

YOU MAKE THE CALL

Rule 18 – Stroke and distance Relief; Ball Lost or Out of Bounds; Provisional Ball, Rule 19 – Unplayable Ball and Rule 20 Resolving Rules Issues During Round; Rulings by Referee and Committee

1. By mistake a player lifts his or her ball that he or she thought was out of bounds (it wasn't) and played again from the spot of the previous stroke. The player should have replaced the ball with one penalty stroke but gets the general penalty for lifting and not replacing.
True or False?
Answer: False. Rule 18.1
Note: The player gets one penalty stroke for proceeding under Stroke-and-Distance relief.
2. In match play without a referee, both balls are at rest on the putting green. A makes a stroke and his or her ball strikes B's ball. The players disagree about how to proceed under the Rules so they agree that the hole be halved. They are disqualified for deliberately agreeing to ignore the Rules.
True or False?
Answer: False. Rule 20.1b(1)
Note: This is the case provided the players did not deliberately agree to ignore any Rule or penalty they knew applied, Rule 1.3b(1).
3. All the penalty relief options for an unplayable ball are for one penalty stroke.
True or False?
Answer: False. Rule 19.3b.
Note: There is an exception, when a player's ball is in a bunker they may take back-on-the-line relief outside the bunker for a total of two penalty strokes, Rule 19.2b.
4. A player is searching for his or her ball and the search is temporarily interrupted because the player has mistakenly identified and played a wrong ball. The time between the interruption (when the player mistakenly identified and played a wrong ball) does not count. The total search time is three minutes in total, counting the search time both before the interruption and after search resumes.
True or False?
Answer: True. Definition of Lost
Note: Search time does not stop when the player is walking to identify a ball.
5. In stroke play, a player who is uncertain about the right procedure while playing a hole may complete the hole with two balls without penalty. The player should choose which ball will count by announcing that choice to his or her marker or to another player before making another stroke. If the player does not choose in time, the original ball is treated as the ball chosen by default.
True or False?
Answer: False. Rule 20.1c(3)
Note: The ball played first is the ball treated as chosen by default.
6. A player may decide to take unplayable ball relief anywhere on the course.
True or False?
Answer: False. Rule 19.1
Note: Unplayable ball relief is allowed anywhere on the course, except from a penalty area.

7. In stroke play, a player by mistake played a wrong ball and asked the Committee how to proceed. The Committee advised that the player got the general penalty but did not tell the player to correct the mistake. The player was unaware that the Rules required that the mistake be corrected. After the competition closed, the Committee discovered the error. The competition must stand as played. True or False?

Answer: True. Rule 20.2e(2)

Note: The player cannot be disqualified, after the competition is closed, because he or she did not know the penalty for failure to correct the play of a wrong ball is disqualification.

8. When the player wishes to play a provisional ball, he or she must announce that he or she is playing another ball and must use the word “provisional.” True or False?

Answer: False. Rule 18.3b and Rule Interpretation 18.3b/2

Note: The player can use the word (1) provisional, (2) I am playing a ball under Rule 18,3 or (3) clearly indicate he or she is playing a ball provisionally such as I’m going to play another just in case that ball is lost (or out of bounds).

9. Any situation not covered by the Rules should be decided by the Committee. True or False?

Answer: True. Rule 20.3 and Definition of Committee.

Note: The Committee should make a ruling that is reasonable, fair and consistent with how similar situations are treated under the Rules.

10. The back-on-the-line relief area for an unplayable ball in a general area is one club-length from the chosen reference point, not nearer the hole. True or False?

Answer: True. Rule 19.2b.

Note: The reference point may be in any area of the course, but if more than one area of the course is located within one club-length, the ball must come to rest in the relief area in the same area of the course that the ball first touched when dropped in the relief area.

11. A Committee may not use video evidence in arriving at a ruling. True or False?

Answer: False. Rule 20.2c.

Note: However, if the facts shown on the video could not reasonably have been seen with the naked eye, that video evidence will be disregarded, even if it indicates a breach of the Rules.

12. A player properly played a provisional ball with identical marking to the original ball. Both balls are found in a small penalty area and the player cannot identify which ball is the original ball or provisional ball. The player must choose one of the balls to be treated as the provisional ball that is now in play. The other ball is treated as lost and must not be played. True or False?

