

GOLF AUSTRALIA RULES

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2014



GolfAustralia



Rules on Tour

Courtesy: The R&A Website (www.randa.org)

Double Trouble

Henrik Stenson and Ryan Palmer both encountered situations that required the application of Rule 18-1 on the Saturday of The Open Championship.

On the Par 4, 7th hole, Stenson and Palmer were surprised to witness two seagulls swoop down and pick up their balls that were lying on the fairway. Struggling to carry Stenson's ball, the seagull dropped it quickly. The other gull was more persistent and did not want to miss out on what must have appeared to be an attractive meal and attempted to make off with it.

Under the Rules, a seagull is an outside agency. Provided it is known or virtually certain that an outside agency has moved the ball at rest, there is no penalty to the player and the ball must be replaced (Rule 18-1).

However, often it is the case that the ball may not be retrievable as a result of the outside agency's actions. So if a ball to be replaced under this Rule is not immediately recoverable, another ball may be substituted.

In the Stenson and Palmer case, they managed to retrieve their golf balls back from the seagulls so it was just a case of replacing the ball on the spot where the gulls had picked them up. But both players were unable to do this as they were unsure of the exact spot.

If it is impossible to determine the spot where the ball is to be placed, the ball must be dropped as near as possible to the place where it lay originally, but not in a hazard or on a putting green. As a result, both players estimated the spot with the assistance of the referee and dropped the ball at this spot to ensure the ball was replaced as required by Rule 18-1.

Stenson went on to "birdie" the hole, while Palmer was not so fortunate and finished with a bogey 5.

Spring 2014: In this edition



Temporary Immovable Obstructions
Editor & National Referee Tom Duguid explains the TIO Local Rule



Rules Quiz
Test your Rules knowledge with the Rules Quiz by Brian Nesbitt, Golf Victoria Referee



Rookie Referee
Shalini Malik reflects on her Open Championship experiences



Prickly Heat

On one of the hottest days of the year, Sergio Garcia did something that most did not want to do in the oppressive heat during the second round at The Open Championship – wear his waterproof suit!

During play of the 14th hole, Garcia's ball came to rest very close to a prickly gorse bush. It is not uncommon to find plants such as this, cacti or stinging nettles on a golf course and although unpleasant to touch, they are not of themselves a dangerous situation. Unpleasant lies are a common occurrence, which players must accept.

In order to avoid being scratched or hurt, there is no breach of the Rules if a player wraps a towel around his legs before making the stroke and then fairly takes his stance (Rule 13-2).

However, placing a towel on or over the gorse before taking the stance to avoid being scratched by the prickly plant life would not be permissible. This would constitute a breach of Rule 1-2 for altering the physical conditions with the intent of affecting the playing of the hole.

In Garcia's case, he decided instead to don his waterproof suit to get close into the gorse to play the stroke and in doing so, he managed to protect himself from the branches. After chipping out to the fairway, much to his relief, he was able to remove his waterproofs before finishing out the 14th for a bogey 5.



Chella Choi replaces ball in the wrong place

An unusual incident occurred at the LPGA's Canadian Pacific Women's Open at the end of August when Chella Choi withdrew from the event after disagreeing with a penalty that she was given following her second round.

After missing her birdie putt on the 10th green, Choi was left with a short putt of around a foot for her par. Before tapping in she marked her ball slightly to the left of the ball, lifted it, cleaned it and replaced it but this time to the other side of the marker, around an inch left of where it had initially come to rest. The marking, lifting and replacing of the ball was all done within a few seconds and all the while the player was leaning down over the spot.

Rule 16-1b clarifies that a ball may be marked, lifted and replaced on the putting green, however this requires the ball to be replaced as nearly as possible to the point from where it was lifted and in this situation it was determined that this was not the case. The player

had therefore not proceeded in line with the requirements of Rule 16-1b and was given the applicable two stroke penalty for the breach.

The two stroke penalty meant that Choi would miss the cut by one stroke, however she decided instead to withdraw from the tournament and refused to sign her card.



Is that my ball?

While playing the 17th hole, Hideki Matsuyama hit his second shot towards one of the greenside bunkers. When he approached the bunker, he found a ball plugged in the sand but could not see any identifying marks.

