

# **RULES OF GOLF ACCREDITATION PROGRAM**

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**Club Level  
Study Booklet 2012**



**GolfAustralia**

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# WORKSHOP OUTLINE

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**DURATION:** 3 hours

**NOTE:** At all stages participants are encouraged to ask whatever questions they have. In many cases, answers to questions raised are illustrated on a whiteboard to ensure a better understanding of some issues.

## **Introduction**

- Introduction of Seminar presenters.
- Display and outline of available resources to help develop participants' rules knowledge.
- How to use the rule book, particularly the Contents and Index sections (including exercises).
- The language of the rules, specifically encouraging an understanding of the definitions, notes and exceptions.

Time: 40 minutes

## **The Rules of Golf Explained**

Utilising PowerPoint slides and access to a whiteboard for explanatory purposes, the key Rules of Golf are outlined, with particular reference to the following areas:

- Replacement of Damaged Club.
- Ball Unfit for Play.
- Scoring in Stroke Play particularly the player's responsibilities in relation to the scorecard.
- Practice before, between and during a round.
- Advice on the course.
- The Teeing Ground.
- Identifying ball.
- Improving lie, area of intended swing or line of play.
- Ball lying in or touching a hazard.
- Striking the Ball.
- Wrong Ball.
- Putting Green, particularly Line of Putt.
- The flagstick.
- Ball at rest moved/Ball in motion deflected or stopped.
- Lifting, dropping and placing.
- Cleaning Ball.
- Obstructions.
- Ground Under Repair.
- Water Hazards.
- Lost Ball including the play of a provisional ball.
- Unplayable Ball.

Time: 2 hours

## **NOTES:**

- (i) The presentation is usually halted after the first hour and a half for a coffee/tea break which also allows participants to ask any questions which they may have been saving up.
- (ii) The emphasis of the presentation is on the "basics" of the rules ie: rules which all club golfers should know, especially those persons who hold office in their club and may have the responsibility to adjudicate on club rules issues.

# RULES RESOURCE ARTICLES

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## How to Learn About the Rules of Golf

A common question asked of Golf Australia and the state associations is “how do I learn more about the Rules of Golf?” While there is no instant solution that can suddenly instil in any golfer an excellent knowledge of the rules, there are many practical things that can be done which, over time, will assist an individual in developing a greater understanding of the rules.

As in many areas of education, the onus is on the individual to undertake their own research and study to broaden their knowledge of golf rules. While participating in accreditation courses is an excellent starting point to learn more about the rules, it is not possible within the course’s duration to provide a complete understanding. Indeed, regardless of the length of any rules seminar, the individual must undertake their own private study to both initially learn and then maintain a sound knowledge in this area.

Fortunately, there are a number of resources available to assist golfers develop a greater understanding and knowledge of the rules of golf such as:

- Rules of Golf Book
- Decisions on the Rules of Golf
- Golf Rules Illustrated
- Golf Rules DVDs
- Rules Columns within major golf magazines
- Golf Australia Club and State Level Accreditation Courses
- Internet websites

### **RULES OF GOLF BOOK (available from your Club)**

The Rules of Golf book details all 34 rules of golf in full together with 4 Appendices on issues such as local rules, competition conditions, design of clubs and balls, the Rules of Amateur Status and devices and other equipment.

Rules books are available free of charge at all golf clubs and from the state golf associations. All golfers, regardless of ability, should carry a rules book in their golf bag.

While the Rules of Golf are written in a technical manner, they are still very easy to read and comprehend. The rules are by no means as complicated as legal jargon and with a little patience, application and regular reading, your understanding of the rules can be greatly enhanced.

A Quick Guide to the Rules is provided at the front of the book. It is hoped this will encourage players to carry a rule book with them on the course and to refer to it when necessary.

A practical way of improving your knowledge may be to set a goal of reading one Rule per week. Through using articles on the language of the rules and contents/index exercises combined with reading the rule book itself, it will not take long for your rules knowledge to improve.

### **DECISIONS ON THE RULES OF GOLF (available from your State Association)**

The Decisions on the Rules of Golf book contains over 1200 decisions by The R&A and the United States Golf Association covering each Rule. This resource, which is revised biennially, is an important reference as it answers numerous and often complicated rules scenarios.

### **GOLF RULES ILLUSTRATED (available from your State Association)**

This book contains the complete rules, together with over 100 illustrations designed to provide an easier understanding of the rules of the game, with particular emphasis given to those situations that cause most difficulty for golfers at all levels.

Famous incidents and frequently asked questions all aid understanding.

Golf Rules Illustrated will give you clear visual answers to the many Rules problems that arise on the course.

### **GOLF RULES IN ACTION – DVD (available from your State Association)**

Golf Rules in Action covers the fundamental rules of golf by reference to rules incidents that have occurred at the highest levels of the game. This DVD contains footage of the world's top players applying the rules in situations that golfers of all abilities may encounter during their own round. Obstructions, out of bounds, lost balls, unplayable lies, water hazards, loose impediments and casual water are just some of the rules explained in this essential golf DVD.

Golf Rules in Action is perfect as a basic education tool for players of all levels. It can be played as a 'background item' in clubhouses at high-use times, or used as a stand-alone item on club members' nights or during new-member induction presentations.

### **RULES COLUMNS**

Rules columns can be found within most major golf magazines. The purpose of the rules columns is to present the major rules in a simple way accompanied by relevant decisions to assist golfers develop their knowledge and interpretations and to explain unusual and complicated rules decisions which have arisen in the past.

Rules columns not only assist golfers with their knowledge of the rules but are also useful as reference items. Columns may be used when requiring resource material for persons unfamiliar or inexperienced with the rules and on occasions reproduced for the club newsletter or pinned on notice boards.

### **INTERNET SITES**

Comprehensive golf rules sections can also be found on the following websites:

- [www.golfaustralia.org.au](http://www.golfaustralia.org.au) - Golf Australia
- [www.usga.org](http://www.usga.org) - United States Golf Association
- [www.randa.org](http://www.randa.org) - The R&A

In addition, the rules sections of State Association websites are also useful resource tools.

### **CLUB AND STATE LEVEL RULES ACCREDITATION COURSES**

The Club Level course consists of a three hour seminar followed by a 50 question multiple choice examination a few weeks later. The State Level course consists of a one day seminar followed by a one day exam.

The goal for all golfers should be to have a general knowledge of the rules of golf (particularly the most commonly used rules) that is supported by a good understanding of how to use the rule book to find the answer to the more complicated situations which arise. For those people who are more heavily involved with golf rules through such responsibilities as committee duties, junior coordination or tournament organising, it is important to at least have undertaken a Club Level Rules Accreditation course and have a sound working knowledge of the decisions book.

Through utilising the above resources, it is possible to both improve your knowledge of the Rules of Golf whilst heightening your enjoyment of the game.

For further information on any of the resource items listed, contact your State Association.

# How to Use the Rule Book

The Rules of Golf book details all 34 Rules of Golf in full together with 4 Appendices on issues such as local rules, competition conditions, design of clubs and balls, the Rules of Amateur Status and devices and other equipment.

Rule books are available free of charge at all golf clubs and from the state golf associations. All golfers, regardless of ability, should carry a rule book in their golf bag. There is certain to be a time on the course when a situation will arise where the rule book will need to be consulted to enable a player to proceed correctly. Unlike other sports, in golf you are your own referee most of the time and, as such, it is your responsibility to know and apply the rules of golf when required.

Two important points to remember are; (i) don't be scared or embarrassed if you don't know a rule and (ii) don't be hesitant to use the rule book. The front of the book contains a contents section and the back a comprehensive index. Use these features when confronted with a situation where you need to apply the rules.

## **CONTENTS SECTION**

The contents section clearly lists the titles of all 34 rules in a form which easily assists players identify the rule they require. For instance, if a player accidentally kicks a ball while it is at rest on the fairway and they are unsure as to whether there is a penalty, a quick glance at the contents page will make it clear that the player needs to refer to Rule 18 – Ball at Rest Moved. Upon consulting this rule, the player will find the specific part of the rule (in this case Rule 18-2) and discover they incur a one-stroke penalty in stroke play or match play, and that the ball must be replaced.

