

Rules Evening – 14 January 2016

Rule Changes

Change	Rule	Implication
Clarification on the definition of <i>ball in play</i>	Definition	If ball has been replaced or not lifted and the marker is there, it is still a ball in play and normal rules apply
Clarification on equipment	Definition	Objects, such as rakes, are deemed your <i>equipment</i> if you are holding it
Wrong score on hole	6-6d	no longer disqualified if find out something you didn't know you had incurred. Just apply the penalty
Anchoring the club	14-1b	No longer able to hold club directly against you or use an anchor point
Ball moving after address	18-2b	Has been removed – only rule that applies is if you caused it to move
Doubt as to procedure clarified	3-3	Amended to provide more guidance on what the player and committee to do but no actual change to the sense of the rule

Rules Quiz

The following quiz relates to the rules of golf effective 2016 and does not include local rules.

True or False

		True	False	Rule
1	A player may move loose impediments, eg leaves, in a bunker to look for their ball	X		20
2	A ball overhanging the edge of a bunker but not touching the sand is in the bunker		X	Definition
3	A ball is in a water hazard when it touches the outside edge of a stake defining the water hazard	X		Definition
4	A ball is visible in casual water but a player cannot retrieve it to identify it, although everyone saw it go in. As it cannot be identified the player must treat his ball as lost.		X	Decision 25-1/1
5	To identify a ball in the rough a player may rotate the ball in place without marking its position, providing they do not move it off its spot		X	12-2
6	A player may not rake footprints and other irregularities in a bunker that are on the line of play, even if the ball is not in the bunker	X		Decision 13-2/28
7	The wall or lip of a bunker, not covered with grass, is part of the bunker	X		Definition
8	The ball lies in a bunker that is completely covered by casual water. Bert may avoid a penalty drop outside the bunker by dropping at the least deep part of the water, not nearer the hole	X		Decision 25-1/b
9	In match play, before starting the match the player declares a handicap of 9. After 2 holes, the player remembers his handicap was actually 7. The opponent's score is adjusted by +2 holes.		X	6-2a Disqualified
10	In stroke play, a player starts on the 10 th rather than the 1 st . The player is disqualified	X		Decision 3/2
11	A player's ball is at rest in a bunker. As they walk into the bunker a twig is blown from a tree and comes to rest over their ball. They may remove the twig without penalty		X	Decision 13-4/18

		True	False	Rule
12	Prior to chipping to the hole a player may repair damage made by a ball to the fringe of the putting green that is two club-lengths in front of where their ball lies and on their line of play.		X	Decision 13-2/0.5
13	Before dropping a ball under the Rules a player may sweep away twigs, leaves and loose soil with their hand to clear the area of drop.		X	Definition
14	A player may not take relief from footprints made by a burrowing animal in a bunker.	X		Decision 25/19.5
15	If you cannot find a ball that is known to have come to rest in a lateral water hazard there are options to drop a ball under penalty of one stroke on either side of the hazard.	X		Rule 26-1c(ii)

Multiple Choice

1	A player's ball is sitting amongst some leaves in a bunker. On the back stroke the club brushes against some of the leaves. What is the ruling? a) No penalty b) 1 shot penalty c) 2 shot penalty	C	Decision 13-4/33
2	In stroke play, a player breaks a young tree, situated out of bounds, which interferes with her swing. What is the ruling? a) No penalty b) 1 shot penalty c) 2 shot penalty d) Disqualification	C	Decision 13-2/19
3	In a stroke play competition, the ball is lying outside of the bunker and on his line of play is a large branch lying in the bunker. The player removes the branch from the bunker. What is the ruling: a) 2 shot penalty for removing a loose impediment from a bunker and has to replace the branch b) 2 shot penalty for removing a loose impediment from a bunker but does not have to replace the branch c) 2 shot penalty for improving the line of play, and has to replace the branch d) No penalty because loose impediments can be removed from a bunker if the ball is not in the bunker	D	23-1

4	<p>A ball is replaced on the putting green but the marker is not yet lifted. A gust of wind blows the ball away from the hole. What is the ruling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The ball must be replaced back where the marker is as the ball was not back in play b) The ball must be played from where it ends up as the ball was deemed to be back in play 	B	18-2
5	<p>A player moves leaves in a bunker to find/identify his ball and in doing so moves his ball. What is the ruling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The ball must be replaced with no penalty b) The player incurs a 1 shot penalty and must replace the ball c) The player must play the ball from where it comes to rest with a 1 shot penalty d) The player must play the ball from where it comes to rest with no penalty 	B	12-1b
6	<p>A player does not realise that his ball is lying out of bounds and he plays it onto the green. His fellow competitor saw it and said he must go back to the tee to play again. What is the ruling?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Player plays his 3rd stroke from the tee b) Player plays his 5th stroke from the tee c) Player plays his 5th stroke on the green d) Player is DQ'd 	B	Decision 15/6
7	<p>Players ball comes to rest on a bridge that is within the margins of a water hazard. Which of the following is correct?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Player must play from the bridge without grounding his club b) Player may play the ball as it lies and ground his club on the bridge or he may take relief from the water hazard under penalty c) Player may take relief from the bridge, without penalty, as the bridge is an immovable obstruction d) Player may play off the bridge or declare his ball unplayable under penalty of one stroke 	B	Decision 13-4/30

