

Rule 12
Questions and Answers

1. A small stone lies near a player's ball in a bunker. The player carefully lifts the stone but a mound of sand is removed and conditions affecting the stroke are improved. What is the ruling?
 - A. There is no penalty if the actions taken to lift the stone are reasonable.
 - B. There is no penalty if the mound of sand is replaced.
 - C. The player gets the general penalty regardless of whether the sand is replaced.

A. 12.2a/1
2. A player's tee shot lies in a bunker where it is unplayable. The player lifts the ball, intending to take relief according to the unplayable ball Rule but uncertain about which option (Rule 19.3a). He or she touches sand in the bunker with his or her hand to learn information about the next stroke if the player decides to take relief in the bunker. The player then goes back to the teeing area and plays again under penalty of stroke and distance. What is the ruling?
 - A. No penalty since the player took relief outside the bunker.
 - B. No penalty since the player's ball was not in the bunker at the time of touching.
 - C. The player gets a total of three penalty strokes.

C. 12.2b/3
3. In match play, a player's ball lies in a bunker, while his or her opponent's ball lies on the putting green, but farther from the hole; the player plays out of turn and the ball comes to rest on the putting green. The player then rakes the bunker. After the player has raked the bunker, the opponent recalls the stroke and requires the player to replay. What is the ruling?
 - A. There is no penalty.
 - B. There is a one-stroke penalty.
 - C. The player gets the general penalty.

A. 12.2b(3)
4. In match play, a player's ball lies in a fairway bunker. The player makes a stroke at the ball that comes to rest in the same bunker but much closer to the hole. Before the player's next stroke, his or her caddie rakes the area of the previous stroke and other areas nearby to care for the course. What is the ruling?
 - A. There is no penalty.
 - B. The player gets the general penalty.
 - C. The player gets a total penalty of four strokes.

A. 12.2b(2)

5. A player's ball lies in the general area but a bunker is situated between the player's ball and the hole. Which one of the following is correct?
- A. The player may remove loose impediments from the bunker and test the condition of the bunker to determine if it is feasible to putt through it.
 - B. The player may not remove loose impediments from the bunker but he or she may test the condition of the bunker to determine if it is feasible to putt through it.
 - C. The player may not remove loose impediments from the bunker and he or she may not test the condition of the bunker to determine if it is feasible to putt through it.
- A. 12.2a and 12.2b(2)
6. A player takes a practice swing in a bunker where his or her ball lies to see if an animal hole in the same bunker interferes with his or her swing. He or she inadvertently touches a mound of sand that is a part of the animal hole. What is the ruling?
- A. There is no penalty.
 - B. The player can avoid a penalty if the player takes relief from the animal hole.
 - C. The player gets the general penalty.
- C. 12.2b/1
7. In stroke play, a player's ball lies in a bunker. While entering the bunker, the player accidentally kicks a small stone into the bunker. Before the player takes his or her stance, the player removes the stone that affects the conditions near his or her ball. What is the ruling?
- A. There is no penalty.
 - B. There is a one-stroke penalty.
 - C. The player gets the general penalty.
- A. 12.2a
8. A player's ball lies in a bunker. A rake has been left in another part of the same bunker. Before making a stroke at the ball in the bunker, the player retrieves the rake. The player also smooths the footprints that he or she has just created and some other existing footprints in caring for the course. What is the ruling?
- A. The player does not get a penalty as he or she is allowed to smooth the bunker without restriction in caring for the course.
 - B. he player gets the general penalty. The player is not allowed to smooth any footprints until after making his or her stroke at the ball in the bunker.
 - C. There is no penalty provided the smoothing was done to care for the course, such that nothing was done to improve the conditions affecting the player's next stroke and the raking was not to test the condition of the sand to learn more information about the next stroke.
- C. 12.2b(2)