## **INDEX SECTION**

The index section provides more comprehensive assistance in presenting a variety of rules situations in alphabetical order. A player is able to look up the issue about which they require a ruling and identify the relevant rule and page number.

For example, let's refer to the above rules situation (player accidentally kicks and moves their ball at rest in the middle of the fairway). By using the index, the player is able to identify the term "Moved Ball" on page 197. Moving down the sub-headings, they should then notice the term "by player - accidentally". The index then directs the player to Rule 18-2a on page 75. Rule 18-2a provides the answer to the question (one-stroke penalty in stroke play and match play, and the ball must be replaced).

# The Language of the Rules

## INTRODUCTION

The three most important things golfers can do in relation to the Rules of Golf are:

1. Always carry a rule book in their golf bag when playing a round of golf.
2. Read the rule book as regularly as possible to obtain a better knowledge of the rules.
3. Learn how to use the rule book to find the answers to the various rules situations which arise whilst playing.

While the first point may seem trivial, it is surprising how few golfers actually carry a rule book in their golf bag. Given the nature of the rules, it is unwise to try to answer or solve a rules situation without referring to the rule book. Yet many golfers each week resolve rules situations using their own judgement, often leading to inadvertent breaches of the rules. Given that they are available free of charge, all golfers should carry a rule book on the course and use it when the situation warrants.

In relation to the second point, many golfers are put off from reading the rules because they perceive the book to be very technical in nature and difficult to understand. While the book is technical, it is by no means as complex as legal jargon. With a few pointers, the book can be quite easy and enjoyable to read.

The four keys to understanding the Rules are as follows:

- (i) The Definitions.
- (ii) The key words - *Must, Should* and *May*.
- (iii) The terms - *A Ball, The Ball, His Ball*.
- (iv) The Notes and Exceptions.

## DEFINITIONS

It is almost impossible to understand the rules of golf without first looking at the definitions. Definitions are terms which define areas of the course, objects and playing situations which golfers encounter when playing golf. When interpreting a rules situation, it is essential to refer to the definition of a particular term to both correctly understand and apply the relevant Rule of Golf.

There are more than 60 Definitions listed at the beginning of the rule book and it is important they be referred to when applying a rule to a situation arising on the course. For instance, if a player's ball moves on the fairway when they have taken their stance but not grounded their club, are they penalised? Prior to consulting Rule 18-2b (Ball moving after address) it is important to understand the definition of "Addressing the Ball" which will assist in resolving this situation.

## MUST, SHOULD AND MAY

Following the definitions, the next key point to note when reading the Rules of Golf is some of the terminology that is commonly used. Three key words that are used throughout the book are **must**, **should** and **may**. The significance of all three is explained thus:

- ◆ **Must** Must is mandatory and a penalty often applies if the instruction is not carried out. When used in the context of a rule, it means the player has no option but to do what the Rule says. An example is Rule 14-1:

*The ball must be fairly struck at with the head of the club and must not be pushed, scraped or spooned.*

- ◆ **Should** Should is a recommendation. When used in the context of a rule, it is recommended the player follow the wording of the Rule but they are not obliged to do so. An example is in the note to Rule 20-1 which states:

*The position of a ball to be lifted should be marked by placing a ball-marker, a small coin or other similar object immediately behind the ball. If the ball-marker interferes with the play, stance or stroke of another player, it should be placed one or more clubhead-lengths to one side.*

- ◆ **May** May is optional and is for guidance only. Within the rules, it indicates to the player what they could choose to do. However, it is used in the context of a suggestive statement only and the player does not have to follow what is being suggested. For example, in Rule 23-1 relating to loose impediments.

*Except when both the loose impediment and the ball lie in or touch the same hazard, any loose impediment may be moved without penalty. If the ball lies anywhere other than on the putting green and the removal of a loose impediment by the player causes the ball to move, Rule 18-2a applies.*

## A BALL, The BALL, His BALL

Other terms used in the rule book which often cause confusion are the words *the*, *his* and *a*, in the context of *the* ball, *his* ball and *a* ball.

In brief, *the* ball or *his* ball means the ball currently in play or being referred to in relation to a particular rule. *A* ball is more general and usually refers to a ball which a player can put into play in accordance with the rules. A good example is that found under Rule 28 whereby...

If the player deems **his ball** to be unplayable, he must *under penalty of one stroke*:

- a. Proceed under the stroke and distance provision of Rule 27-1 by playing **a ball** as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played (see Rule 20-5); or
- b. Drop **a ball** behind the point where the ball lay, keeping that point directly between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped, with no limit to how far behind that point the ball may be dropped; or
- c. Drop **a ball** within two club-lengths of the spot where the ball lay, but not nearer the hole;

## NOTES AND EXCEPTIONS

Another key issue is that of notes and exceptions. Within the rule book there are numerous notes and exceptions related to specific rules. In some cases, notes and exceptions can lead to an alternative interpretation of a rule when certain circumstances apply.

Notes are basically utilised to either clarify the procedure in applying a rule; reinforce a particular aspect of a rule; provide references to similar rules; or provide a statement clarifying the meaning and interpretation of a rule.

Exceptions are generally statements that indicate to players that there is a variation to the rule when certain circumstances apply or that another rule overrides the rule being referred to. Two good examples of a note and exception are contained in Rule 24-2b where the exception and note are listed as follows:

**Exception:** A player may not take relief under this Rule if (a) interference by anything other than an immovable obstruction makes the stroke clearly impracticable or (b) interference by an immovable obstruction would occur only through the use of a clearly unreasonable stroke or an unnecessarily abnormal stance, swing or direction of play.

**Note 1:** If a ball is in a *water hazard* (including a *lateral water hazard*), the player may not take relief from interference by an immovable obstruction. The player must play the ball as it lies or proceed under Rule 26-1.

**Note 2:** If a ball to be dropped or placed under this Rule is not immediately recoverable, another ball may be substituted.

**Note 3:** The Committee may make a Local Rule stating that the player must determine the nearest point of relief without crossing over, through or under the obstruction.

These statements provide clear messages as to how the rule is to be interpreted and under what circumstance relief is available to the player.

# Applying the Rules of Golf

## 1. Identify the form of play.

- Match Play or Stroke Play? The penalties may differ significantly.
- Single, foursome or four-ball? Singles match play and individual stroke play are covered in Rules 1-28. Foursomes, multi-ball match play and stroke play plus bogey; par and Stableford competitions are also governed by Rules 1-28 but are supplemented by Rules 29-32.

## 2. Who is involved?

- The player, his partner or his caddie?
- In match play, the player's opponent or his caddie?
- In stroke play, a fellow-competitor or his caddie?
- Is it an outside agency?

## 3. Where did the incident occur?

- On the teeing ground of the hole being played?
- In a hazard (ie a bunker, a water hazard, or a lateral water hazard)?
- On the putting green of the hole being played?
- Elsewhere on the course (ie through the green)?

Where the incident occurs has a significant effect on what the player may do, whether a penalty is incurred and the relief to which the player is entitled.

## 4. Pay attention to the Definitions located in section II at the front of the book.

Important terms within the Definitions (themselves the subject of a Definition) are shown in italics.

At the commencement of each Rule a reminder is given that all Definitions important to the correct application of that particular Rule are listed at the front of the book.

Within each Rule, all defined terms are printed in italics.

## 5. Do not try to memorise the Rules.

Instead, try to become familiar with the Rule Book.

With practice, it is possible to know without looking, the Rule number applying to such common subjects as: Putting Green, Ball Moving or Deflected, Lifting Dropping or Placing, Loose Impediments, Obstructions, Abnormal Ground Conditions (GUR), Water Hazards, Out of Bounds, Unplayable Ball etc.

**The best Rules authority is not necessarily the one who can quote rules chapter and verse.**

**A good Rules authority will be able to identify the relevant text in the rule book confidently and quickly and then present this information together with an explanation, if necessary, to the person asking the question.**

# “The Fine Points” of the Rules of Golf

Many golfers are apprehensive about reading the Rules of Golf Book because of the perception the language used is difficult to understand. Also, many of the “fine points” of the Rules are difficult to locate and are sometimes found under a completely different rule than the rule you believe should answer a rules issue.

With a little patience and concentration on the language of the rules (particularly definitions; the words must, should and may and the ball; his ball; a ball), the rules can be read and understood. With additional reading, any golfer can also uncover the “fine points” referred to above and better understand how the rules relate to each other. This article will highlight some of the “fine points” of the rules and where you can find them in your Rule Book.

