

GOLF AUSTRALIA RULES NEWSLETTER

Summer 2013



Welcome



Welcome to the second edition of the quarterly Australian Rules Newsletter.

I would like to introduce myself, having recently been appointed as the new Chairman of Golf Australia's Rules of Golf & Amateur Status Sub-Committee, succeeding John Hopkins. John continues his role as Chairman of Golf Australia and Chairman of the GA Handicapping & Rules Policy Committee. I was elected to the Board of Golf Australia at the Annual General Meeting in November 2012.

My involvement in "Rules" started back in 1998 when I completed the Club Level Rules Accreditation course in Adelaide. I have held the positions of Chairman Rules & Amateur Status Committee with Golf SA and Committee Member of the Golf Australia Rules of Golf & Amateur Status Sub-Committee. I have officiated at both Men's and Women's Australian Opens since 2008. One of the highlights of my Rules career so far was the 2011 Presidents Cup at Royal Melbourne where I had the opportunity to act as a Rules Observer on the Saturday and Sunday. It was an experience that I will remember for many years to come. I also attended the Tournament Administrators and Referees School held at St Andrews, Scotland in 2011.

In recent times our Club and State Level Review Group has undertaken a full review of the Club Level Exams and has now compiled two new exam papers that should be available for use shortly. Our National Rules Accreditation programmes provide a uniform platform for anyone wishing to increase their knowledge of the Rules at club level, and also to take the next step and progress to a higher level.

One project our Rules & Amateur Status Sub-Committee has already commenced is formulating submissions to The R&A regarding potential changes to the Rules of Golf for 2016. These are based on submissions received from our Member Associations as well as the PGA of Australia. This is currently a work in progress and a formal document to The R&A will be finalised in due course as discussions progress.

We are sure the Newsletter articles will be of interest to our readers and hopefully provide you with something from time to time that might assist Clubs with competition management or Rules situations.

Any thoughts or feedback on the Newsletter can be forwarded to us via the email address noted at the foot of the back page.

Robert (Bob) Crosby
Chairman, GA Rules of Golf & Amateur Status Sub-Committee

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Free Relief

Sue Fabian, Golf Australia National Referee explains how to take relief under Rules 24-2, 25-1 and 25-3



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David Cherry gives an insight into what it was like to referee at the US Masters



A Gale in a Gale

Tim Gale, Golf Australia National Referee talks about his Emirates Australian Open experience



Free Relief - Rules 24-2, 25-1 & 25-3

By Sue Fabian

(Golf Australia National Level Referee & Golf NSW Board Member)

Rules 24-2, 25-1 and 25-3 give players free relief from conditions which are not normally regarded as part of the natural environment of a golf course. Rule 24-2 permits relief, except in water hazards, from artificial constructions such as paths, roads, drains and culverts which have been built for the management of the course. Rule 25-1 provides relief from abnormal conditions, such as accumulations of water outside water hazards, various types of damage to the course, or areas which the Committee wishes to protect, such as new plantings of trees or grass; while Rule 25-3 gives relief from a wrong putting green.

These Rules are able to be varied in some respects, at the discretion of the Committee, by Local Rule. For example, certain artificial constructions such as roads, paths or rock walls may be declared integral parts of the course from which free relief is not available. Committees may (and frequently do) declare stakes to be Immovable Obstructions, and may restrict relief from certain areas of abnormal ground conditions to lie of the ball and the area of intended swing only. Relief from other conditions, such as staked trees, may be made compulsory. It is therefore important for all players to be familiar with the Local Rules of any course on which they play, because a breach of a Local Rule results in a penalty of loss of hole in match play or two strokes in stroke play.

The procedure for taking relief under Rules 24-2, 25-1 and 25-3 is the same, and is a two-part process. Step one is to find the nearest point of relief. Step two is to measure one club length from this point and to drop the ball correctly. Players often short-cut this process, simply dropping the ball at a spot which they estimate to be about a club length. Decision 24-2b/2 confirms that this is permissible, provided the ball is dropped at a spot which in fact satisfies the requirements of the Rule under which the player is proceeding. However, it is worth the extra few seconds to follow the process properly, since the player will have a much better chance of dropping the ball in an advantageous position while still complying with the Rules, and will avoid the risk of penalty for playing from a wrong place.

Step one: The “nearest point of relief.”

