

Issue #1 - 2012 May



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RULES NEWSLETTER TO INCLUDE NATIONAL CONTENT



As Club and State Level Rules Accreditation is now part of a national program, the rules newsletter is to be published quarterly and will in the future contain input from Golf Australia and the State Associations.

The first edition including national content should be made available in the middle of the year and will be distributed electronically to a nominated e-mail address.

Some of the content of this newsletter has been taken from the Golf Vic March 2012 newsletter, which was produced as a draft of the first quarterly GA newsletter (now delayed). The Victorians have kindly given permission to use some content from their newsletter.

GOLF NSW NEWS

The **Golf NSW Rules and Amateur Status Committee** are currently engaged in the following projects:

- Reviewing and amending the State Level accreditation study guide.
- Reviewing one of two State Level examination papers.
- Compiling proposed amendments to the Rules of Golf and Rules of Amateur Status for submission to GA as part of the 4 yearly rules review cycle. Endorsed proposals will be forwarded by GA to the R&A.
- Updating resources for the newly adopted Competition Management Seminar for club Captains and Match Committees. The inaugural course was conducted at Cowra Golf Club in March and the next course is scheduled for 11 May at Penrith Golf Club.
- Developing a course program and resources for the proposed 2012 Golf NSW Advanced Referees Course (see separate item below).

The GOLF NSW - Golf Department

- [Graeme Phillipson](#) - General Manager, Golf
- [Rod Clark](#) - Manager, Rules, Handicapping & Golf Development
- [Christy Collier](#) - Events Manager
- [Nicole Bessant](#) - Events Coordinator
- [Adam Dransfield](#) - Course Rating & Golf Administrator
- [Khan Pullen](#) - High Performance Manager
- [Julia Skamperle](#) - Events Administrator
- [Jon Shineberg](#) - Administrator - Golf Events

Graeme is responsible for managing the Golf Department which includes all of the golfing activities, events, handicapping, course rating and rules etc. **Christy** is responsible for ensuring that all of the events run smoothly, and is ably assisted by **Nicole Bessant** and **Julia Skamperle**. **Jon Shineberg** is also involved with our events team, focusing on Pennant golf and Senior Order of Merit events.

Rod Clark is our main point of call when it comes to Rules or Amateur Status queries, while **Adam Dransfield** has been particularly busy in the past couple of years with the re-rating of all courses across NSW. **Khan Pullen** has also recently been appointed to the position of High Performance Manager and is responsible for managing the boys, girls, men's and women's high performance programs.

In regard to a rules query, Rod Clark should be contacted, or Graeme Phillipson in Rod's absence. They will then deal with the query themselves, or in some cases it will be necessary to defer to the Chairman of the Rules Committee, **Frank Gal**, or Golf Australia, and in some cases the R&A.

GOLF AUSTRALIA NEWS



As you would be aware, our rules accreditation programs are now under the auspices of Golf Australia, so any changes to be made need to be authorised by the relevant GA committee. The following significant decisions have been made by the GA Rules Committee.

Rules Poster

A poster illustrating some of the major changes to the rules from 1 January this year has been adopted by GA and all state associations for distribution across Australia. The poster should be in clubs about now.

Rules Accreditation

GA recognises that our rules seminar presentations need revamping — as many of you who have undertaken the Club Level will attest; it can run too long! So, Golf NSW, Golf Vic and Golf SA are reviewing and revising it as appropriate.



The Club Level Study Guide has been updated by Golf NSW with significant input from all members of its Rules and Amateur Status Committee. The Club Level PowerPoint presentation is being updated by the author, Alan Wickenton, a State Level representative, from Churchill Park, Victoria.

The existing Club Level papers have been reviewed and amended by Golf Victoria personnel. The GA Rules of Golf Sub-Committee is working on producing a database of exam papers and the Golf NSW Committee is actively assisting with this project. We would welcome any of you aspiring test question writers, such as teachers or ex-teachers, to send us multiple choice questions, preferably based on real incidents. If you are able to help, note that Club Level questions are restricted to those which may be answered by reference to the rules book only — questions related to the decisions book are more relevant to State Level accreditation. But if you have such questions, please submit them too, as we are developing an item bank of suitable questions. All questions should be submitted to Rod Clark (rod.clark@golfnsw.org).