## **Definition: Ball in play (Page 22)**

A ball is "in play" as soon as the player has made a stroke on the teeing ground. It remains in play until it is holed, except when it is lost, out of bounds or lifted, or another ball has been substituted, whether or not the substitution is permitted; a ball so substituted becomes the ball in play.

As soon as another ball has been substituted, whether or not this substitution is permitted, the ball so substituted becomes the ball in play.

## **Definition: Lost Ball (Page 29)**

A ball is deemed "lost" if:

- a. It is not found or identified as his by the player within five minutes after the player's side or his or their caddies have begun to search for it; or
- b. The player has made a stroke at a provisional ball from the place where the original ball is likely to be or from a point nearer the hole than that place see Rule 27-2b); or
- c. The player has put another ball into play under penalty of stroke and distance under Rule 26-1a, 27-1 or 28a; or
- d. The player has put another ball into play because it is known or virtually certain that the ball, which has not been found, has been moved by an outside agency (see Rule 18-1), is in an obstruction (see Rule 24-3), is in an abnormal ground condition (see Rule 25-1c) or is in a water hazard (see Rule 26-1b or c); or
- e. The player has made a stroke at a substituted ball.

Many golfers believe that they can verbally declare a ball lost (ie “I declare my ball lost”) and the ball is then deemed lost under the Rules of Golf. This is not true. A ball is only lost if one of the above five scenarios occur.

## **Definition: Wrong Ball (Page 35)**

A "wrong ball" is any ball other than the player's:

- ~ ball in play;
- ~ provisional ball;
- ~ or· second ball played under Rule 3-3 or Rule 20-7c in stroke play;

and includes:

- ~ another player's ball;
- ~ an abandoned ball; and
- the player's original ball when it is no longer in play.

A ball is "in play" as soon as the player has made a stroke on the teeing ground. It remains in play until it is holed, except when it is lost, out of bounds or lifted, or another ball has been substituted, whether or not the substitution is permitted; a ball so substituted becomes the ball in play.

If a player hits someone else's ball, he has played a “wrong ball”.

If he plays a ball which is deemed “lost” (see Definition above), he has played a “wrong ball”.

If he plays a ball which has been marked, lifted and set aside on the putting green, he has played a ball which has been lifted and is out of play and therefore a “wrong ball”.

**Rule 6-2b: Handicap – Stroke Play (Page 48)**

In any round of a handicap competition, the competitor must ensure that his handicap is recorded on his score card before it is returned to the Committee. If no handicap is recorded on his score card before it is returned (Rule 6-6b), or if the recorded handicap is higher than that to which he is entitled and this affects the number of strokes received, **he is disqualified** from the handicap competition; otherwise, the score stands.

This means that in a stroke event, if a player fails to put their handicap on the card, then that player is only disqualified from the net section of the competition but the gross score would stand.

**Rule 7-2: Practice During Round (Page 54)**

A player must not make a practice stroke during play of a hole. Between the play of two holes a player must not make a practice stroke, except that he may practice putting or chipping on or near:

- (a) the putting green of the hole last played,
- (b) any practice putting green, or
- (c) the teeing ground of the next hole to be played in the round, provided a practice stroke is not made from a hazard and does not unduly delay play (Rule 6-7).

Strokes made in continuing the play of a hole, the result of which has been decided, are not practice strokes.

The final sentence permits a scenario such as this, involving a player competing in a par or Stableford competition:

- The player drives into the trees.
- Despite searching for his ball, the ball is lost.
- The player throws another ball down at that point and plays out the hole.

Footnote: Naturally, the player would not score on this hole.

**Rule 8-2b: Indicating Line of Play on the Putting Green (Page 56)**

When the player's ball is on the putting green, the player, his partner or either of their caddies may, before but not during the stroke, point out a line for putting, but in so doing the putting green must not be touched. A mark must not be placed anywhere to indicate a line for putting.

The key point here is that many golfers believe the green can be touched behind the hole by their caddie or partner to indicate a line for putting. As can be seen from the above rule, this is not permissible as it is clearly stated that the putting green must not be touched.

**Rule 10-3: Provisional Ball or Another Ball from Teeing Ground (Page 60)**

If a player plays a provisional ball or another ball from the teeing ground, he must do so after his opponent or fellow-competitor has made his first stroke. If more than one player elects to play a provisional ball or is required to play another ball from the teeing ground, the original order of play must be retained. If a player plays a provisional ball or another ball out of turn, Rule 10-1c or 10-2c applies.

This Rule is not contained under **Rule 27-2 – Provisional Ball**, but clarifies when a player is to play a provisional ball from the teeing ground.

**Rule 12-1b: Searching for or Identifying Ball Covered by Loose Impediments in Hazard (Page 62)**

In a *hazard*, if the player's ball is believed to be covered by *loose impediments* to the extent that he cannot find or identify it, he may, without penalty, touch or move *loose impediments* in order to find or identify the ball. If the ball is found or identified as his, the player must replace the *loose impediments*. If the ball is *moved* during the touching or moving of *loose impediments* while searching for or identifying the ball, Rule 18-2a applies; if the ball is *moved* during the replacement of the *loose impediments*, there is no penalty and the ball must be replaced. If the ball was entirely covered by *loose impediments*, the player must re-cover the ball but is permitted to leave a small part of the ball visible.

Note that there is now a penalty under Rule 18-2a if the ball is moved during the touching or moving of loose impediments in order to find or identify the ball. If the ball is found, the player must replace the

loose impediments, and may leave a small part of the ball visible. If the ball is moved during replacement of the loose impediments, there is no penalty.

**Rule 12-1c: Searching for Ball in Water in Water Hazard (Page 63)**

If a ball is believed to be lying in water in a *water hazard*, the player may, without penalty, probe for it with a club or otherwise. If the ball in water is accidentally *moved* while probing, there is no penalty; the ball must be replaced, unless the player elects to proceed under Rule 26-1. If the *moved* ball was not lying in water or the ball was accidentally *moved* by the player other than while probing, Rule 18-2a applies.

In a water hazard, if the ball is accidentally moved while probing in water, there is no penalty and the ball must be replaced unless the player elects to proceed under Rule 26-1. If the ball was not lying in water, the player is penalised under Rule 18-2a if the ball is moved.

**Rule 12-2: Lifting Ball for Identification (Page 63)**

The responsibility for playing the proper ball rests with the player. Each player should put an identification mark on his ball.

If a player believes that a ball at rest might be his, but he cannot identify it, the player may lift the ball for identification, without penalty. The right to lift a ball for identification is in addition to the actions permitted under Rule 12-1.

Before lifting the ball, the player must announce his intention to his *opponent* in match play or his *marker* or a *fellow-competitor* in stroke play and mark the position of the ball. He may then lift the ball and identify it, provided that he gives his *opponent*, *marker* or *fellow-competitor* an opportunity to observe the lifting and replacement. The ball must not be cleaned beyond the extent necessary for identification when lifted under Rule 12-2.

If the ball is the player's ball and he fails to comply with all or any part of this procedure, or he lifts his ball in order to identify it without having good reason to do so, he **incurs a penalty of one stroke**. If the lifted ball is the player's ball, he must replace it. If he fails to do so, he incurs the **general penalty** for a breach of Rule 12-2, but there is no additional penalty under this Rule.

Note that under Rule 12-2 a player is allowed to lift their ball for identification from any part of the course. However, the ball cannot be lifted for identification if it can be identified as the player's ball where it lies without being lifted.

Also, the final paragraph indicates that a player will incur a one-stroke penalty for not undertaking any or all of the procedural requirements listed in the second paragraph. The key points which golfers often forget to do when intending to identify their ball are: (a) to tell their marker/fellow competitor/opponent what they are doing and (b) to give that person an opportunity to see the ball being lifted and replaced.

**Rule 13-4: Ball in Hazard (Page 66); Exception 2:**

At any time, the player may smooth sand or soil in a hazard provided this is for the sole purpose of caring for the course and nothing is done to breach Rule 13-2 with respect to the next stroke. If a ball played from a hazard is outside the hazard after the stroke, the player may smooth sand or soil in the hazard without restriction.