Relief taken under Rule 24-2 and Rule 25-1 and 25-3 must be complete relief, that is, there must be no interference with lie of ball, stance or area of intended swing from the condition from which the relief is taken (Decision 20-2c/0.5). Exception: when taking relief from a Wrong Putting Green, relief is for the lie of the ball only, not stance. Therefore the first step is to determine the nearest spot where complete relief occurs. The player does this by using the club, address position, direction of play and swing which he/she would have used if the condition were not there, and finding the spot from which the ball can be played which gives complete relief (Definition of “Nearest Point of Relief; Decision 24-2b/1). This spot is then marked.

It is important to remember that in taking relief under Rule 24 or 25, the relief is only from the specific condition, and there is generally only one “nearest point”. It is irrelevant that the nearest point of relief or the place where the ball must be dropped is in an unpleasant, unplayable or even inaccessible place (see Decisions 24-2b/3 and 24-2b/3.5). For example, the fact that the nearest point of relief is in the middle of the trunk of a large tree does not change its status as the nearest point of relief. It is therefore a good idea, except where relief is compulsory, to take a careful look at the area where the ball is to be dropped before lifting it from its original position. Once the ball is lifted, if the player finds that the ball is to be dropped in an unplayable lie and decides not to take relief and to replace the ball, a penalty of one stroke is unavoidable because the ball in play has been lifted (Decision 18-2a/12).

Step two: Measuring one club length; dropping the ball.

Having determined the nearest point of relief, the player must measure one club length, no nearer the hole. For measuring, any of the player's clubs may be used. For example, although the nearest point of relief may have been determined using a pitching wedge, the player may use a driver to measure a club length. A good rule of thumb for measuring is that, in free relief situations, only one club length is permitted, whereas in penalty situations such as Ball Unplayable or relief from a Lateral Water Hazard, two club lengths are permitted. Once a particular club has been used for measuring, that club remains the measure until the particular relief situation has been completed (Decision 20/1).

The player must then drop the ball within the club length so that it first strikes the correct part of the course, (that is, where the condition from which relief is being taken is located). For example, if relief is being taken for casual water in a bunker, the player must not drop the ball outside the edge of the bunker in the hope that it will roll into the bunker without plugging. If the ball first strikes the ground outside the club length, on an incorrect part of the course, or nearer the hole than either its original position or the nearest point of relief, or if it touches any person or the equipment of any player before or after it first touches the ground and before it comes to rest, it must be re-dropped without penalty. The drop does not count, and there is no limit to the number of times the ball must be re-dropped under these circumstances (Rule 20-2a). If the ball when dropped has struck the ground correctly, but then rolls into a position covered by Rule 20-2c, it must be re-dropped. However, in this case, the drop counts, and if the ball rolls back into any of the positions covered in Rule 20-2c, it must be placed as near as possible to the spot where it first struck a part of the course when re-dropped.

NOTE:

- A player must have complete relief for the club taken to determine the nearest point of relief. For example, if a player has used a 4 iron to determine the nearest point of relief, and the ball when dropped rolls into a position where he/she does not have complete relief for a stroke played with the 4 iron, but where there would be complete relief for a stroke with a wedge, the ball must still be re-dropped (Decision 20-2c/0.7).
- Once the relief procedure is completed for a particular condition, the player may use a different club to play the stroke from that which was used to determine the nearest point of relief (Decision 24-2b/4). For example, if a player has used a wedge to determine the nearest point of relief, but has been able to drop the ball into a good lie and wishes to play the next stroke with a wood, he/she may do so.
- If the player elects to play the next stroke with a different club from that used to determine the nearest point of relief, and finds that there is interference from the condition with the stroke with this club, provided complete relief has been taken for a shot with the club used to determine the nearest point of relief, he/she may now either play the ball as it lies, or again go through the procedure for taking relief with the new club (Decision 20-2c/0.8). Since the original relief procedure has been correctly carried out in accordance with the Rules, it is completed, and the player is now in a new situation.
- A player may encounter, in the same area, more than one condition for which free relief is available. For example, the ball may be lying in casual water within an area of Ground Under Repair. Each condition is separate, and must be treated separately in taking relief. For example, the player may choose to take relief from the casual water, but drop and play the ball from within the GUR, or might choose to simply take relief from the GUR (Decision 25-1b/11).