Referee Registration Requirements

Now for some really good news! GA has decided to revoke the requirement of referees paying a fee to reregister annually. Sending newsletters electronically will reduce costs considerably and enable the view that people who are interested and kind enough to donate their time to adjudicating shouldn't also have to pay for the privilege. The initial fee for sitting the Club Level exam in NSW will be set at \$20 for on-line registration and \$25 for those submitting a written registration form to provide some support to state associations and partially offsetting the costs of conducting the rules accreditation programs.

Moreover, for State Level accredited people, there will no longer be the requirement to accumulate 400 points across a rolling 4-year period. Once you have gained State Level, you will retain your accreditation until you inform us you no longer wish to be part of the program. But we will be encouraging State Level accredited people to continue to attend refresher seminars when they are offered.

2012 GOLF NSW ADVANCED REFEREES COURSE

In lieu of conducting a State Level Seminar in 2012, Golf NSW will focus its efforts on providing some existing referees the opportunity to enhance their refereeing skills at a course to be conducted towards the latter part of the year, perhaps in September/October.

The course will give attendees exposure to international best practice procedures. Golf NSW will seek expressions of interest by the end of June from active referees.



FLOW CHART FOR DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICE

The R&A provides a detailed explanation regarding use of Distance Measuring Devices. The R&A also provides a flowchart designed to assist golfers and/or Officials to determine the status of a particular device for use as a DMD - when the local rule is in place. [[Read More](#)]

GOLF NSW WEBSITE RULES QUIZ



For anyone who has not recently been to the Golf NSW website please be aware of the new and improved quiz available. Each month there are 10 questions and immediately you submit your answers you will have the answers and explanations revealed. May's quiz can be accessed at: <http://www.golfnsw.org/default.aspx?s=rules-quiz-2012-05>

Also be aware the R&A and USGA websites also have interactive quizzes available at no charge.

RULES QUIZ – This newsletter

In this newsletter, rather than use our regular format for the quiz, we will use the Golf Vic quiz for a change of pace. This quiz will concentrate almost entirely on Match Play. There will be a mix of questions, some of which you should not need the rules book to answer (but you should always check before ruling), and others will probably demand you check in the decisions book.

Answers to quiz questions can be found on latter pages of this newsletter.

Section A: No rules book allowed

In this section, you should not need the rules book. Please give the rule number, and, if possible the sub-section. Also, please give the penalty if appropriate. **The situations are all in match play.** The point of this section is to enable you to go to the correct rule straightaway when confronted with a situation on the course.

Question		Rule	Penalty
1	Striking the ball more than once.		
2	Ball in motion deflected by another ball at rest.		
3	Provisional ball.		
4	Touching the line of putt.		
5	More than one caddie.		
6	Order of play, playing out of turn.		
7	Unplayable ball.		
8	Loose impediment, ball moved.		
9	Wrong information.		
10	Identifying ball.		
11	Wrong ball.		
12	Touching sand in bunker.		
13	Ask advice from spectator.		
14	Ball interfering with play.		
15	Immovable obstruction.		

Section B: Consequences

Here is a new section, which I call '*Consequences*' — match play. I often think it is a good idea to follow-up a rule with the penalty or action which must be followed.

As an example:

Rule 18-2a, Ball at rest moved by player: one stroke penalty and replace ball; failure to replace ball, two stroke penalty — playing from a wrong place, Rule 20-7.

1. Ball enters lateral water hazard.
2. Caddie remains behind player close to line of play while player plays stroke.
3. Player uses a tee that is 108 mm (4 1/4") long.
4. Ball in motion deflected by player's caddie.
5. Ball at rest moved by opponent's caddie other than during search.
6. Ball comes to rest on towel on ground through the green.
7. Ball in GUR in bunker.

8. Ball unplayable in bunker.
9. Ball played from in front of tee markers.
10. 10. Ball picked up to identify it, but not marked.

Section C: Referee on duty — Sharpen up!

