motion when another player bent down, marked their ball and lifted it. If their ball might have been hit by the ball in motion they would get the general penalty.

True or False?

**Answer: False. Exception to Rule 11.3.**

**Note: This Exception to Rule 11.3 allows a player to lift or move: a removed flagstick, a ball at rest on the putting green, or any other player equipment (other than a ball at rest anywhere except the putting green or a ball-marker anywhere on the course)**

22. If a ball comes to rest on a moving cart in a general area, the player must take free relief by dropping a ball within one club-length, not nearer the hole, of the reference point, which is right under where they estimate the ball first came to rest on the cart.

True or False?

**Answer: True. Exception 1 to Rule 11.1b.**

**Note: Even if the cart subsequently stops, the player must not play the ball as it lies, but must take relief, as in this question.**

23. When the player has estimated their nearest point of complete relief under the Rules they must mark that point with a ball-marker or small object before dropping a ball.

True or False?

**Answer: False. Definition of Nearest Point of Complete Relief.**

**Note: Estimating the reference point requires the player to identify the choice of club, stance, swing and line of play they would have used for that stroke, but there is no requirement to then mark that point. However, marking the nearest point of complete relief is recommended**

24. A player may use their hand or their putter to brush away hailstones lying on the line they intend their ball to take when they make their stroke.

True or False?

**Answer: True. Definition of Loose Impediment, Rule 8.1b(2) and Rule 15.1a.**

**Note: Hailstones on the ground are natural ice and may be treated either as temporary water or loose impediments.**

25. A player may always move their ball-marker out of the way if they think that it might either assist or interfere with play.

True or False?

**Answer: True. Rule 15.3c.**

**Note: The ball-marker must be moved out of the way to a new spot measured from its original spot, such as by using one or more clubhead-lengths.**

26. A player's ball bounces off a path into a movable rubbish bin. Not wanting to search through the rubbish to find the ball the player moves the bin and drops a ball at the spot where they estimated the original ball had come to rest in the bin. As they were about to play their stroke a boy said that he had recovered the original ball from the bin. The player must continue with the dropped ball.

True or False?

**Answer: True. Rule 15.2b.**

**Note: As it was known that the ball had come to rest in a movable obstruction on the course, the player was entitled to free relief. Once the player had dropped another ball it was in play and the original ball may not then be played, Rule 14.4**