Cherry Picked for US Masters

By David Cherry

(Chairman - Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship)

In order to understand why I was invited to the Masters Tournament, you need to know that I am the Chairman of the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship which is a jointly sponsored event by the Augusta National Golf Club (ANGC), The R&A and the Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation (APGC). The winner of this event gets an invitation to the next Masters Tournament as well as a start in the Final Qualifying for the Open Championship – as does the runner up. I therefore have had the privilege of working with officials from ANGC including Fred Ridley – Chairman of the ANGC Championship Committee. While I have some status as a Rules official, I am not a guru who can quote chapter and verse but having hit the ball all over the place while a player, I am conversant with the common Rules of golf and if not then I had the expertise of John Hopkins, Chairman of Golf Australia, who came with me.

The ANGC Masters Tournament is unique as the only one of the four majors that is held at the same course – and it has to be one of the best (if not the best) manicured in the world and many would say that it is in the top five courses in the world as a layout. There is a certain mystique about the entire event and I do not intend to reveal unnecessarily any of those facts – nevertheless it goes without saying that the members of ANGC are extremely proud of their event and will do anything humanly possible to improve it in whatever way possible. ANGC Members, with their famous green jackets, are all great guys, who have their designated same (for most) job each year. As an example, one member runs the lost property and sees very little golf during the week. About 30 members act as Referees and have interesting tales to tell.

There are over 1100 volunteers from all over the USA who attend each year at their own cost to act as marshals, etc, - not that marshals are very much needed as the Patrons, as they are called, are the best behaved in the world. On my second day as a Referee, I introduced myself to a marshal (who happened to be an oil executive from Louisiana) on the 14th hole, who was “over the moon” as after 24 years on the 14th hole, he had just been asked to be deputy marshal of the hole. There were about 20 marshals per hole, to ensure that the event ran smoothly. One marshal on the 13th had the job of watching tee shots and signalling to other marshals where the ball was likely to finish as it is a tight driving hole. He was still seeing his psychologist for therapy to help him manage the fact that two years ago, a player hit one way left into what I would call scrub (I

am certain that ANGC would call them gardens) and lost his ball. He was also frequently called upon by Patrons, to point out from where Phil Mickelson had hit that amazing shot in 2011.

Similar to all major tournaments, there was a meeting of all of the Referees prior to the event. One of the tasks was to introduce yourself and reveal how many Masters Tournaments you had attended. I had attended the 1988 event as a spectator so I fudged my response as 2012 being my second Masters, but I was put in my place by Dow Finsterwald who did not bother to add them up but just said “since 1957”. All Referees (and it was a who’s who from around the golfing world apart from myself) were given a book containing all the minutiae of the idiosyncrasies of every hole and how to manage every conceivable situation. There was a demonstration of how to manage common Rules like relief from TIOs and I was very grateful to have Andrew Langford-Jones (the Director of Tournaments, PGA Tour Australasia, only other Aussie Referee present) as a mentor to show me the way around. Behind the scenes is enormous and I will say no more on that topic.

Each Referee was allocated a particular hole per day. During the first two rounds, that meant staying on a hole from 15 minutes before the first player reached it until all players had completed it – about 9 hours and 6 hours for the final two rounds. I can remember seeing Colin Phillips (the then Executive Director, Australian Golf Union) refereeing the left of the 11th green near the water and thinking how lonely he would have been. I was allocated the drive on the 13th (with 2 others and we took turns of being either left or right) on the first day, the 14th hole on day 2 on my own, the 4th green on day 3 (with Andy Yamanaka – a character from the JPGA) and on the final day the 9th green. Referees were instructed what to wear and to remain inconspicuous. We were supplied with radios from which we were to call for assistance from Rovers should that be required, Radio discipline was extraordinary – no flippant remarks, cricket scores, political jokes – nothing!

As luck would have it, I had no difficult Rulings upon which I needed to adjudicate – I was impressed by the knowledge and politeness of the players. Let’s face it, I would be polite as well if I was wanting a Ruling but from an Aussie?? Phil Mickelson hit his tee shot on 14 into a concrete stanchion holding an electrical cable. I was sitting on my chair at the green and was flagged by the marshal to get down the fairway – no carts were allocated for that purpose – so there was a bit of a delay. Phil knew exactly what to do but wanted my OK to cover him and therefore waited until I arrived. The ball was



in amongst the Patrons and marshals had cleared an appropriate region around the ball – not that they were necessary as the Patrons knew full well what to do. I spent a lot of time talking to the marshals on the 14th where I was treated well above my station. They fetched me drinks whenever I needed them – it was very hot, food from the enormous tented villages at unbelievably cheap prices but there was one thing they could not do for me but I am certain that if I had asked they would have tried their best.

