

Rule 17
Questions and Answers

1. A player's ball on a par-3 hole, played from the teeing area across water marked as a yellow penalty area, lies in a bunker behind the putting green. The player makes a stroke from the bunker and the ball comes to rest in the penalty area in front of the putting green. What is the ruling?
- A. The player may drop a ball in the bunker under penalty of stroke and distance.
 - B. The player may drop a ball within two club-lengths of where the ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area, not nearer the hole.
 - C. The player must drop a ball on the teeing area side of the water, taking relief under the yellow penalty area relief Rule (17.1d).

A. 17.1d(1)

2. Which is true for a ball crossing an edge of a penalty area filled with water?
- A. A ball that last crossed the edge of a penalty area is considered in the penalty area even if the flow of water carried the ball out of bounds.
 - B. A ball that last crossed the boundary edge of the course is considered out of bounds even if the flow of water carried the ball into a penalty area all of which is in bounds.
 - C. A ball that last crossed the edge of a red penalty area lies in a red penalty area even if stakes adjacent to where it lies indicate a yellow penalty area.

C. 17.1d(3) and 9.3

3. A player has knowledge or virtual certainty that his or her ball is in a red penalty area but is not found. The player decides to take relief under the lateral relief option of the penalty area relief Rule (17.1d(3)), speculates where the original ball last crossed the edge of the area and drops a ball within two club-lengths from that point. After the ball is dropped, but before the player makes his or her next stroke, another player says that the original ball last crossed the edge 20-yards closer to the hole than where the ball was dropped. The player finds the original ball in the area where the other player said it would be. What is the ruling?
- A. The player must continue play with the dropped ball.
 - B. The player must lift the dropped ball and correctly take relief using the same Rule and any allowed relief option with respect to the correct reference point.
 - C. The player may abandon the dropped ball and must correctly take relief using the same Rule and any allowed relief option with respect to the correct reference point.

C. 17.1d(3)/2

4. Playing from the teeing area of a par-3 hole, a player strikes his or her ball onto bare ground in a penalty area. The player plays the ball from the bare ground over the putting green into some bushes and the ball is not found. The player drops a ball in the penalty area on the bare ground where the player made the last stroke. Deciding not to play again from the penalty area, the player abandons the dropped ball and returns to the teeing area where he or she plays another ball onto the putting green. The player holes the ball after two putts. What is the player score for the hole?
- A. 6.
 - B. 7.
 - C. The player is disqualified.

B. 17.2b/1

5. A player's ball is at rest in the general area in grass on the fairway side of a stake defining a penalty area, close to the stake but not touching it. The player removes the stake and coincidentally the ball falls into the hole where the stake was previously located. The movement of the ball was not attributable to the removal of the stake nor did anyone cause the ball to move. The ball is not visible nor can it be recovered from the hole. What is the ruling?

- A. The ball is lost in the penalty area and the player must take relief under the penalty area Rule.
- B. The hole left by the penalty area stake is ground under repair and the player is allowed relief inside the penalty area according to the ball lost in ground under repair Rule.
- C. The hole left by the penalty area stake is ground under repair and the player is allowed relief outside the penalty area according to the ball lost in ground under repair Rule.

A. 17.3

6. In stroke play, having struck his or her tee shot in the direction of some trees bordering a yellow penalty area, a player briefly searches for the ball in the penalty area but does not find it. Without knowledge or virtual certainty that the ball lies in the penalty area, the player drops a ball behind the penalty area (about 55-yards forward of the teeing area) according to the yellow penalty area Rule and plays it. The original ball is then found inside the penalty area within three minutes of beginning search. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty; the original ball remains the ball in play.
- B. There is a penalty of one stroke according to the lost ball Rule and an additional penalty of two strokes for a breach of that Rule; the original ball is lost and the player must continue with the ball dropped under the penalty area Rule.
- C. There is a penalty of one stroke according to the lost ball Rule and an additional penalty of two strokes for a serious breach of that Rule. The player must abandon both balls previously played, return to the teeing area and put a ball into play.

C. 17.1c, 17.7b(3) and Serious Breach Definition

7. A player's ball lies in a penalty area. Before taking a stance to play the ball, the player makes a practice swing, touching the ground with a club that incidentally removes loose impediments near the ball. The player also breaks the branch of a small shrub with a hand, improving the area of the intended swing. What is the ruling?

- A. There is a total penalty of six strokes.
- B. There is a total penalty of four strokes.
- C. There is a total penalty of two strokes.

C. 17.1b and 8.1a