Exception 2 to Rule 13-4 now permits a player to smooth sand or soil in a hazard at any time, including before playing from that hazard, provided it is for the sole purpose of caring for the course and Rule

13-2 is not breached. The exception also clarifies that this restriction does not apply if a ball played from a hazard lies outside the hazard after the stroke.

**Rule 13-4: Ball in Hazard (Page 66); Exception 3:**

If the player makes a stroke from a hazard and the ball comes to rest in another hazard, Rule 13-4a does not apply to any subsequent actions taken in the hazard from which the stroke was made.

Exception 3 to Rule 13-4 indicates that if a ball is played from one hazard into another hazard, the player will not be penalised under Rule 13-4a for subsequently testing the condition of the hazard the ball was played from. For example, if a player plays a ball from one bunker into another bunker, the player would not be penalised if they then make a practice swing which touches the sand in the first bunker.

**Rule 14-2: Assistance (Page 67)****b. Positioning of Caddie or Partner Behind Ball**

*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.*

*Exception: There is no penalty if the player's caddie, his partner or his partner's caddie is inadvertently located on or close to an extension of the line of play or line of putt behind the ball.*

To avoid a two-stroke penalty in stroke play or a loss of hole penalty in match play, don't let your caddie or partner stand on an extension of your line of play or line of putt behind the ball. Regular viewers of tournament golf will notice that some caddies help line up their players for putts from such an extension behind the ball but prior to the stroke being made the caddie moves away from this area to avoid a breach of this Rule.

**Rule 14-4: Striking the Ball More Than Once (Page 68)**

If a player's club strikes the ball more than once in the course of a stroke, the player must count the stroke and **add a penalty stroke**, making two strokes in all.

Rule 14-4 is quite clear. Basically, if you hit the ball more than once in the course of a stroke, the stroke counts and you must add on a one-stroke penalty in either stroke play or match play.

**Rule 14-5: Playing Moving Ball (Page 68)**

A player must not make a stroke at his ball while it is moving.

**Exceptions:**

- Ball falling off tee - Rule 11-3.
- Striking the ball more than once - Rule 14-4.
- Ball moving in water - Rule 14-6.

When the ball begins to move only after the player has begun the stroke or the backward movement of his club for the stroke, he incurs no penalty under this Rule for playing a moving ball, but he is not exempt from any penalty incurred under the following Rules:

- Ball at rest moved by a player - Rule 18-2a.
- Ball at rest moving after address - Rule 18-2b.

This Rule often leads golfers to think they can escape a penalty if their ball has begun to move after they have commenced their swing. As can be seen from the above, the answer to this question depends upon what set of circumstances exist. It should be noted that in a through the green situation (ie fairway or rough), once a player has addressed the ball (ie grounded the club immediately in front of or immediately behind the ball) they will not avoid a penalty under Rule 18-2b unless it is known or virtually certain that the player did not cause the ball to move.

**Rule 15-2: Substituted Ball (Page 69)**

A player may substitute a ball when proceeding under a Rule that permits the player to play, drop or place another ball in completing the play of a hole. The substituted ball becomes the ball in play.

If a player substitutes a ball when not permitted to do so under the Rules, that substituted ball is not a wrong ball; it becomes the ball in play. If the mistake is not corrected as provided in Rule 20-6 and the player makes a stroke at a wrongly substituted ball, he **loses the hole in match play or incurs a penalty of two strokes in stroke play** under the applicable Rule and, in stroke play, must play out the hole with the substituted ball.

Exception: If a player incurs a penalty for making a stroke from a wrong place, there is no additional penalty for substituting a ball when not permitted.

Note that even an incorrectly substituted ball is in play. However, at any time before a stroke is made with that ball, the error can be corrected without penalty under Rule 20-6.

**Rule 16-1f: Putting Green – Making Stroke While Another Ball in Motion (Page 72)**

The player must not make a stroke while another ball is in motion after a stroke from the putting green, except that if a player does so, he incurs no penalty if it was his turn to play.

As indicated above, if it isn't your turn to play and you go ahead and putt while another ball is in motion after a stroke from another location on the putting green, you will incur a two-stroke penalty in stroke play or loss of hole in match play.

**Rule 17-2: The Flagstick – Unauthorised Attendance (Page 74)**

If an opponent or his caddie in match play or a fellow-competitor or his caddie in stroke play, without the player's authority or prior knowledge, attends, removes or holds up the flagstick during the stroke or while the ball is in motion, and the act might influence the movement of the ball, the opponent or fellow-competitor incurs the applicable penalty.

Therefore in stroke play, the fellow-competitor would be penalised two strokes. Similarly, in Match Play the opponent would lose the hole.

**Rule 18-2b: Ball Moving After Address (Page 76)**

If a player's ball in play moves after he has addressed it (other than as a result of a stroke), the player is deemed to have moved the ball and incurs a penalty of one stroke.

The ball must be replaced, unless the movement of the ball occurs after the player has begun the stroke or the backward movement of the club for the stroke and the stroke is made.

**Exception:** If it is known or virtually certain that the player did not cause his ball to move, Rule 18-2b does not apply.

The Exception was added in 2012 to exonerate the player from penalty if it is known or virtually certain that the player did not cause the ball to move. For example, if it is a gust of wind that moves the ball after it has been addressed, there is no penalty and the ball is played from its new position

**Rule 18-3b: Ball at Rest Moved By Opponent, Caddie or Equipment in Match Play Other Than During Search (Page 76)**

If, other than during search for a player's ball, an opponent, his caddie or his equipment moves the ball, touches it purposely or causes it to move, except as otherwise provided in the Rules, **the opponent incurs a penalty of one stroke.** If the ball is moved, it must be replaced.

Consequently, if an opponent's caddie accidentally kicked and moved the player's ball (other than during a search), the opponent will incur a one-stroke penalty. This is also a further example of where a breach of a rule in Match Play will lead to a penalty other than loss of hole.

**Rule 19-1: Ball in Motion Deflected or Stopped - By Outside Agency (Page 78)**

**Note:** If a player's ball in motion has been deliberately deflected or stopped by an outside agency:

(a) after a stroke from anywhere other than on the putting green, the spot where the ball would have come to rest must be estimated. If that spot is:

- (i) through the green or in a hazard, the ball must be dropped as near as possible to that spot;
- (ii) out of bounds, the player must proceed under Rule 27-1; or
- (iii) on the putting green, the ball must be placed on that spot.

(b) after a stroke on the putting green, the stroke is cancelled. The ball must be replaced or replayed

If the *outside agency* is a *fellow-competitor* or his *caddie*, Rule 1-2 applies to the *fellow-competitor*.

This Note clarifies the action to be taken if a player's moving ball is deliberately deflected by an outside agency such as a spectator or a fellow-competitor. Thus, if a spectator or another competitor tries to assist by deliberately stopping a ball which would have come to rest beyond a boundary fence, the player must proceed under R27-1b (Ball Out of Bounds) even though the ball did not actually go out of bounds.

**Rule 19-3: Ball in Motion Deflected or Stopped By Opponent, Caddie or Equipment in Match Play (Page 79)**

If a player's ball is accidentally deflected or stopped by an opponent, his caddie or his equipment, there is no penalty. The player may, before another stroke is made by either side, cancel the stroke and play a ball without penalty as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played (Rule 20-5) or he may play the ball as it lies. However, if the player elects not to cancel the stroke and the ball has come to rest in or on the opponent's or his caddie's clothes or equipment, the ball must *through the green* or in a *hazard* be dropped, or on the *putting green* be placed, as near as possible to the spot directly under the place where the ball came to rest in or on the article, but not nearer the *hole*.

The player can either play the ball as it lies or replay the stroke without penalty. However, the player is prohibited from playing the ball as it lies if it comes to rest in or on the opponent's equipment or clothing.

**Rule 20-1: Lifting (Page 81)**

A ball to be lifted under the Rules may be lifted by the player, his partner or another person authorised by the player. In any such case, the player is responsible for any breach of the Rules. The position of the ball must be marked before it is lifted under a Rule that requires it to be replaced. If it is not marked, **the player incurs a penalty of one stroke** and the ball must be replaced. If it is not replaced, **the player incurs the general penalty for breach of this Rule** but there is no additional penalty under Rule 20-1.