Unless you have been to Augusta, you cannot appreciate the lay out of the course as TV hides the slopes to a great extent. In any event, TV audiences rarely see the front five holes. I was on the 4th green on day 3 and that was a great experience as the pin was situated far right on a little plateau. It was playing about 190 metres with a huge penalty for missing right – I don't think anyone did, and only about three players hit it anywhere near the pin (Tiger hit it to 1 metre). Henrik Stenson, like most others, had hit his tee shot near the plateau but the ball rolled left down the huge slope so he was left with at least 35 metres. His putt would still be going had it not hit the hole and gone in – he walked past me saying it was an easy birdie but he knew full well that had it not hit the hole, his next shot was with a pitching wedge from about 30 metres away.

My only uncomfortable potential situation arose on the final day with the final pairing. Phil Mickelson had hit his second shot onto the front of the green and the ball had rolled partway down the fairway where it somehow had come to rest. I was extremely worried that when Phil addressed the ball, it would move and I would have had to become

uninconspicuous. Fortunately nothing happened so I can truthfully say that I did not stuff up.

Driving down Magnolia Lane each day and being treated like royalty was an experience in itself and added to that, having the front seat to one of the iconic sporting events in the world, was truly memorable. The Rules sticker on my car meant that on the first day after a late finish, I drove back down Magnolia Lane to the intersection with Washington Freeway (5 lanes each way all on the wrong side of course and I had to turn left). No problem as a truck load of policemen saw my sticker, held up both sides of the freeway, while yours truly was escorted across into my correct lane. I was fortunate enough to reside with John Hopkins and Stephen Pitt from Golf Australia who had Barry Brown from Emirates as their guest. Sledging was the order of the day and while I am a beginner at this trade I did OK. For anyone who gets the rare opportunity to attend the Masters Tournament, do so as it would be impossible to not enjoy it.

Editor's Notes: Associate Professor David Cherry has had and continues an illustrious involvement in golf as an amateur player and as a long-serving administrator. Highlights include:

Member of South Australian Interstate team 17 times; Captain/Manager of Australian team to Papua-New Guinea; Royal Adelaide GC Champion 12 times; SA State Champion 1976 & 1978; SA Golf Association President 1994-98; Australian Golf Union President 1998; Vice President of the Asia Pacific Golf Confederation 8 years; Golf Australia Board Member 2007-11.

Rules Quiz

Prepared by Brian Nesbitt
(Victorian State Level Official)

Answers can be found on back page

True or False?

1. A player has addressed the ball when he has grounded his club immediately in front of or behind the ball whether or not he has taken his stance.
2. Suggesting to a fellow-competitor that he declare his ball unplayable is not advice but is giving information.
3. The maximum length of a tee peg is 4 ¼" or 108 mm.
4. You can lose your ball and not be penalised.
5. If it is not possible to decide who is further or farthest from the hole the decision should be made by tossing a coin or some similar procedure.

David and Brian strike trouble

David and Brian are playing Stroke Play. Please count Brian's strokes, and any penalties involved, in each paragraph and check your score for the hole at the end.

1. Brian duck-hooked his drive into an area surrounded by a GUR white line with some arrows pointing to a Drop Zone.
2. Before dropping his ball in the DZ, he replaced and pressed down loose divots in the DZ. He dropped his ball within the DZ, and it rolled outside the DZ, but well within two club-lengths of where it struck the ground. Brian opted to play the ball from where it now lay. He hit a good shot, which took an unlucky bounce into a bunker near the green.

3. Brian threw a rake into the bunker before he entered it and then played a good shot into the green.
4. He marked and lifted his ball and, in the grand manner as seen on TV each week, threw it to his caddie to be cleaned. Unfortunately, the ball whizzed past the caddie's ear and into the lake at the back of the green where it sank without trace. He placed another ball on the marked spot on the green.
5. Amazingly, Brian now putted extremely well. He rolled the ball to the hole where, after hanging agonisingly over the lip for about thirty seconds, it fell into the hole, much to Brian's delight.

Decisions Book Questions

These questions require the use of the Decisions Book. Please give the Decision number.