8	<p>In stroke play, player putts his ball just as a gust of wind blows a paper bag in front of the hole. He quickly moves forward and removes the bag to stop the ball hitting it. What is the ruling?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) There is no penalty and the putt stands b) Penalty of one stroke and the putt stands c) Penalty of two strokes and the putt stands d) Penalty of two strokes and he must replay the putt 	C	Rule 24-1
9	<p>Player replaces ball where it was marked, and it stays at rest for several seconds. As he addresses the ball, it rolls down into the hole. What is the ruling?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Player must replace the ball where it was marked b) Player must replace the ball where it was marked and incurs a one shot penalty c) Player is deemed to have holed out with his previous stroke d) Player is deemed to have holed out and incurs a one shot penalty 	C	Decision 20-3d/1
10	<p>In match play, player asks opponent to lift ball as it interferes with her play. Instead the opponent plays the ball. What is the ruling?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Player wins the hole as opponent played out of turn b) No penalty, opponent's stroke stands and player must now play c) No penalty, opponent must replace ball and play again d) Player may ask opponent to replay ball or may let the shot stand. 	D	Rule 10-1/c

Bit of Fun

*After celebrating much too enthusiastically on New Year's Eve, George arrives at the first tee for his New Year's Day match against his arch rival, Bill. Things don't go well for him and unbelievably (!) **he is 7 holes down without having struck a ball**, when he concedes the match. George has not conceded any stroke or hole and has not breached a Local Rule or Condition of Competition. Explain how this could possibly have occurred under the Rules of Golf.*

George arrives 2 minutes after his start time and loses the 1st hole

Rule 6-3a – in match play, if a player arrives at his starting point, ready to play, within five minutes after his starting time, the penalty for failure to start on time is loss of the first hole. **1 Down**

George and Bill walk to the par-3, 2nd hole where Bills tees-off. His ball bounces on the putting green and rolls straight into the hole for a hole-in-one. After congratulating Bill, George is understandably flustered and whiffs (fresh air) his ball, thereby losing the 2nd hole. **2 Down**

Bill tees-off at the 3rd hole and George goes to get his driver from his golf bag. He sees that he has forgotten to remove the two new clubs that he was given for Christmas (from China), a driver with a massive 480cc clubhead and a putter with a tailored grip with indentations indicating where the hands should be placed. When he admits that he has more than 14 clubs in his bag Bill advises him that he is penalised two holes for carrying more than 14 clubs on holes 1 and 2;

Rule 4-4a – A player must not start a round with more than 14 clubs. At the conclusion of the hole at which the breach is discovered, the state of the match is adjusted by deducting one hole for each hole at which a breach occurred, with a maximum deduction of two holes **4 Down**

George is now 4 holes down, but worse is to come. Bill takes a good look at George's Christmas presents and quickly recognises that the driver clubhead is larger than is permitted by Appendix II, 4b (460cc plus a tolerance of 10cc). Also, the indentations on the putter grip make it non-conforming, because the cross-section of the grip must not have concavity, must be symmetrical and must remain generally similar throughout the length of the grip, Appendix II, 3. Another loss of two holes for George.

Rule 4-1a - The player's clubs must conform to the provisions, specifications and interpretations set forth in Appendix II. At the conclusion of the hole at which the breach is discovered, the state of the match is adjusted by deducting one hole for each hole at which a breach occurred, with a maximum deduction of two holes. **6 Down**

As you can imagine, at 6 down George is not thinking clearly as he tees his ball. As he addresses it he realises that he does not have room to make a stroke and, instead of moving his ball, he moves the tee marker away from the area of his intended stance, incurring a loss of hole penalty.

Rule 11-2 - if a player moves a tee-marker for the purpose of avoiding interference with his stance, the area of his intended swing or his line of play he incurs the penalty for a breach of Rule 13-2. **7 Down**

So, George is now 7 holes down on the teeing ground of the 3rd hole, without having hit a ball. It is obviously not his day and perhaps we should forgive him for conceding the match after playing just one fresh air shot!