1. In a match, A believing that he has won a hole, picks up the coin marking the position of his opponent B's ball. In fact B had a putt to halve the hole. Should the picking up of B's ball-marker be considered a concession of B's next stroke?
2. In a match between A and B, A putts put of turn. B incorrectly claims that A loses the hole for putting out of turn. A protests, but concedes the hole. Later, A, having consulted a rules book, lodges an official protest with the Committee. How should the Committee rule?
3. In a match, A cannot find his ball and after a two minute search suggests to B, his opponent, that they move on to the next hole. On the way to the next tee A's ball is found and A withdraws his suggestion to move on to the next hole and play is resumed. Before A plays his ball, B plays a stroke with a wrong ball. You are called.
4. In a match, A holes his putt and, thinking he has won the match, shakes hands with B and picks up B's ball. B protests as he still has a putt to win the hole and keep the match alive. A claims B conceded the match by shaking hands and letting his ball be picked up. You are called.
5. Player A's ball has come to rest in the branches of a tree which is overhanging a lateral water hazard. Player A wants to declare the ball unplayable and drop within two club lengths on the edge of the water hazard. His opponent Player B objects and you are called.
6. Player A's ball is in the rough and a long trailing blackberry strand lies next to his ball. He is not sure if it is loose or attached, so he moves it several feet away and finds it is attached. He then plays his stroke and Player B immediately calls for you.
7. In a match, Player A's ball was in a bunker and as he walked to his ball, with his foot he moved some loose impediments, which had been blown into the bunker. Player B immediately called for you.
8. In a match, Player A's ball lies in a bunker and a rake has been left in another part of the bunker. Prior to making his stroke in the bunker, the player retrieves the rake. Having lifted the rake, the player smooths the footprints that he has just created, and some others in the process. Player B calls for the referee immediately.
9. In a match, Player A declares his ball unplayable and drops it within two club-lengths of where the ball originally lay, under Rule 28c. After the ball has been at rest it rolls out of bounds. Player A insists he is entitled to redrop the ball. Player B rather smugly calls for the referee!
10. In a match, Player A's ball lies through the green and he deems his ball Unplayable. In proceeding under Rule 28b or Rule 28c, the player drops his ball in a hazard. Player B cannot believe his luck and calls for the referee!

Section D: Odds and Sods

With some of these you should be able to go directly to the appropriate rule, while others may require the decisions book.

1. A player asks the referee if he can remove a divot which is immediately behind his ball.
2. In an early morning Pennant match, a player removes dew from the line of putt with his towel.
3. A player rotates his ball to align the line on the ball with his intended line of putt.
4. In stroke play, a competitor's ball was moved by the wind. He replaced his ball before playing it.
5. A player's caddie deliberately stops a ball dropped by the player. Is there a penalty?

And another thing – "immediately?"

There has been debate about the use of the word 'immediately' in the new Definition of Addressing the Ball which has now been clarified by the governing bodies as follows: *April 11, 2012 St. Andrews, Scotland – The R&A and The United States Golf Association (USGA) today issued a clarification of the new definition of "Addressing the Ball" with respect to the revised edition of the Rules of Golf, which took effect worldwide on January 1, 2012. The clarification to the new definition of "Addressing the Ball," referenced on page 22 of the Rules of Golf, deals specifically with the phrase "immediately in front of or immediately behind the ball." In its continued review of the Rules, the USGA and The R&A have provided the following explanation to further clarify the new definition:*

- *If the golf club is grounded "closely" behind the ball in a position where it would be customary for a player to ground the club prior to making a particular stroke, then the club is considered to have been grounded "immediately behind the ball."*
- *The same interpretation of the definition would apply if a player grounds his or her golf club "closely" in front of the ball prior to making a stroke.*

R&A Executive Director of Rules and Equipment Standards David Rickman said an additional explanation to the definition of "Addressing the Ball" was necessary given the changes made to Rule 18-2b. "We recognize that even after an extensive review of the Rules there can be specific areas that benefit from greater clarity and understanding, and we hope that this explanation will assist players and referees."

What's in a name?

Amended Definition of referee

There have been two significant changes to the Definition of a Referee, and a related change to the Rules.

1. Under the new Definition, anyone on the course for the purpose of assisting with the rules is now known as a 'Referee', so the term Rules Official is no longer relevant. This has been common practice on many professional tours for some time. So we now have 'Roving Referees' and the new Rules of Golf don't, and probably R&A documents in the future won't, refer to rules officials/rovers/committee members.

Referees assigned to accompany individual matches were previously the only people known as Referees.