1. A player marks the position of his ball on the putting green, lifts the ball and sets it aside. By mistake, he putts the ball from the spot at which he set it aside. What is the ruling?
2. A player's line of play through the green is affected by a pitch-mark made by his partner's, his opponent's or a fellow-competitor's ball. Is the player entitled to relief?
3. A player's ball strikes his opponent's or fellow-competitor's buggy and then strikes his own buggy. What is the ruling?
4. A player teed his ball within the teeing ground. He made a stroke at the ball, but missed it. He addressed the ball again and accidentally knocked it off the tee. What is the ruling?
5. In stroke play, a competitor played out of turn from the teeing ground and, although he should have continued play with the ball played out of turn without penalty, he abandoned the ball and played another ball in proper order. What is the ruling?

The Importance of Competition Conditions

By Therese Magdulski

(Golf Australia's Manager – Championships)

The importance of the Conditions of Competition cannot be underestimated. When Golf Australia or State Associations are contacted regarding a situation that has arisen, invariably the first question asked of the club or the individual is "What do the conditions state?". Unfortunately, the answer to this question on many occasions is "We don't have any conditions" or "The conditions do not cover this situation".

The Conditions of Competition are the foundations on which every competition, whether it be the local Saturday competition or the Australian Open, are built. The conditions should be established in advance of the competition, ideally when entries to an event are opened.

The Committee must be able to interpret any conditions they establish, so it is important that they are clear and precise, and include any penalties should a breach of a condition occur.

Conditions which must be covered include:

- i. Eligibility: who is eligible (gender, age, handicap limit, club members only, amateur golfers only, etc.)
- ii. Size of the field: is there a minimum or maximum number?; if there is a maximum number and entries exceed that number, how will entrants be balloted out (based on handicap, first-come-first-served, etc)?
- iii. Format: stroke play, match play, number of holes, etc and whether there is a cut.
- iv. Entry: how players must enter (i.e. is an entry form required, do they simply turn up on the day, etc).
- v. Handicaps: what handicap applies.
- vi. Rules Governing Play (i.e. Driving Clubs, Conforming Golf Balls)
- vii. Prizes: are Divisions or Grades in operation?
- viii. Determining Ties
- ix. Caddies (if there are restrictions)
- x. Motorised Transport (if there are restrictions)
- xi. Practice

An interesting condition which needs more discussion is determining ties. In determining the winner of an event, for a major stroke play competition, if time permits, the fairest way to decide the winner is by a play-off. Ideally a three or four holes cumulative play-off is the fairest so that the winner is less likely to be determined on a fluke or by luck. If time does not permit, a hole-by-hole sudden death play-off is suitable. If a play-off is not practicable, joint winners could be declared, or the method of count-back applied. It may be that the winner is determined by a play-off, and second and third placings decided by count-back or declared joint runners-up.

With respect to deciding ties for a cut in a stroke play competition, the internationally accepted practice is to include any players tied for the cut position (e.g. 60 players plus ties). However if there is a desired maximum number of players to contest the final rounds, an

acceptable condition is to state that "a maximum of xx players will contest the final rounds". For example, if it is the desire that no more than 60 players contest the final rounds, and there are 8 players on a score tied for positions 58 to 65, those players in tied 58th position are eliminated, leaving 57 players to contest the final rounds.

In determining ties for a match play draw following stroke play qualifying (i.e. the numerical draw for 4, 8, 16, 32 or 64 players), it is recommended ties be decided by the order in which scores are returned, the first score to be returned receiving the lowest available number in the draw. 'Order' means the time that a score is returned, or more practically, the time in which the player commenced their round (i.e. if Players A and B are tied for 3rd position and Player A's card was returned (or he teed off) at 12.10 pm and Player B's card was returned (or he teed off) at 12.45 pm, Player A would be given position 3 in the draw, and Player B would be given position 4 in the draw.) If it is impossible to determine when scores are returned or when players commenced their round, ties should be determined by blind draw (i.e. out of a hat). If players start from the 1st and 10th tees during stroke play qualifying, or if players are split over more than one course in the final qualifying round, it is recommended that ties be split by lot when making the match play draw. (See Rules of Golf, Appendix I, Part C, Point 11.) A count-back to determine these positions is also acceptable.