Not wanting to run the risk of playing a wrong ball, Hideki called in the referee to assist with

identifying the ball. Under the referee's guidance, rather than lift the ball to identify it in the bunker, which is permissible under Rule 12-2, Matsuyama used his finger to scrape just a small amount of sand that was covering the identification mark on the ball.

If a player's ball (lying anywhere on the course) is covered by sand, to the extent that he cannot find or identify it, he may, without penalty, touch or move the sand in order to find or identify the ball – Rule 12-1a.

The ball turned out to be Matsuyama's ball and under Rule 12-1a, he was required to re-create the lie as nearly as possible by replacing the sand. If the ball is moved during the touching or moving of sand while searching or identifying the ball, there is no penalty and the ball must be replaced and the lie re-created.

Matsuyama therefore replaced the sand back to how it was before and played his ball. He went on to hole out for a Par 4.

Yang saved from penalty at US Amateur

Gunn Yang from Korea won the closely fought 36-hole final of the US Amateur Championship by 2&1 from Corey Connors of Canada. The result could have been somewhat different had the walking referee, USGA President, Tom O'Toole not stepped in to save Yang from a loss of hole penalty on the 11th hole of the second round.

Yang was standing over his 15-foot par putt when O'Toole noticed Yang's caddie, Richard Grice standing directly behind his player. If Yang was to putt with Grice standing directly behind him then this would be a breach of Rule 14-2b, which states that a player must not make a stroke with his caddie, his partner or his partner's caddie positioned on or close to an extension of the line of play or line of putt behind the ball. O'Toole immediately interrupted Yang's putt and asked Grice to move to the side. He did so and Yang proceeded to hole the putt for a half in par which left him 1 up in the match.

In match play, when a referee has been assigned to accompany the players throughout a match, he may warn a player that he is about to breach a Rule. If he volunteers information about the Rules, he should do so uniformly to all players (see Decision 34-2/3).



The Rookie Referee Report



Courtesy: The R&A Website (www.randa.org)

Ever wondered what it's like to be a referee at The Open Championship? Shalini Malik of India describes her experience of doing just that at Royal Liverpool this summer. (Editor's note: Shalini also officiated as a walking referee in the 2012 Handa Women's Australian Open at Royal Melbourne Golf Club.)

Playing golf as a junior girl in the India of the (very) early nineties meant playing with the boys. It also meant little or no access to any information about women's golf in the rest of the world. When we'd practise putting, the mantra that would go through our collective little heads was "this five footer is to win The Open Championship". Not the US Open, The Masters or the PGA – always simply, The Open.

Needless to say, I never did get an opportunity to make that winning putt, but, as I grew up, the dream itself evolved. I stopped playing competitively and started refereeing. Now the Holy Grail was to be invited to referee at The Open.

I arrived at Hoylake on the Monday before the Championship and, as I picked up my credentials, it took every bit of self-control I possessed not to awaken the ghosts of the stately Thornton Hall Hotel by shrieking giddily "I'm here! I'm here!"

An hour later, en route to Royal Liverpool Golf Club, the enormity of where I was suddenly hit home. I was thrilled to bits while at the same time I felt like a complete interloper. Walking through the entrance gates at the club did nothing to ease the feelings. If anything, they were amplified. This was hallowed ground.

I made my way over to collect my uniform. We had been informed that Ralph Lauren provided uniforms for all referees and while I'd heard stories about how special they were, nothing really prepared me for the sheer pleasure of donning the crisp white button down shirt with the Claret Jug discretely embroidered on one cuff.

I think my nervousness may still have been pretty evident at dinner because Chris Hilton (Chairman of the Rules Committee) took pity on me and invited me to join him on his course walk the next day. This proved to be absolutely invaluable and helped calm me down a little.

As we plotted our way down the fairways at Hoylake, I went through a myriad of emotions that were to be my best friends through the week. Absolute delight, incredulity, confidence and terror – all playing in a constant loop like elevator music.

To put the scale of The Open in perspective, the biggest events I had worked on previously were the Avantha Masters, a European Tour event in India, followed closely by the Dubai Ladies Masters on the Ladies' European Tour. There were, at most, a dozen rules officials working at both. At The Open there were 83. The number of spectators throughout the week exceeded 200,000. The grandstand erected on the 18th green

was so large that my brain could not visualise a Temporary Immovable Obstruction (TIO) drop without the dropping zones provided.