If a ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved in the process of lifting the ball under a Rule or marking its position, the ball or ball-marker must be replaced. There is no penalty, provided the movement of the ball or ball-marker is directly attributable to the specific act of marking the position of or lifting the ball. Otherwise, **the player incurs a penalty of one stroke** under this Rule or Rule 18-2a.

It is a question of fact whether the ball or ball marker has been accidentally moved in the process of either marking or lifting the ball. You will be penalised for any of the following actions, which are deemed to not be directly attributable to marking/lifting the ball:

- Accidentally stepping on the ball-marker (Decision 20-1/5.5)
- Lifting the ball-marker in the mistaken belief that you have won hole (Decision 20-1/8)
- Accidentally kicking the ball when asked to lift it due to interference (Decision 20-1/13)
- Dropping your putter on your ball when approaching the ball to lift it (Decision 20-1/14)
- Moving your ball by accidentally dropping the ball – marker (Decision 20-1/15)

**Rule 20-2a: Dropping and Re-Dropping - By Whom and How (Page 81)**

A ball to be dropped under the Rules must be dropped by the player himself. He must stand erect, hold the ball at shoulder height and arm's length and drop it. If a ball is dropped by any other person or in any other manner and the error is not corrected as provided in Rule 20-6, **the player incurs a penalty of one stroke**.

If a player purposely puts spin on the ball whilst dropping it, they are not immediately penalised. Rule 20-6 provides the player with an opportunity to correct this error without penalty prior to playing the stroke.

**Rule 20-3c: Placing and Replacing – Spot Not Determinable (Page 84)**

If it is impossible to determine the spot where the ball is to be placed or replaced:

- (i) Through the green, the ball must be dropped as near as possible to the place where it lay but not in a hazard or on a putting green;
- (ii) In a hazard, the ball must be dropped in the hazard as near as possible to the place where it lay;
- (iii) On the putting green, the ball must be placed as near as possible to the place where it lay but not in a hazard.

Consequently, if your ball at rest in the middle of the fairway is moved by a maintenance vehicle, and you are not sure of the ball's exact location, then the ball must be dropped and not replaced.

Generally, the ball may only be replaced when you are certain of the spot on which it originally lay. However, if the original lie of a ball to be placed or replaced has been altered and is known, Rule 20-3b applies, which requires the ball to be placed even though the exact spot is not known.

**Rule 20-7c: Playing from Wrong Place – Stroke Play (Page 86)**

**Note 3:** If a player incurs a penalty for making a *stroke* from a wrong place, there is no additional penalty for:

- (a) *substituting* a ball when not permitted;
- (b) dropping a ball when the Rules require it to be placed, or placing a ball when the Rules require it to be dropped;
- (c) dropping a ball in an improper manner; or
- (d) a ball being put into play by a person not permitted to do so under the *Rules*.

Prior to 2012, the note only included item (a).

**Rule 21: Cleaning Ball (Page 88)**

A ball on the putting green may be cleaned when lifted under Rule 16-1b. Elsewhere, a ball may be cleaned when lifted, except when it has been lifted:

- (a) To determine if it is unfit for play (Rule 5-3);
- (b) For identification (Rule 12-2), in which case it may be cleaned only to the extent necessary for identification; or
- (c) Because it is assisting or interfering with play (Rule 22).

If a player cleans his ball during play of a hole except as provided in this Rule, **he incurs a penalty of one stroke** and the ball, if lifted, must be replaced.

Note that a lifted ball may be cleaned except if lifted for the purposes listed above. Note also that the penalty for cleaning the ball when not permitted is one stroke in both stroke play and match play.

**Rule 22-1: Ball Assisting Play (Page 88)**

Except when a ball is in motion, if a player considers that a ball might assist any other player, he may:

- (a) lift the ball if it is his ball; or
- (b) have any other ball lifted.

A ball lifted under this Rule must be replaced (see Rule 20-3). The ball must not be cleaned unless it lies on the putting green (see Rule 21).

If a player's ball is at rest one metre from the hole and the opponent's/fellow competitor's ball is in motion and looks like striking the player's ball, the player is not permitted to rush over to mark and lift it. In doing so, the player would incur a penalty of two strokes in stroke play or loss of hole in match play.

**Rule 23-1: Loose Impediments – Relief (Page 90)**

When a ball is in motion, a loose impediment that might influence the movement of the ball must not be removed.

As in the above Rule, if a player's ball is in motion after a stroke on a putting green, the player's caddie is not permitted to remove a leaf or twig which might deflect the ball away from the hole. The player would incur a penalty of two strokes in stroke play or loss of hole in match play.

**Rule 24-1: Movable Obstruction (Page 90)**

When a ball is in motion, an obstruction that might influence the movement of the ball, other than equipment of any player or the flagstick when attended, removed or held up, must not be moved.

Hence, if a ball is rolling towards your golf buggy you can move your buggy so the ball does not strike it. On the putting green, it is also permissible to pick up a golf club lying in a position where a ball in motion might strike it. It is also permissible to pick up an unattended flagstick lying on the putting green if a ball in motion could strike it.

**Rule 24-2b: Immovable Obstruction – Relief (Page 92)**

Note 1: If a ball is in a water hazard (including a lateral water hazard), the player may not take relief from interference by an immovable obstruction. The player must play the ball as it lies or proceed under Rule 26-1.

Proving again the need to read the notes contained within many rules, this note reinforces the statement in the first paragraph of Rule 24-2b that, when a player's ball is in a water hazard, there is no relief without penalty from an immovable obstruction. A common example of this is where a bridge or pipe interferes with your swing when your ball lies within a water hazard. However, it is permissible to touch such an immovable obstruction at address or in your back-swing.

**Rule 25-1b (iii): Abnormal Ground Conditions Relief – On the Putting Green (Page 95)**

Except when the ball is in a *water hazard* or a *lateral water hazard*, a player may take relief from interference by an *abnormal ground condition* as follows:

**(iii) On the Putting Green:** If the ball lies on the *putting green*, the player must lift the ball and place it without penalty at the *nearest point of relief* that is not in a *hazard*, or if complete relief is impossible, at the nearest position to where it lay that affords maximum available relief from the condition, but not nearer the hole and not in a hazard. The nearest point of relief or maximum available relief may be off the putting green.

When a player's ball lies on the putting green, the biggest misconception players have when taking relief from casual water is that the nearest point of relief must be on another part of the putting green. As can be seen above, this is not the case. A player simply has to find the nearest point of relief not nearer the hole, and not in a hazard. The ball is then placed at that point, even if that point is not on the putting green.

**Rule 27-2a: Provisional Ball – Procedure (Page 101)**

If a ball may be lost outside a water hazard or may be out of bounds, to save time the player may play another ball provisionally in accordance with Rule 27-1. The player must inform his opponent in match play or his marker or a fellow-competitor in stroke play that he intends to play a provisional ball, and he must play it before he or his partner goes forward to search for the original ball.

If he fails to do so and plays another ball, that ball is not a provisional ball and becomes the ball in play under penalty of stroke and distance (Rule 27-1); the original ball is lost.

Decision 27-2a/1 indicates that for a ball to be classified as a "provisional ball", the player must specifically mention the words provisional ball or make it clear that he is proceeding under Rule 27-2a. However, a player who says nothing and hits another ball has put another ball into play. Consequently, the player has not complied with the above Rule.

As the Decision goes on to indicate, the following statements do not satisfy the above requirement of announcing a provisional ball:

- (a) "That might be lost. I am going to re-load".
- (b) "That might be out of here".
- (c) "I'd better hit another one".
- (d) "I will never find that one. I'll play another".

**Rule 28: Ball Unplayable (Page 102)**

If the player deems his ball to be unplayable, he must, **under penalty of one stroke:**

- a. Proceed under the stroke and distance provision of Rule 27-1 by playing a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played (see Rule 20-5); or
- b. Drop a ball behind the point where the ball lay, keeping that point directly between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped, with no limit to how far behind that point the ball may be dropped; or
- c. Drop a ball within two club-lengths of the spot where the ball lay, but not nearer the hole.

If the unplayable ball is in a bunker, the player may proceed under Clause a, b or c. If he elects to proceed under Clause b or c, a ball must be dropped in the bunker.

When proceeding under this Rule, the player may lift and clean his ball or substitute a ball.