Should there be ties for the last qualifying position, the customary method to decide the qualifiers is by a sudden death hole-by-hole play-off. If there are three players for two positions, the play-off determines the two players to make up the draw. If on the first play-off hole A has 3, B has 4, and C has 5; A will take the second-last qualifying position and B will take the last qualifying position. If on the first play-off hole A and B have 3, and C has 5; A and B will make up the draw, with their position determined by the time in which scores from the last qualifying round are returned (i.e. the first score to be returned receiving the lowest available number). A count-back to determine these positions is also suitable.

In conclusion, having precise Conditions of Competition for all events is crucial to the smooth running of the competition. More often than not, all circumstances, including those sometimes awkward situations, can be managed and resolved if thorough conditions are in place.

NOTE: Further information about count-back can be found on the Golf Australia website at the following link: <http://www.golfaustralia.org.au/default.aspx?s=competitionandcourses>.

A Gale in a Gale

By Tim Gale

(Golf Australia National Referee)



It is Sunday morning 9th December 2012 at The Lakes Golf Club - 10am in the Golf Australia Tournament Office I am collecting a two-way radio and a player timing sheet prior to commencing as a walking referee in the Emirates Australian Open. In this role a greater percentage of our time is taken up with monitoring and supervising pace of play by providing information for the rovers and then communicating with the players as required, rather than issues directly relating to the Rules of Golf. This morning we are advised that the weather forecast is for extremely strong winds during the afternoon

On the first tee at 11.30am I introduced myself to the two players and invited them to call upon me at any stage if they require any assistance with the Rules. By this stage the wind was really becoming very strong.

Approaching the first green the second player's full pitching wedge shot was played to the right edge of the green but the wind carried it sideways at least 12 metres to land on the left side of the green and then roll into the adjacent water hazard! The first player's ball meanwhile was moved a metre on the green by the wind. The players asked me to notify the rovers of these effects; this coincided with similar complaints of balls moving on a number of other greens, and play was immediately suspended. Moments later a TV tower adjacent to the 18th green was blown over by the wind and three tents collapsed. We then had a fruitless two hours waiting in the club house for play to recommence, which it did with the wind still very strong but without the extremely strong intermittent gusts that had earlier made play impossible.

During the remainder of the round my two players had three episodes where the ball moved after address on the green, but in each case it was quite clear this was due to the wind and each time when the player looked across to me they got a quiet nod of acknowledgement and they proceeded without discussion. It is my practice to always

watch the ball closely during the putting process, all the more on hard greens with a significant wind.

Because of the wind, play was slow. There was regular radio communication between all the referees and the rovers in an attempt to identify any remediable gaps in the field. Generally none appeared and there was minimal requirement for formal timing of any slow players. Being more mobile and with more information at hand, the rovers are in a better position to assess the status of play ahead – players get extremely annoyed when asked to speed up then run into a hold-up soon after! Timing is carried out by the rovers, but usually only after the players have been warned a hole or two prior by their referee at the request of the rovers. "Out of Position" is defined on the men's Tour as being more than the starting time behind the group ahead, and also over the allocated time as referenced in the above-mentioned timing sheet.

On the 10th hole one of the players drove into a water hazard on the right hand side with the ball sitting fairly close to a timber retaining wall, but I had to explain that there was no free relief from an immovable obstruction within a water hazard. I don't think he was surprised by my response to his request, and this is quite common.

On the 12th hole one of my players pushed his drive off the right hand fairway, where there was about a 4 metre drop from the elevated edge of the fairway. The ball was readily found by the adjacent spectators, but it was deemed unplayable.

Relief under 28(b) is straight forward, but its application can sometimes be difficult and time-consuming. The referee needs to be alert to the impact taking relief can have on the field behind and if it might be time-consuming it is appropriate to warn the rovers, but also to try to facilitate the ruling as rapidly as practicable. I made my way to the top of the embankment and positioned myself on a line between the flag and where I had asked the caddie to stand and indicate the position of the unplayable ball. By doing this I was able to very quickly give the player the line on which he could drop, because he was unable to see the flag from where he was positioned down the embankment. At the same time I radioed that there might be a resultant delay. On another occasion a similar unplayable ball in the trees on the right hand side of the 12th green was a very difficult relief to organise, because of the tall trees and tea tree combined with a 10 metre drop down to the adjacent 14th fairway, making determination of the relevant line very difficult indeed. (A helicopter would have been useful!).

After my ruling on the 12th we had lost time and fallen back from the group ahead. However a quick look down the 14th hole whilst completing the 13th revealed that the group ahead was now waiting on the fairway at their second shot and so we were likely to rapidly catch up, and so there was no point in the rovers asking me to speak to my group with regard to pace of play.