Each group had one walking referee, one bunker raker, one leaderboard carrier and one scorer. Marquee groups had a rules official walking as an observer and travelling marshals, who, as I discovered, were from the military! More than 3,000 men and women volunteered at the event. Many, like Ben the leaderboard carrier in my group, came from families that have a long history of working at The Open. His father was a scoring supervisor and his mother was a scorer with another group. They had been doing this as a family for many years. What a great family tradition!

On Day One, I (thankfully) went out as an observer with Robby Ware from the US PGA as the referee. My job was to walk ahead of the players, spot the ball and inform the referee of any potential rulings that may come up. It was also a great opportunity to watch and learn.

On Day Two I was flying solo. My group consisted of Matt Jones, Chris Wood and Bernd Wiesberger. I walked over to the first tee and introduced myself to the starter, the legendary Ivor Robson. As I waited for the players to arrive I looked up at the crowded grandstand surrounding the tee and I'm not embarrassed to say that I had goose bumps. I introduced myself to the players, held my breath as I fervently hoped that they would find the middle of the fairway and we were off. The nerves began to calm down after a couple of holes as I remembered that I do know how to do this. It is my profession and after 25 years of association with the game, it is now in my blood. I had a couple of gentle rulings (5-3 and 12-2 for those who want to know) and before I knew it I was shaking hands with the players at the 18th. I had just had my first experience of being an Open referee.

My role as observer on Days Three and Four gave me an unimaginable equation with the event. My learning curve at The Open soared. The opportunity to study just how the best in the world (players and officials) perform under pressure was fantastic. But if I were asked what my most treasured experience of the week was, I would say without doubt that it was meeting the most wonderful people from all over the world. Some, I had had the privilege of working with in the past, but most were strangers who very quickly became friends. The fact that I'm lucky enough to be a part of this tiny community of warm, affectionate, witty, eccentric, intelligent men and women united in their love for this noble game, was never lost on me.

Members of the Rules Committee that I interacted with went out of their way to make me feel welcome. I was a rookie – simultaneously anxious and dazzled. They all said the same thing to me – soak it up, enjoy it, your first time comes only once. I took that advice to heart and I will remain forever indebted to the Indian Golf Union and The R&A for giving me an opportunity that was simply awesome.

It's Your Shot!

We were very pleased to receive a number of emails from readers – a few of the more interesting are shared below. Some editing has been done for the purpose of brevity.

From Ann Vince (Killara GC, NSW – State Accredited)

"Thoroughly enjoyed reading the Winter edition of the Golf Australia Newsletter.

I found myself in an unpleasant situation recently and took you up on your offer to "share".

I think my dilemma to speak or not to speak is not uncommon.

"We are not playing for Sheep Stations"

This is such a common response to any breach of a rule in golf or muttered during a "Golf Rules chat".

Last Friday I was playing in an individual Stableford competition. When the player on the tee hit a great shot on the 14th Par 3 her fellow competitor declared "Wow! Great shot, what club did you use?" I quickly responded "Don't answer" as the fellow competitor had not yet played her tee shot.

I explained to these players, on long handicaps, that it is considered "advice" and in these circumstances the player who asked had incurred a penalty and if the other player had answered she too would incur the same penalty. Both players were surprised and declared "What a Silly Rule". We continued play of this hole without further discussion.

At the conclusion of the hole, I added 2 strokes to the score of the player who had asked the question. (The player's score was 10 points after 14 holes with a total of 17 points for the 18 hole round.)

"Come off it" was their initial response. "We do it all the time; we try to help each other and discuss everything from direction to club selection" and they added "Why can't you give a warning?"

No mention was made that my comment had prevented a response, and therefore the player on the tee avoided a penalty, nor the fact that earlier in the round a breach was prevented regarding playing a ball lying in compulsory GUR.

Wondering how I was going to get through to these ladies I remembered that frequent response about the rules. I commented that they were not playing for sheep stations, so why not take it on the chin and accept the penalty. To their credit they did.

Nothing more was said during the round. After the round we came in for lunch and kept to safe topics, like grandchildren.

