

Rule 18
Questions and Answers

1. A player's tee shot on a par-3 hole is thought to come to rest in an area of tall grass. The player finds a ball, lifts it without marking it, decides that it is a stray ball and discards it. The player has second thoughts, returns to the spot where the stray ball was discarded and discovers that it was his or her ball in play. The player makes the next stroke from the teeing area, with the result that the tee shot comes to rest on the putting green. The player holes the putt. What is the player's score for the hole?
 - A. 4.
 - B. 5.
 - C. 6.

B. 18.1/2
2. A player plays a provisional ball from the teeing area that appears to come to rest in the same general location as the original ball. The player discovers the original ball out of bounds and cannot find the provisional ball. What is the ruling?
 - A. The player must return to the teeing area where he or she will be making his or her third stroke.
 - B. The player must return to the teeing area where he or she will be making his or her fifth stroke.
 - C. The Committee must decide since this situation is not covered by the Rules.

B. 18.3c(2)
3. After searching for his or her tee shot for nearly two minutes, a player returns to the teeing area and tees another ball preparing to play under the lost ball Rule. Before the player can play the ball, a coach finds a ball within the three-minute search period that is believed to be the player's ball. Neither the coach nor the player is able to identify it before the search period has elapsed. What is the ruling?
 - A. The player is allowed a reasonable time to get to the ball and to identify it; if the player identifies the ball as his or hers, it is not a "lost ball" even though the identification takes place after the three-minute search period has elapsed.
 - B. Since the player has teed another ball under the lost ball Rule, the original ball is lost under penalty of stroke and distance; the original ball must be abandoned and the teed ball played.
 - C. If the player is unable to identify the ball before the three-minute search period has elapsed, the original ball is lost and the player must continue play under the lost ball Rule.

A. 18.2a(1)
4. After a search of three minutes in an area of ground under repair, the player's group decides that there is not knowledge or virtual certainty that the player's tee shot is lost in the area. As he or she starts walking back to play from where the previous stroke was made nearly 250-yards away, the original ball is found in the ground under repair. His or her group agree that the player may put a ball into play without penalty using the ball lost in ground under repair Rule rather than with penalty of stroke and distance under the lost ball Rule. The player drops a ball according to the ball lost in ground under repair Rule, plays the ball, completes the hole and plays from the next teeing area. What is the ruling?
 - A. There is no penalty.
 - B. There is a penalty of two strokes.
 - C. The player is disqualified.

C. 18.2b, Known or Virtually Certain/2, and 14.7b(1)

5. Which is TRUE regarding a provisional ball?

- A. It becomes the ball in play if it is played from a place where the original ball is found or nearer the hole than that place.
- B. It becomes the ball in play if it is played from nearer the hole than where the original ball is estimated to be.
- C. If a provisional ball is abandoned because the original ball was found before becoming lost, all strokes with that provisional ball before it was abandoned (including strokes made and any penalty strokes from playing that ball) do not count.

B. Rule 18.3

Answer C. is incorrect because penalty strokes from (solely) from playing that ball do not count

6. A player's ball comes to rest on another part of the course and beyond a public road that is defined as out of bounds. What is the ruling?

- A. The Committee must decide.
- B. The ball lies out of bounds since it crossed a public road that is out of bounds.
- C. The ball remains in play unless a Local Rule specifies otherwise.

C. 18.2a(2)