Answer: True. Rule 18.3c(2)

Note: If only one of the balls is found on the course, that ball is treated as the provisional ball.

13. A player concedes a match on the 18th hole and the result is final. Days later the player is advised that their opponent had admitted that they knew they had played a wrong ball from rough on the 14th hole and played out the hole with that ball. It is too late for a claim to be made to the Committee.

True or False?

Answer: False. Rule 20.1b(3).

Note: There is no time limit on giving such a ruling where a player had knowingly breached a Rule and had failed to tell their opponent.

14. A player hits their ball in the direction of a course maintenance vehicle with trailer and then plays a provisional ball, in case the original is lost. Another player confirms that the original ball did land in the trailer, which has now been driven off. The player may choose to drop a ball in a relief area based on estimated point right under where the ball last crossed the edge of the trailer, under Rule 15.2b, or play their provisional ball.

True or False?

Answer: True. Exception to Rule 18.3c.

Note: In this circumstance where it is known or virtually certain what happened to the original ball, the player may substitute another ball or treat the provisional ball as their ball in play under penalty of stroke-and-distance.

15. In choosing the back-on-the-line reference point for taking relief for a ball that a player decides is unplayable they must first mark that point with an object, such as a tee.

True or False?

Answer: False. Rule 19.2b.

Note: The player should use an object to mark the back-on-the-line reference point, but if they do not, the reference point is treated as being the point on the line that is the same distance from the hole as where the dropped ball first touched the ground.

16. In match play, if a player becomes aware of a possible Rules breach, their request for an official ruling must be made before any player in the match makes a stroke to begin another hole.

True or False?

Answer: True. Rule 20.1b(2).

Note: If the player does not make the request in this time, a ruling will not be given by a referee or the Committee and the result of the hole(s) in question will stand even if the Rules were applied in the wrong way

17. A player's ball lies at the back of a bunker buried in sand just under the lip, with nowhere to take a penalty drop in the bunker that is not nearer the hole. If the player chooses not to play the ball as it lies their only option is to return to where they last played from under stroke-and-penalty relief.

True or False?

Answer: False. Rule 19.3b.

Note: In this circumstance the player also has the option of taking back-on-the-line relief outside the bunker for a total of two penalty strokes.

18. In stroke play, a player who is uncertain whether they are entitled to relief may play their ball as it lies and then choose whether to play a second ball by taking the possible relief.
True or False?
Answer: False. Rule 20.1c(3).
Note: The player's decision to play two balls must be made before making a stroke. In this circumstance, the score that counts, is the score with the ball played before the player decided to play the second ball, but there is no penalty for playing the second ball.
19. A ball is found by a spectator within three minutes of the player or their caddie having started search for it, but the player is some distance away and the allowed three minutes search time runs out before they have time to positively identify it as their ball. The ball is lost and the player must continue play with another ball.
True or False?
Answer: False. Rule 18.2a(1).
Note: The player is allowed a reasonable time to reach and identify the ball that has been found, even if the identification cannot be confirmed until after the three-minute search time has ended
20. A player may be disqualified by the Committee for not reporting a breach of Rule by another player that they had witnessed, even if they were not that player's marker.
True or False?
Answer: True. Rule 20.1c(2) and Rule 1.2a.
Note: If the player fails to report a breach of Rule by another player, who knows they may be subject to a penalty but are not going to include it on their scorecard, the Committee may disqualify that player under Rule 1.2a if it decides that the failure to report the other player's breach was serious misconduct, contrary to the spirit of the game.
21. If after playing from a teeing area, a player is aware that the only possible place their original ball could be lost is in a penalty area and they play another ball from that teeing area, the second ball is now their ball in play under penalty of stroke-and-distance.
True or False?
Answer: True. Rule 18.3a.
Note: A provisional ball is not allowed for a ball that is known to be in a penalty area and the ball played from where their previous stroke was made becomes the player's ball in play under penalty of stroke-and-distance.
22. After they had returned their scorecard to the Committee, but before the competition had closed, a player realized that they had breached a Rule for which they had not added the penalty to their score for the hole. It is too late for them to avoid disqualification.
True or False?
Answer: False. Rule 20.2e(2).
Note: As the player returned their scorecard before they became aware of the breach of Rule the Committee should add the penalty and accept the amended scorecard.