

SCGA Rules Clinic Topics

Drifted Fairway shots

Out of Bounds - how do you take relief? Two stroke penalty. How much time can you look for your ball... 5 minutes or 3 minutes? This rule changed to now you have 3 minutes from the time you start to look for your ball. If you take longer than 3 minutes you can incur a one stroke penalty for delaying the game.

Red stakes - How do you take relief if it lands in an environmental area? Straight line back to outside of the area, mark with a tee and use two club lengths for a half-moon area to drop the ball or go way back in a straight line to the pin. This is a one stroke penalty.

You tee off and you think it might be in a hazard but not sure, so you say " I am going to hit a provisional" you go up and find your ball in the hazard... which ball is in play? The answer is the one on the fairway. You have exercised your first option by hitting a provisional and must play that one. If the ball isn't in the hazard then you can pickup your provisional and hit your first ball.

Bush - Ball on cart path nearest point of relief is where there is a bush (up against the cart path) no room for one club length relief. What do you do? You must hit the ball on the cart path or take a one stroke penalty. You cannot take relief from the other side of the cart path for a free drop.

Cart Path relief - no penalty stroke one club length relief

Right handed golfer -example of the ball on the left middle and right side of the cart path

Left Handed golfer - example of the ball on the left, middle and right side of the cart path.

Substitute a Ball - Can you substitute a ball if it lands on the cart path? Yes.

Sand Traps

Unplayable Lie -Imbedded ball up under the lip of the sand trap. Move the ball back in line with the pin in the trap. One stroke penalty. Lift the ball out of the sand trap onto grass. Two stroke penalty.

Footprint - lift rake and place. No cannot do. One stroke penalty. If it is an animal hole created in the bunker and your ball is in the hole, you can move it out of the bunker for a free drop.

Loose impediments - Can you remove Rocks, Branches, rake etc. - Yes no penalty. If the ball moves while removing an impediment - it is one stroke penalty.

Two balls close to one another - one ball slightly in-front of the other. Can the first player ask the other player to mark their ball in the sand trap? Yes. What happens if the condition of the marked ball is altered because of the first players hit? Recreate the original condition and place the ball. Be careful not to clean the ball it must be left in the same condition.

Standing Water - Can you take relief without a penalty and if so where. Yes, no penalty stroke. One club length from the nearest point of relief.

Grounding club in the sand - Can your club head touch the sand without incurring a one stroke penalty? When you are addressing the ball or taking a practise swing you are NOT allowed to touch the sand. This is a one stroke penalty.

Three clubs to the sand trap - Choose one and lay the other two in the sand trap? Yes you are allowed to place or throw the extra clubs in the sand bunker.

Water Hazard

One hit into the water Lands in the middle of the water hazard.

Second shot - travels halfway across some land then over more water and hits the side of the green area but rolls back into the water. Where do you take relief? What are your options? Relief is from where the ball last travelled over land. One stroke penalty.

Putting Green

Marking your ball - Are you allowed to mark your ball on the side and/or in front of the ball or must it always be marked behind the ball in line with the pin? You can mark the ball anywhere as long as it is right next to the ball. (14.1a/2)

A man made obstruction on the fringe of the green (sprinkler head) - Can you get relief? Yes as long as this obstruction is within one club length of the ball and the player must take the nearest point of relief for no penalty.

Hitting the wrong green - If you landed on the wrong putting green or your stance will be on the wrong putting green you can take one club length relief with no penalty. Example: When playing the South course some new players may mistake the West 9 green as the South 9 green .

Player assistance - Is it considered assisting a player if you ask the person about to putt: "Should I span my marker to the right? Is this a one stroke penalty?".

Miscellaneous scenerios questions

1. Embedded ball clarification - no penalty stroke for relief. Examples of an embedded ball. Divots are not embedded.
2. Unsure of the proper way to deal with a situation - does the player have an option to play a second ball as well, finishing with the first ball to the green and then check with the golf pro at the course to determine correct practise and take that score for that hole? Yes in stroke play, however - in match play it must be decided prior to continuing. You do have an option to hit a second ball in stroke play because in most cases there aren't enough course Marshalls to help determine the options so in this case you play two balls.
3. At the Tee Box - There is at two stroke penalty if you hit outside the tee markers in stroke play but in match play there is no penalty, just hit another ball.
4. What is the maximum distance you can set up a tee behind the tee markers? - Two club lengths.