Editor's Note: *Thanks Ann – no doubt a situation that many rules officials encounter during their club round. You win the reader's prize for this edition.*

From Ken Lockery (Killara GC, NSW)

"First let me congratulate you on the quality of the rules newsletter each quarter. I always look forward to receiving it and invariably read it from cover to cover.

I have one question arising from the Winter edition.

In the section headed "Gone to Water", it was pointed out that the competitor was penalised for incorrectly substituting another ball after she accidentally dropped her ball into a water hazard after retrieving it from casual water. Since the original ball was not recoverable,

can you tell me what was the correct procedure in this case? For example, should she have proceeded as if taking relief from a water hazard or did she really have no option other than to "incorrectly" substitute a new ball?"

Hi Ken,

Thanks for your query.

As the ball was not in play when it entered the water hazard, the player has no other option but to substitute a ball. The player is penalised two strokes under Rule 25-1 for substituting a ball when not permitted to do so.

Simon Magdulski

*Director – Rules & Handicapping
Golf Australia*

From Judy Parsons (Victor Harbor GC, SA)

ONE IN A MILLION

"I look forward to the rules newsletter, and always try the quiz to see if it clarifies what I THINK should happen.

This really happened to a fellow member of the Victor Harbor Golf Club, which had members talking about it for some time. Everyone had a different view on what the rules should be for each player.

Peter is playing his chip to the 1st green and the ball goes astray towards the 2nd tee where Ray is in the process of hitting his drive. Ray hits both his ball and Peter's ball simultaneously; quite unaware that Peter's ball is coming towards him. Ray's ball goes a little way forward, but Peter's ball is nowhere to be found – a lost ball. Peter went back to where he hit his chip, and under stroke and distance penalty, completes the hole. Ray's playing partners considered that Ray should replay his shot, without penalty. How do you see it? Outside agency? Or what?"

Well, Judy, this precise situation is covered by Decision 19-1/2.

Each player was an outside agency in relation to the other:

Under Rule 19-1, Peter would have been obliged to play his ball as it lay, without penalty, if it had been found. Since it was not found, Peter must proceed under Rule 27-1 (Stroke and Distance). Ray must play his ball as it lies, without penalty.

So, there you have it; quite simple really. The next time this happens, you will know exactly what to do.

Bob Crosby

Golf Australia Chairman of Rules & Amateur Status

The editorial staff would be delighted to have feedback from our readers and as an incentive, a prize will be awarded each edition for the best letter received and published.

Naturally the theme must be Rules and could be about an interesting or unusual situation you have dealt with, a query to which you seek an answer, a comment about an article in the Newsletter or suggesting a topic for inclusion in a future Newsletter.

So, have a think let's hear from you! Send your contribution to rulesnewsletter@golf.org.au.

Rules Quiz

By Brian Nesbitt
(Victorian State Level Referee)

Answers can be found on the back page

Club Level, No Rule Book Quiz – Rule Numbers Please.

The key here is to try to learn Pages 2 and 3 in the Rule Book

1. Striking the Ball
2. Match Play
3. Loose Impediments
4. Cleaning Ball
5. Obstructions
6. Water Hazards
7. Advice; Indicating Line of Play
8. Ball at Rest Moved
9. Abnormal Ground Conditions, Embedded Ball, Wrong Putting Green
10. The Putting Green

Club Level, you may use the Rule Book if necessary here, but I want the Rule number and sub-paragraph as well please.

1. Ball Out of Bounds
2. Ball Unplayable
3. Wrong Ball
4. Ball Falling off Tee
5. Making Stroke while another Ball in Motion (Putting Green)
6. Placing and Replacing
7. Ball in Hazard; Prohibited Actions
8. Embedded Ball
9. Ball Interfering with play
10. Lifting Ball for Identification

Now for a Hole with Clarence and Donald. Please count the strokes and any penalties involved in each paragraph by Clarence and check your score for the hole at the end.