2. As a consequence of the new Exception in the Definition, the functions of a roving referee in match play events, e.g. Pennant, are reduced. The previous advice in the R&A book "*Guidance on Running a Competition*", recommending a player's rules breach unseen by the opponent be reported to the opponent who then had the option of making a claim, is now obsolete and such intervention is not now appropriate.

The R&A recently advised Golf Australia:

'The change to the Definition of Referee does amend the R&A's previous policy with regards to the roving committee member (now referee) in match play. So, it is now the case that the roving referee should not get involved in a case where he sees a player breach the rules and knows that the opponent has not observed the breach. This eliminates a difference in policy that we had previously with the USGA. We accepted the USGA view that, without a knowledge of what had gone before in the match (e.g. the player may have watched his opponent do a similar thing and therefore assumed it was okay), it was dangerous for the roving referee to get involved in view of the principle that the players have to protect their own rights.'

It is recommended that roving referees watch from a distance but make themselves visible. Only rule when requested, except in relation to Rules 1.3, 6.7 or 33.7. If a spectator reports a breach, advise them of your restricted authority and leave it to them to advise the opponent.

It would seem prudent and appropriate for clubs to remind all their match play competitors that it is their responsibility to look after their own interests with respect to the rules when there is no accompanying Referee.

- Remember that Referees accompanying a match cannot disregard any breach they see or that is reported to them. This has not changed. The new Note 1 to Rule 2.5 (which was the recently withdrawn Decision 2.5/1), which states that 'A player may disregard a breach of the Rules by an opponent ...', is operative in match play if an accompanying Referee is not aware of a breach (tut! tut!), and also in any match without accompanying Referee.

Please see below for Quiz Answers

ANSWERS TO QUIZ QUESTIONS

Section A: No rules book

Question	Rule	Penalty
1	14-4	One stroke
2	19-5a	Nil
3	27-2	Nil
4	16-1	Loss of hole
5	6-4	Loss of hole (maximum of 2 holes)
6	10-1c	Opponent may immediately cancel stroke.
7	28	One stroke penalty
8	23-1	One stroke penalty under 18-2a
9	9-2b	Loss of hole.
10	12-2	One stroke penalty.
11	15-3	Loss of hole.
12	13-4	Loss of hole.
13	8-1	Loss of hole.
14	22-2	Lifted without being asked, one stroke penalty under 18-2a
15	24-2	No penalty.

Section B: Consequences

- Rule 26-1.** One stroke penalty. May play a ball under 27-1 stroke and distance (also 20-5); drop a ball behind hazard keeping spot in line; two club-lengths from where ball last crossed the margin and also, a point equidistant on the opposite margin of the hazard. Ball may be lifted, cleaned or substituted.
- Rule 14-2.** Loss of hole.
- Rule 11-1.** Disqualification — see Appendix IV (maximum length: 101.6 mm).
- Rule 19-2.** One stroke penalty and ball played as it lies.
- Rule 18-3b.** One stroke penalty to opponent and ball replaced.
- Rule 24-1b.** Ball lifted, obstruction removed and then ball dropped. Ball may be cleaned.
- Rule 25-1b (ii)(a)(b).** No penalty, one club-length from nearest point of relief in the bunker, not nearer the hole. Or, under penalty of one stroke, outside the bunker, keeping the spot where the ball originally lay in line with the hole. The ball may be cleaned under 25-1b.
- Rule 28.** One stroke penalty. Three options: (a) stroke and distance; (b) in the bunker, drop a ball behind keeping original spot in line with hole; (c) in the bunker, within two club-lengths, not nearer the hole.
NOTE: the only way out of a bunker if you declare the ball **unplayable** is stroke and distance.
- Rule 11-4.** No penalty; ball may be immediately recalled by opponent.
- Rule 12-2.** One stroke penalty and replace ball. If not replaced then player incurs general penalty under 12-2 (2 strokes or loss of hole).