Two points to note with this Rule:

- After a tee shot, a player's ball comes to rest in a thick bush. Provided the player can identify their original ball, they are permitted to declare the ball unplayable and drop a different ball when proceeding under this Rule. The player is not obliged to drop the original ball even if it can be retrieved. Under option (a) the player may also return to the tee.
- When declaring a ball unplayable within a bunker, the only way the player can get out of the bunker under this Rule is via option (a) (ie return to the spot from where the original ball was last played; i.e. under stroke and distance). This may mean some distance sacrifice. If the player elects to proceed under option (b) or (c), a ball must be dropped in the bunker.

**Rule 33-1: Conditions; Waiving Rule (Page 112)**

Certain specific rules governing stroke play are so substantially different from those governing match play that combining the two forms of play is not practicable and is not permitted. The result of a match played in these circumstances is null and void and, in the stroke play competition, the competitors are disqualified.

A number of players would like to enter the stroke competition of the day whilst playing a knock-out match. Clearly Rule 33-1 indicates this is not permissible under the Rules of Golf.

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Many of the "fine points" outlined in this article are contained in notes/exceptions or the last paragraph/sentences of particular rules. Consequently, it is important when reading the rules to take note of each rule in its entirety.

As can be appreciated, there are certainly many "fine points" to the Rules of Golf. Not all fine points have been covered, but hopefully significant encouragement has been attained to browse through the Rule Book and discover just how many there actually are. The Rules of Golf are definitely as fascinating as the game itself.

# RULES EXERCISES

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## Contents Section Exercises

- |  | <b>Rule No.</b> |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. On the par 3 4 <sup>th</sup> hole, John tees his ball up 10cm in front of the tee markers and hits his tee shot to within a metre from the hole. His opponent Bill queries John's actions. What is the Rule number?   | _____           |
| 2. Doug's tee shot hits his opponent's golf bag and rebounds into the trees. What is the Rule Number?  | _____           |
| 3. Geoff forgets to take the flagstick out of the hole prior to a long putt from on the putting green. Geoff hits the putt and as the ball is in motion, his fellow competitor Laurie, moves quickly to the hole and removes the flagstick. What is the Rule Number?   | _____           |
| 4. In a match, Fred's caddie stands directly behind the line of putt while Fred putts so as to help him with his alignment. Fred's opponent, Wes claimed the hole. What is the Rule Number?  | _____           |
| 5. Tom played a bunker shot from a buried lie in the greenside bunker to within a metre from the hole. However on reaching the ball, Tom discovered that the ball was a Titleist and not the Callaway that he was using. What is the Rule Number?  | _____           |
| 6. Desley's ball lies against a rake in a bunker. What is the Rule Number?   | _____           |
| 7. Diane's ball was one metre off the edge of the putting green and interfering with the line of play of her opponent, Xena, whose ball was two metres from the green. On Xena's request, Diane marked and lifted her ball and then put it in her pocket. Xena then claimed the hole on the basis that Diane had cleaned her ball. What is the Rule Number?  | _____           |
| 8. In a foursome competition, Sharon hits the opening tee shot of the match out of bounds. After Helen, one of the opposing, pair hits her tee shot, Sharon hits another ball from the 1 <sup>st</sup> tee. Helen then question's Sharon's action. What is the Rule Number?  | _____           |
| 9. In a stroke event, Jean is worried about the tee shot on the 1 <sup>st</sup> hole as it involves a stroke across a large lake in front of the tee. In order not to risk her new Titleist ball, Jean uses an old ball that has a visible cut on its surface. Jean hits an excellent tee shot that comfortably -clears the lake. On reaching her ball, Jean then indicates to her marker that she is going to change her ball because it has a cut on its surface. What is the Rule Number? | _____           |
| 10. Justine faces a difficult approach shot over a large mound to the 4 <sup>th</sup> green. As she cannot see the green, Justine sends her caddie to the top of the mound to indicate her line of play. The caddie remains at the top of the mound indicating the line of play whilst Justine plays the stroke. What is the Rule Number?  | _____           |

## Index Section Exercises

	<b>Index Page</b>	<b>Rule</b>	<b>Rule Book Page</b>
1. On the 1 <sup>st</sup> tee, Lisa's ball falls off the tee as she is addressing it. What is the ruling?	_____	_____	_____
2. Rowan can't find his ball after driving into the rough. However a player from the group ahead calls back to say that Rowan's ball was seen to go down a rabbit hole at that location. What is the ruling?	_____	_____	_____
3. On reaching the 5 <sup>th</sup> green, a group of players find that the hole has been damaged by the flagstick being blown over in the wind. What is the correct procedure for the players?	_____	_____	_____
4. In a stroke competition Anne declared her ball unplayable under a bush. However in taking relief, Anne mistakenly dropped a ball three club-lengths from where her ball originally lay and played it. Her marker, Lisa, then queried whether Anne had played from a wrong place. What is the ruling?	_____	_____	_____
5. Kylie's tee shot went into a water hazard. On reaching the water hazard, Kylie uses a club to probe for the ball in the water. On seeing this action, her opponent Susan claimed the hole. What is the ruling?	_____	_____	_____
6. As Susan was making her swing for an approach shot to the 9 <sup>th</sup> green, a loud noise affected her concentration. Consequently she checked her downswing voluntarily in order to regroup and start again. On seeing this action, her opponent Kylie, questioned her action. What is the ruling?	_____	_____	_____
7. Geoff has just been elected onto the Club Committee and was put in charge of overseeing the midweek competition. Where in the Rules Book will he find the Committee's responsibilities in relation to score cards?	_____	_____	_____
8. Laurie was 4 down after 9 holes in a match against Noel. Feeling quite ill, Laurie advises Noel he wishes to discontinue play. Noel does not believe Laurie is permitted to take such an action. What is the ruling?	_____	_____	_____
9. David's putt comes to rest overhanging the hole. On reaching his ball, David waits for 15 seconds when, to his relief his ball falls into the hole for a par 4. However his marker Steve queries whether David's actions were permissible. What is the ruling?	_____	_____	_____
10. During a delay in play on the 17 <sup>th</sup> tee, Phil picked up Doug's driver and indicated that the club felt great. Phil then asked Doug if he could borrow the driver for the final two holes. What is the ruling?	_____	_____	_____

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## Club Level Sample Examination Questions

- 1. Emma and Brielle are playing in a stroke competition. While Emma's ball is rolling towards the hole, without Emma's authority, Brielle's caddie runs across the green and removes the unattended flagstick from the hole. What is the ruling?**

  - No penalty.
  - Emma is penalised two strokes.
  - Emma is disqualified.
  - Brielle is penalised two strokes.
  - Brielle is disqualified.
- 2. Gerry hit his tee shot on a par 3 into the right side of a fairway bunker. The rake was lying on the left side of the bunker so he entered the bunker and collected the rake. Which one of the following actions can Gerry take before playing a stroke from the bunker without penalty?**

  - Gerry can smooth any part of the bunker in order to care for the course without restriction.
  - Gerry can smooth only his own footprints in order to care for the course without restriction.
  - Gerry can smooth any part of the bunker in order to care for the course, provided he doesn't improve the lie of the ball or the area of his intended stance or swing for his next stroke.
  - Gerry can smooth any part of the bunker in order to care for the course, provided he doesn't improve the lie of the ball, the area of his intended stance or swing, or his line of play for his next stroke.
- 3. In a match, Lisa's tee shot is accidentally deflected by her opponent's golf bag and rebounds into the rough. What is the ruling?**

  - No penalty is incurred and the ball must be played as it lies.
  - No penalty, the stroke is cancelled and the tee shot must be replayed.
  - No penalty and the ball may be either played as it lies or the stroke cancelled and the tee shot replayed.
  - Lisa loses the hole.
  - Lisa's opponent loses the hole.
- 4. Daniel's ball comes to rest in a hole, which has been dug by the greenkeeper in order to plant trees. Neither the hole nor the area is marked as ground under repair. Can Daniel gain free relief?**

  - Yes.
  - No.
- 5. Fred's golf ball and Steve's golf ball lie close together in a bunker. Fred marks and lifts his ball as it interferes with Steve's play. In playing his stroke, Steve leaves a deep rut in the area where Fred's ball is to be replaced. What is the ruling?**

  - Fred's original lie is to be recreated as nearly as possible and his ball must be placed in that lie.
  - Fred's original lie is to be recreated as nearly as possible and his ball must be dropped in that area.
  - Fred is to replace his ball in the deep rut. There is nothing in the rules that give him relief without penalty in this situation.
  - Fred is required to place his ball in the nearest lie most similar to the original lie which is not more than one club-length from the original lie, not nearer the hole and is still in the bunker.
- 6. In a match, Diane, on request, marks and lifts her ball on the fairway just short of a putting green, because it interferes with her opponent's line of play for a chip shot. Prior to replacing her ball, Diane accidentally cleans her ball. What is the ruling?**

  - No penalty.
  - One stroke penalty and the ball must be replaced.
  - Two stroke penalty and the ball must be replaced.
  - Loss of hole.