Clarence and Donald's Matchless Stroke Play

1. Clarence prepared to tee off in the club Stroke Play Championship. He was a little nervous to be playing with Donald, the reigning club champion. He addressed his ball and started his swing. On the downswing the ball fell from the tee, but Clarence continued his swing and hit the moving ball straight down the middle of the fairway.
2. Clarence arrived at his ball to find it 2 cm in front of a divot which was partly folded over, but not completely detached. He replaced the divot and hit a great shot into the heart of the green.
3. Clarence marked his ball, lifted and cleaned it, and then inspected the line of his putt. There was a raised tuft of grass directly on his line of putt, so he brushed it with his hand to see if it was attached. It was attached, so he left it where he had brushed it to, replaced his ball and putted it next to the hole, and tapped in for a good par.

This next Section will require the use of the Decisions Book and is aimed at State Level Referees. Please give the Decision number, but you should be able to give the Rule number and possibly the sub-para from memory! Ideally, we want a decision within 3 minutes. First, however, write down the rule heading for the following Rule Paragraphs.

1. Rule 24-2
2. Rule 14-4
3. Rule 19-5
4. Rule 12-2
5. Rule 7-1
6. A player must not make a stroke at his ball whilst it is moving. However, there are three exceptions for which there is not a two-stroke/loss of hole penalty. Please name them, with their Rule numbers.
7. A player's ball strikes his opponent's or fellow competitor's trolley and then his own trolley. Is there a penalty?

Temporary Immovable Obstructions

By Tom Duguid
(Editor and Part-Time PGA Tour Referee)

With the summer season of major events upon us, it is opportune to provide some information and advice for Referees in dealing with Temporary Immovable Obstructions (TIOs). Generally TIOs are common in only a few major pro and open championships in Australia but it is possible that you may have to deal with them in smaller events. It may be that flag poles are erected behind a green, or a car or other sponsor's product or signage is displayed on course in a local pro-am, charity day or special event.

When temporary obstructions are installed on or adjoining the course, the Committee in charge should define their status in the Local Rules as "movable", "immovable" or "temporary immovable obstructions". Because most amateur golfers (and club rules officials) are not conversant with the seemingly complex TIO rules, it is probably better to avoid using them in club events. The use of Dropping Zones may be a simpler option where relief is required. If



or prefer to have a referee advise them. In the majority of cases, providing relief is quite a simple process, but more "interesting" situations do occur at times. These usually entail deciding whether the stroke for which the player seeks relief is reasonable and fulfils the requirements of the Local Rule. As mentioned in previous articles, the referee must take into account the great skill of the elite golfer rather than one's own ability.

There is a series of published diagrams and explanations on the various TIO scenarios – these can be found at www.golf.org.au/default.aspx?s=localrules. Note that whilst study of these can prove very useful, it should not be used as a substitute for studying the actual specimen Local Rule on pages 131-136 (includes dropping zone (DZ) local rule) of the Rules of Golf.

To further assist you, below are notes that Simon sends out to referees working at the national opens which can be seen on the next page.



some obstructions are defined as TIOs, then the Local Rule as set out in Appendix 1, Part A, 7 to the Rules of Golf should be in force. Obviously care should be taken with the placement of TIOs so as to avoid play as much as possible – however "No one will ever get there!" are "famous last words" uttered by many a golf administrator!

If you have the opportunity to officiate at a major event that features TIOs, be sure to inspect the course in advance and put yourself through a number of "what if" situations in and around the TIOs most likely to come into play in your designated area. In Golf Australia's men's and women's open championships, Simon Magdulski, GA's Director – Rules and Handicapping conducts an on-course session with referees on TIO rulings the day before play starts. This is a great chance to learn at first hand and to seek clarification. Having conducted and attended many of these sessions, it quickly became obvious to me that even very experienced referees are not confident with dealing with TIOs. And this is only because they do not deal with them on a regular basis.

During a major event, players will virtually always call for a referee when they are confronted with a TIO. Even though the same TIO rules have been in force for many years and operate similarly throughout the world, many elite golfers either do not know the rules



General Notes for Referees When Dealing with TIO Ruling Situations

The following is provided with a view to assisting any referee who may be inexperienced in dealing with TIOs, or who may deal with TIOs on a very irregular basis.

A Temporary Immovable Obstruction (or TIO) is a non-permanent artificial object that is often erected in conjunction with a competition and is fixed or not readily movable. Examples of TIOs include, but are not limited to; tents, scoreboards, grandstands, television towers, and lavatories.

TIOs:

- Are things many referees rarely encounter.
- Are seen mostly in major events.
- There tends to be more spectators around than many referees are used to.
- Professional golfers are involved.