Section C: Referee on duty

1. **Decision 2-4/5.** No. In Equity (because Rule 18-3b only refers to a ball, not a ball-marker, Rule 1-4 is invoked) A should be penalised one stroke. Therefore, under the second paragraph of Rule 2-2 the hole is automatically halved. (Once you've got a half, you can't lose it.)
2. **Decision 2-4/12.** Although B's claim was invalid (see Rule 10-1c) A lost the hole when he conceded it (Rule 2-4).
3. **Decision 2-4/13.** A's suggestion amounted to a concession of the hole and B won the hole. Concession of a hole may not be withdrawn (Rule 2-4). B's actions after A's concession could not deprive him of a hole already won.
4. **Decision 2-4/17.** B has not conceded by shaking hands. He was entitled to replace his ball and hole out. Since A incurred a one stroke penalty under Rule 18-3b, B now has two putts to win the hole.
5. The ball is in the lateral water hazard (see Definition); the margins extend upwards and downwards. Furthermore, you cannot declare a ball unplayable in a water hazard (Rule 28). The player may proceed either under **Rules 27-1 or 26-1a** (Stroke and Distance), or the provisions of **Rule 26-1b and c**.
6. **Decision 13-2/26.** Penalty: Loss of Hole. The answer makes it very clear that you are allowed to move a natural object to establish if it is **loose**. However, it must not become detached in the process and must be returned to its original position before the next stroke. (Pulling up a root to establish whether it is detached or not incurs a penalty!) Please look at the last sentence to this decision again, as it makes it very clear that you cannot do any of the things listed in Rule 13-2, such as moving, bending or breaking anything growing or **fixed** and that would include a root. In other words, it doesn't have to be growing (or, indeed, alive) if it is fixed in the ground. Once you've moved it you have incurred the penalty.
7. **Decision 13-4/13.** No penalty provided the loose impediment was not moved in making the backswing and the lie of the ball or area of intended stance or swing was not improved.
8. **Decision 13-4/9.** No penalty, provided the smoothing was done for the sole purpose of caring for the course and nothing was done to breach Rule 13-2 in relation to the player's next stroke (see Exception 2 to Rule 13-4). Now read the last paragraph of the decision. Habitual bunker rakers beware!
9. **Decision 20-2c.3.5.** If a dropped ball comes to rest, but subsequently moves, the ball must be played as it lies (see Note 1 to Rule 20-2). In this case, the ball is out of bounds and the player must proceed under Rule 27-1. Since the ball was at rest before moving, Rule 20-2c is not applicable.
10. **Decision 28/4.** Yes! This action is perfectly permissible.

Section D: Odds and Sods

1. Essentially, there are three types of divot: The loose divot, the un-detached divot and the replaced divot. The answer depends on which type of divot we are talking about. The loose divot (detached) can be removed as it is clearly a loose impediment. The un-detached divot is not a loose impediment. It is something fixed and therefore its removal or replacement would be a breach of Rule 13-2 as the lie and area of intended swing would be improved. A replaced divot may not be removed or pressed down. It is considered to be replaced when substantially all of it, with the roots downwards, lies in a divot hole. The hole need not be the one from which the divot was extracted (see Decisions 13.2/5, 6 and 7).
2. The player was in breach of Rule 13-2, unless it occurred accidentally when removing loose impediments or grounding his club. Dew and frost are not loose impediments. In this case, whether he used a towel or not he breached Rule 13-2.
3. In this case it depends entirely on whether the position of the ball was marked or not. If the ball was marked there is no penalty. If the ball was not marked the player incurs a one stroke penalty for touching the ball other than as provided for in the rules (Rule 18-2a). Under Rules 16-1b and 20-1, a ball on the putting green may be lifted (or touched and rotated) after its position has been marked (Decision 18-2a/33).
4. As wind is not an outside agency, he should have played the ball from where it came to rest. The competitor incurred a one stroke penalty under Rule 18-2a and, before playing his next stroke, he should have replaced the ball on the spot where it came to rest after being moved by the wind. As he did not do so, he incurred a total penalty of two strokes - see penalty statement under Rule 18 (Decision 18-2a/7).
5. There is no penalty if the caddie stops the ball after it has rolled into a position from which the player would be required to redrop the ball under Rule 20-2c (e.g., it rolled back across the margin of a water hazard from which a drop was being taken), provided it is reasonable to assume that the ball would not return to a position at which 20-2c would be inapplicable.

However, if a player's caddie acts prematurely and stops a dropped ball before it has reached such a position, the player incurs a penalty of loss of hole in match play or two strokes in stroke play under Rule 1-2 (see reference to Rule 1-2 under Rule 20-2a). In stroke play, he must play the ball as it lies from where it was stopped. If the ball was lifted at the time it was stopped, the ball must be replaced where it was stopped with no additional penalty (see Decision 20-2c/4).



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