

Rule 20
Questions and Answers

1. In match play on the putting green of the 1st hole, the referee by mistake advises one of the players that he or she gets the general penalty and both players lift their balls. The referee then learns of his or her mistake. Which is true?

- A. The referee's decision is final and may not be corrected.
- B. If neither player has made a stroke from the teeing area of the 2nd hole, the ruling will be corrected under the Rules.
- C. The Committee must decide.

B. 20.2d See Committee Procedures, Section 6C

2. In stroke play, uncertain whether his or her ball lies in a hole made by an animal, a player decides that he or she will play a second ball and chooses to score with that ball. The player plays the original ball as it lies onto the putting green; the second ball is played according to the abnormal ground conditions Rule but is struck into a penalty area. The player picks up the second ball after several strokes in the penalty area, scores six with the original ball, completes the round, and reports to the Committee. The Committee determines that the original ball lay in a hole made by an animal and that the player was allowed to take relief. What does the player score for the hole?

- A. 6.
- B. 8.
- C. The player is disqualified.

C. 20.1c(3)/5

3. In match play, which is false about Rules issues during the round?

- A. The players in a match may agree how to decide a Rules issue even if it turns out to have been wrong under the Rules, so long as the players did not deliberately agree to ignore the Rules.
- B. Any agreement between the players on how to decide a Rules issue is not conclusive if it turns out to have been wrong under the Rules.
- C. A player may get a ruling from a referee or the Committee only if the player both tells the opponent about the ruling request and makes the request in time.

B. 20.1b

4. In stroke play, which is false regarding Rules issues during the round?

- A. The players are encouraged to help each other with how to apply the Rules, but they have no right to decide a Rules issue by agreement.
- B. Any such agreement the players may reach must be followed by the players and must be honored by a referee or the Committee.
- C. A player should raise any Rules issue with the Committee before returning his or her scorecard.

B. 20.1c(1)

5. In stroke play, a player's original ball is seen coming to rest in a penalty area but is not found after a search of two minutes. The player plays another ball by taking penalty relief (Rule 17.1d) and then the original ball is found in a playable spot inside the penalty area. Unsure of what to do, the player decides to play the original ball as a second ball, choosing to score with that ball. The player holes both balls and reports to the Committee. What is the ruling?

A. The score with the original ball counts without penalty since it was found within three minutes of search.

B. The score with the substituted ball counts but the player gets the general penalty for playing the original ball when it was out of play.

C. The score with the substituted ball counts. There is no penalty for playing the original ball as a second ball.

C. 20.1c(3)/1

6. In match play, at the conclusion of the 18th hole, a player, by mistake, tells his or her opponent the wrong number of strokes taken that causes the opponent to concede the match. The right number of strokes would result in a tied match. After the result is final the player realizes his or her mistake and tells his or her opponent the right number of strokes. Then, the opponent requests a ruling. What is the ruling?

A. The Committee should award the match to the opponent.

B. The Committee should require that the match be continued at the 19th hole.

C. The Committee should determine that the match stands as played.

C. 20.1b(3)

7. In match play without a referee, a player requests a ruling after the result of the match is final. In which of the following may the Committee give a ruling?

A. The opponent breached the Rules by giving the player the wrong number of strokes taken and knew of the breach before the result of the match was final.

B. The opponent breached the Rules by failing to tell the player about a penalty before the result of the match was final.

C. The opponent breached the Rules by giving the player the wrong number of strokes taken before the result of the match was final.

A. 20.1b(3)

8. At the 3rd hole of the first round of a 54-hole event, a player plays a wrong ball from a bunker and discovers his or her mistake after playing it again outside the bunker. The player corrects his or her error by playing the original ball, reports the facts to a Committee member and is told by mistake that there is no penalty because the wrong ball was initially played from a bunker. The player returns the scorecard without a penalty on the 3rd hole. During the second round, the Committee retrospectively adds two penalty strokes to the first-round score. At the request of the team coach, the Committee reviews its decision. What is the ruling?

A. There should be no penalty; the decision is reversed and the score returned by the player on the scorecard stands.

B. The decision to add the two penalty strokes is sustained.

C. The player is disqualified for a scorecard violation.

B. 20.2d See Committee Procedures, Section 6C