7. **In a stroke round, Doug is putting from on the putting green. While Doug's ball is in motion, David marks and lifts his ball which was located just behind the hole. Doug's ball comes to rest one metre past the hole. What is the ruling?**
- A. No penalty to either player.
  - B. Doug is penalised 2 strokes whilst David receives no penalty.
  - C. David is penalised 2 strokes whilst Doug receives no penalty.
  - D. Both David and Doug are penalised 2 strokes.
8. **In a stroke round, Doug is putting from on the putting green. While Doug's ball is in motion, David removes the flagstick, which had been left a metre behind the hole. Doug's ball comes to rest 1½ metres past the hole. What is the ruling?**
- A. No penalty to either player.
  - B. Doug is penalised 2 strokes whilst David receives no penalty.
  - C. David is penalised 2 strokes whilst Doug receives no penalty.
  - D. Both David and Doug are penalised 2 strokes.
9. **During a stroke round, Lisa's ball is embedded in a soft section of fairway. She places her ball (rather than dropping it) almost one club-length from where it embedded and plays it. How many penalty strokes does Lisa incur?**
- A. 1
  - B. 2
  - C. 3
10. **Geoff's ball lies on a putting green near its edge. A sprinkler head on the green interferes with Geoff's line of putt and he would like to take relief. What is the ruling?**
- A. Geoff must play the ball as it lies.
  - B. Geoff may lift his ball and place it, without penalty, at the nearest point of relief that is not in a hazard. The nearest point of relief may be off the putting green.
  - C. Geoff may lift his ball and place it, without penalty, at the nearest point of relief that is not in a hazard. If the nearest point of relief is off the putting green, the ball must be dropped.
  - D. Geoff may lift his ball and place it, without penalty, on the putting green at the nearest position to where it lay that affords relief from interference. He cannot place the ball off the putting green.
11. **Which one of the following statements is FALSE?**
- A. The margin of a bunker extends vertically downwards but not upwards.
  - B. The margin of ground under repair extends vertically downwards but not upwards.
  - C. The margin of a water hazard extends vertically downwards but not upwards.
  - D. The out of bounds line extends vertically upwards and downwards.
  - E. The line of play extends vertically upwards from the ground, but does not extend beyond the hole.
12. **Carmel hit her drive on a par 4 into the centre of a large fairway bunker. Being uncertain of which club to play, she took her 8 and 9 irons from her bag and re-entered the bunker where her ball lay. After further thought she placed the 9 iron in the bunker and played out of the bunker with her 8 iron. Is Carmel penalised for her actions?**
- A. There is no penalty. Carmel was entitled to place her 9 iron in the bunker before playing her shot.
  - B. Carmel is penalised one stroke for touching the sand in the bunker with a club before making a stroke from the bunker.
  - C. Carmel is penalised two strokes for touching the sand in the bunker with a club before making a stroke from the bunker.

13. **Michael's ball come to rest on rocky ground next to a cart path. On the opposite side of the path is fairway without any rocks. In order to play a stroke, Michael must stand on the path, which is an immovable obstruction. However, his ball is lodged in a crevice in the rock and it is clearly impractical for him to make a stroke at the ball. How may Michael proceed?**
- A. Michael may take relief from the cart path without penalty, by dropping his ball within one club-length of the nearest point of relief from the cart path.
  - B. Michael may take relief from the cart path without penalty, by dropping his ball within one club-length of the nearest point of relief from the cart path, provided this point is on the rocky ground.
  - C. Michael is not entitled to free relief. He must take a penalty drop under the unplayable ball Rule.
14. **Jack sees his ball in a good lie on a closely mown area through the green. A few moments later, Jack accidentally runs over his ball with his golf cart, which presses the ball into the ground immediately below where it lay. What is the ruling?**
- A. There is no penalty; Jack must place the ball in the nearest lie most similar to the original lie that is not more than one club-length from the original lie, not nearer the hole and not in a hazard.
  - B. Jack incurs a one stroke penalty, and must place the ball in the nearest lie most similar to the original lie that is not more than one club-length from the original lie, not nearer the hole and not in a hazard.
  - C. Jack incurs a one-stroke penalty, and must drop the ball as near as possible to where it lay, but not nearer the hole and not in a hazard.
  - D. Jack incurs a one-stroke penalty, and must play the ball as it lies.
  - E. Jack loses the hole in match play.
15. **In stroke play, Alex is playing from the fairway just off the green. His fellow- competitor, Bob is attending the flagstick at Alex's request. Alex makes a stroke and the ball strikes the flagstick. What is the ruling?**
- A. The stroke must be replayed without penalty.
  - B. The ball must be played as it lies; there is no penalty, because the stroke was played from off the green.
  - C. The ball must be played as it lies and Alex incurs a two-stroke penalty.
  - D. Bob incurs a two-stroke penalty, as he was attending the flagstick and Alex replays without penalty.
16. **Which one of the following statements is FALSE?**
- A. A forecaddie is one who is employed by the Committee to indicate to players the position of balls during play. He is an outside agency.
  - B. A caddie is one who carries or handles a player's clubs during play and otherwise assists him in accordance with the Rules.
  - C. A referee is an outside agency.
  - D. The caddie of a player's partner is an outside agency.
17. **Which one of the following statements is CORRECT with regard to casual water intervening on a player's line of putt?**
- A. There is no relief without penalty from casual water which intervenes on the line of putt.
  - B. The ball must be lifted and placed, without penalty, on the putting green at the nearest point of relief, or if complete relief is impossible, at the nearest position on the putting green to where it lay that affords maximum available relief, but not nearer the hole.
  - C. The ball must be lifted and placed, without penalty, at the nearest point of relief that is not in a hazard, or if complete relief is impossible, at the nearest position to where it lay that affords maximum available relief, but not nearer the hole and not in a hazard. Such a position may be off the putting green.
  - D. The ball must be lifted and placed without penalty within one club-length of the point that affords maximum available relief, even if such position is off the putting green, but not nearer the hole nor in a hazard.