On the 14th hole the approach to the green was a long carry over water and one of my players landed his ball on the front edge of the green but the combination of back spin, slope on the green and surrounds, and also the strong wind resulted in the ball spinning back into the hazard. Before the player took the drop I warned that the ball was likely to roll back towards the water hazard and that it should not be stopped until it crossed the margin, so an upturned umbrella was recommended to catch the ball as it rolled over the edge of the wall into the hazard after it crossed the red line. This obviously happened twice and as he placed his ball I reminded him that he might consider playing this next shot without delay in view of the slope of the ground

and also the strong wind, because if it again rolled into the hazard after being placed at rest this was now going to be a new situation with a further penalty. He immediately asked his caddie to have his pitching wedge at hand; he played quickly and holed out uneventfully.

On the 18th hole, which is a long par 3, one player pushed his tee shot wide of the greenside bunkers into the spectator area standing in front of the clubhouse. Unfortunately a spectator put out his hand and intentionally stopped the player's ball. Fortunately one of our referee colleagues was on the spot and saw the incident happen and he was able to make a positive judgement as to where he thought the ball may have come to rest had the spectator not interfered. (In the absence of such useful expertise being on hand it would have been appropriate to ask the spectators for a consensus view as to where they thought the ball would probably have come to rest but for the interference). The player dropped his ball on the nominated position, which was just short of a sloping sealed pathway that could have otherwise carried his ball down either into the clubhouse area or into the adjacent car park!

The player's stance was interfered with by this path, and there was advertising boarding on his line of play. The player confirmed that he would ignore both obstructions.

In subsequently walking to the scorer's tent the players expressed their appreciation for the assistance during the round. As referees we recognise that this is their "office" where they make a living, that we acknowledge the responsibility of helping them to avoid breaches of the Rules, and that in addition we have an important role in insuring the field moves as rapidly as practicable. In supporting the rovers we play a significant role in "pace of play" issues, recognising that most players get very frustrated with five and a half hour rounds and also that the television wants the field in by a particular time to meet their broadcasting timetable.

Rules Quiz Answers

True/False?

1. True. See definition of addressing the ball.
2. False. See definition of advice.
3. False. See Appendix IV 1. Tees.
4. True. See Rule 27 1c Exception and then 18-1, 24-3 and 25-1.
5. True. Rule 10-1b and 10-2b.

David & Brian Strike Trouble

1. One stroke.
 2. One stroke, two penalty strokes: Rule 13-2 and Decision 13-2/4.5; no penalty for playing ball which rolled less than 2 club-lengths outside DZ, Decision 20-2c/1.
 3. One stroke, no penalties: Decision 13-4/21.
 4. No stroke, two penalty strokes: Decision 15-2/1.
 5. One stroke, one penalty stroke: Decision 16-2/1.
- 4 strokes and 5 penalty strokes: total 9 strokes.*

Decisions Book Required

1. When a ball is lifted under Rule 20-1, it is out of play — see Definition of 'Ball in Play'. When the player played a stroke with his ball while it was out of play, he played a wrong ball (Rule 15-3).
In match play, the player lost the hole (Rule 15-3a).
In stroke play, he incurred a penalty of two strokes and was required to correct the error before playing from the next tee; otherwise, he would be disqualified (Rule 15-3b). See Decision 15/4. (Comment: Don't set aside a ball on the putting green, put it in your pocket!)

2. If the pitch-mark was there before the player's ball came to rest, he is not entitled to relief without penalty. If the pitch-mark was created after the player's ball came to rest, in equity (Rule 1-4), he may repair the pitch-mark. A player is entitled to the lie which his stroke gave him. See Decision 13-2/8.
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). See Decision 19-3/3.
4. When the player made a stroke at the ball, it was in play and Rule 11-3 no longer applied. When the ball in play moved after it was addressed, the player incurred a penalty stroke and was obliged to replace the ball (Rule 18-2b). See Decision 11-3/1.
5. When the competitor played another ball from the tee, the original ball was lost and the other ball was in play under penalty of stroke and distance — Rule 27-1. See Decision 10-2c/1.

Editor's Notes: In the Spring edition Quiz, the answer to David and Brian's Hole 1 scenario was incorrect. The one stroke penalty for dropping from the water hazard was not included – the total strokes should have read 8. Thanks to those observant readers who advised us.