All of this can lead to:

- The referee to have a lack of confidence in himself.
- The referee administering a local rule with which they do not get much practice.

Some unusual features to note with the TIO Local Rule:

- A player is entitled to relief from a TIO that is Out of Bounds (note: difference with Rule 24-2).
- When a player's ball is in a Water Hazard or Lateral Water Hazard, they are still entitled to relief (although be mindful of the Local Rule's related provisions).
- If the player's ball lies on a part of the course and is in, on, or under a TIO, the player is entitled to relief even if their ball would be otherwise unplayable (note: difference with Rule 24-2).

There are an array of different methods people use to help them get their heads around the TIO interference and relief procedures.

The method I tend to use and to teach to others is to consider the following:

- **Firstly, does 'line of sight' exist?** That is, does the player's ball lie behind any part of the TIO such that it intervenes directly between the player's ball and the hole OR does the ball lie within one club-length of a spot equidistant from the hole where such intervention would exist? (Note: The TIO must also be on the player's Line of Play.)
- **And secondly, does physical interference exist?** That is, does the same type of interference as described by the *Immovable Obstruction Rule (Rule 24-2)* exist? (Remember that this box is still ticked if the TIO is Out of Bounds or if the ball is in a Water Hazard.)
- Note that in most cases you will only be dealing with 'line of sight', but don't forget about physical interference, particularly when you are close to the TIO. And when you are close to the TIO, don't just think about physical interference, remember 'line of sight' interference!
- If either or both of the above boxes are ticked, and none of the exceptions apply, interference as defined exists.
- If interference exists, we need to find the point on the course nearest to where the ball lies where there is no longer interference as defined. The player is then able to drop the ball within one club-length of this point (being mindful of the status of the ground within this club-length; ie is part of this ground Through the Green, or in a Hazard, or Out of Bounds, or does it contain areas at which there is still interference as defined?).
- Make sure the ball when dropped first strikes a part of the course at which there is no interference as defined. Also make sure the ball does not roll to a part of the course where there is interference as defined.

When studying TIOs, the various published diagrams and study resources can be very useful, but make sure you also study the Local Rule itself, and make sure you are familiar with the various Exceptions and Notes.



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Rules Quiz Answers

Club Level Quiz — Rule Numbers

1. Rule 14
2. Rule 2
3. Rule 23
4. Rule 21
5. Rule 24
6. Rule 26
7. Rule 8
8. Rule 18
9. Rule 25
10. Rule 16

Club Level Quiz using Rule Book

1. Rule 27-1b
2. Rule 28
3. Rule 15-3
4. Rule 11-3
5. Rule 16-1f
6. Rule 20-3
7. Rule 13-4
8. Rule 25-2
9. Rule 22-2
10. Rule 12-2

A Hole with Clarence and Donald

1. One stroke, no penalty strokes: Rule 11-3.
2. One stroke, two penalty strokes: Rule 13-2, Decision 13-2/5.
3. Two putts. Two penalty strokes as he should have returned the tuft to its original position: Rule 16-1a, Decision 16-1a/11.

Total: 4 strokes and 4 penalty strokes: Total 8 strokes.

State Level Decisions Book — Rule Headings

1. Rule 24-2 Immovable Obstruction
2. Rule 14-4 Striking the Ball More than Once
3. Rule 19-5 Ball in Motion Deflected or Stopped by Another Ball
4. Rule 12-2 Lifting Ball for Identification
5. Rule 7-1 Practice Before or Between Rounds
6. Ball Falling Off Tee Rule 11-3; Striking Ball More Than Once Rule 14-4; Ball moving in water Rule 14-6
7. It depends on whether it is match play or stroke play, Decision 19-3/3.

In match play, because the ball first struck his opponent's equipment the player may replay the stroke, without penalty, regardless of what happens thereafter to the ball (Rule 19-3). The player may also play the ball as it lies, but would do so under penalty of one stroke because, after striking his opponent's equipment, his ball struck his own equipment (Rule 19-2).

In stroke play, although the ball first struck a fellow-competitor's equipment, the competitor incurs a penalty of one stroke and must play the ball as it lies (Rules 19-4, 19-1 and 19-2).