18. **Sue and Anne are fellow-competitors in stroke play. Sue's ball, which was at rest on the fairway, was accidentally kicked by Anne's caddie whilst the caddie was walking down the fairway. What decision should be given for both Sue and Anne?**
- A. Sue plays her ball as it lies; Anne incurs no penalty.
  - B. Sue replaces her ball; Anne incurs no penalty.
  - C. Sue plays her ball as it lies; Anne incurs a penalty of one stroke.
  - D. Sue replaces her ball; Anne incurs a penalty of one stroke.
19. **Which one of the following statements is TRUE regarding a ball that is dropped?**
- A. A ball dropped under Rule 26-1c must be re-dropped if the player's stance for the next stroke is within the margin of the hazard.
  - B. A ball dropped in accordance with Rule 28c must come to rest within two club-lengths of the ball's original position.
  - C. If a player takes relief for a ball unplayable and proceeds in accordance with Rule 28c, the ball must be re-dropped, without penalty, if it rolls back into the same unplayable lie position.
  - D. Anytime a dropped ball rolls nearer the hole after it strikes the ground, it must be re-dropped.
  - E. A ball dropped in accordance with Rule 25-1 must be re-dropped if the same condition interferes with the player's stance for his/her next stroke.
20. **Jason is playing in the monthly medal. His ball lands in a bunker, but he can't see it because it is covered by detached leaves. While moving some leaves during his search, Jason accidentally moves his ball with his hand. How many penalty strokes does Jason incur?**
- A. 0
  - B. 1
  - C. 2
21. **While waiting to tee off on the 10th hole of her stipulated round, Carol practices putting on the nearby practice putting green. What is the ruling?**
- A. In match play, Carol loses the 9th hole.
  - B. Carol incurs no penalty in either match play or stroke play.
  - C. In stroke play, Carol incurs two penalty strokes on the 10th hole.
  - D. Carol is disqualified if she played more than one practice stroke in either form of play.
22. **Rob and Jim are competing in a match play event. On the 2nd hole, Rob's tee shot just misses the fairway. Shortly after beginning to search for his ball, he sees a ball lying in light rough. Although he can see his identification mark on the ball, he announces to Jim that he wishes to lift the ball for identification and correctly follows the procedure outlined in the Rules. Jim questions whether Rob was entitled to lift the ball and makes a claim. What is the ruling?**
- A. There is no penalty. Rob is entitled to lift the ball at any time to identify it.
  - B. Rob incurs a penalty of one stroke for lifting the ball for identification without good reason to.
  - C. Rob incurs a penalty of two strokes for lifting the ball for identification without good reason to.
  - D. Rob loses the hole for lifting the ball for identification without good reason to.
23. **Therese played her first stroke from the teeing ground and her ball came to rest in a dry water hazard. She cannot see her identification mark on the ball and informs her fellow-competitor Emily that she would like to lift her ball to identify it. Before Emily can get there to observe the lifting, Therese lifts the ball without marking its position, sees that it is hers and cleans it. She then replaces the ball back to its original position and plays her next stroke. How many penalty strokes, if any, does Therese incur?**
- A. None
  - B. One stroke
  - C. Two strokes
  - D. Three strokes

24. **Heavy rain is falling with players experiencing difficulty holding their clubs. To help overcome this problem, Jim wraps a small towel around the grip of his driver to play a tee shot. Is this action permissible?**
- A. No. Jim is disqualified.
  - B. No. Jim is penalised two strokes.
  - C. No. Jim is penalised one stroke.
  - D. Yes.
25. **During a round, Grant strikes a sprinkler head with his putter in an expression of temper. The impact changes the loft of the putter-head. May Grant continue to use the putter for the rest of the round?**
- A. Yes, but with a two stroke penalty.
  - B. No, if Grant used the club again he would be disqualified.
  - C. Yes, and no penalty is incurred.
  - D. No, unless Grant can repair the club to its original state.
26. **In stroke play, Tony's tee shot comes to rest within a water hazard. He plays a stroke from within the hazard and it comes to rest out of bounds. He plays his next stroke from the teeing ground.**
- A. Tony has proceeded within the rules and incurs one penalty stroke plus the distance back to the tee, thus he will lie four.
  - B. Tony has proceeded within the rules and incurs a total of two penalty strokes; the stroke and distance penalty under Rule 27-1 plus a one-stroke penalty for relief from the hazard; thus he will lie five.
  - C. Tony has played from a wrong place in violation of the Water Hazard Rule. He incurs a two-stroke penalty plus a one-stroke penalty for relief from the hazard; thus he will lie six.
  - D. Tony has played from a wrong place in violation of Rule 20-7. This would be considered a serious breach of the rule and thus he would be disqualified.
  - E. Tony has played from a wrong place in violation of the Out of Bounds Rule. He incurs a two-stroke penalty plus a one-stroke penalty for relief from the hazard; thus he will lie six.
27. **Steve's ball lies in a lateral water hazard. He wishes to drop the ball 25 metres behind the hazard under penalty of one stroke, keeping the point where the ball last crossed the hazard margin between him and the hole. By so doing, he would be able to play over some trees in the hazard blocking his line. May Steve drop the ball at that place?**
- A. Yes.
  - B. No.
28. **In a match, Joe by mistake starts with fifteen clubs in his bag. He wins the first three holes and, walking to the 4th tee, he discovers his error. What is the ruling?**
- A. Joe is disqualified.
  - B. Joe loses each hole on which he carried fifteen clubs; thus he is 3 down instead of 3 up at the 4th tee.
  - C. Joe incurs a deduction of two holes with the penalty being applied to the state of the match at the time the violation was discovered. Thus, Joe is 1 up at the 4th tee.
29. **In match play, Ed's ball is behind a tree. He tries to play around the tree but the ball hits the tree, rebounds, hits Ed and bounces into an unplayable lie. Is Ed penalised because the ball struck him?**
- A. Yes. Ed loses the hole.
  - B. Yes. Ed is penalised one stroke.
  - C. No, because Ed did not purposely allow the ball to strike him.
  - D. No. In equity, there is no penalty, because Ed did not benefit as a result of the ball having struck him.

30. **Pat's drive is hooked into high rough near a boundary. She hits a provisional ball onto the fairway nearer the hole than the spot where her original ball presumably came to rest. She looks for the original ball for a minute but does not find it. She moves on to the provisional ball and plays it. At that point, Pat's caddie finds the original ball. What is the ruling?**
- A. Pat is penalised two strokes because she did not search for the original ball for five minutes.
  - B. Pat must abandon the provisional ball and continue play with the original, since she did not search for it for five minutes and therefore it was not lost.
  - C. The original ball was deemed lost when Pat played the second shot with the provisional ball; she must continue play with the provisional ball.
31. **Brad, playing to a blind green, asks a spectator who has just walked down from the green the distance from his ball to the green. His opponent claims the hole on the grounds that Brad asked for advice other than from his caddie. Is the opponent's claim valid?**
- A. Yes
  - B. No
32. **Peter addresses his ball laying in the fairway and starts his backswing. In the middle of the backswing the ball moves. He continues his swing and hits the ball. It is not known or virtually certain that he did not cause the ball to move. Is he penalised because the ball moved?**
- A. Yes.
  - B. No.
33. **Lorraine's ball is in some tree roots and it is not possible to make a stroke. In taking her normal stance in trying to play a stroke at the ball Lorraine has to stand on a concrete path, an immovable obstruction. Is she entitled to free relief because of the interference caused by the path?**
- A. Yes
  - B. No
34. **A player may declare his/her ball unplayable:**
- A. When his/her marker in stroke play or opponent in match play agrees that the ball is unplayable.
  - B. Only in a bunker.
  - C. In a water hazard.
  - D. At any place on the course except when the ball lies in a water hazard.
35. **Linda's ball comes to rest on the "fringe", overhanging the putting green. While walking up to the putting green, a small dog picked up the ball, ran across the green and dropped the ball about 30 cms from the hole. The exact spot from which the ball was moved was not known. Linda must:**
- A. Place the ball as near as possible to the place where it lay on the "fringe" of the green.
  - B. Place the ball in the nearest lie most similar to the original lie which is not more than one club-length from the original lie, not nearer the hole and not in a hazard.
  - C. Drop the ball as near as possible to the place where it lay on the "fringe" but not on the putting green or in a hazard.
  - D. Drop the ball within one club-length of the place where it lay on the "fringe" but not on the putting green or in a hazard.
36. **In which of the following cases is Brian NOT penalised for failing to replace his ball?**
- A. If it was accidentally moved by his caddie during search.
  - B. If it was at rest on the putting green and was moved by wind.
  - C. If it was at rest on the putting green and was moved by another ball.
  - D. If it was at rest and was moved by a spectator with his knowledge.

37. **Alice's ball lies in a water hazard behind an ant cast. Which of the following actions may Alice take?**
- Remove the ant cast.
  - Drop the ball in the hazard, without penalty, at the nearest point of maximum relief.
  - Drop the ball in the hazard, without penalty, within two club-lengths of where it lies.
  - Drop the ball in the hazard, without penalty, within one club-length of where it lies.
  - Play the ball as it lies or proceed under the water hazard Rule.
38. **Julie's ball lies on the putting green. She putts and her ball is heading for the hole when it is deflected by a grasshopper about 20 centimetres short and just misses the hole. What is the ruling?**
- Julie must play the ball as it lies.
  - Since the grasshopper is an outside agency, Julie must cancel the stroke, replace the ball from where she putted it and replay the stroke.
  - In equity, if Julie and her marker agree that the ball would have gone into the hole without the deflection, she is deemed to have holed out with her putt.
  - Julie must place the ball as near as possible to the spot from which it was deflected.
39. **In a stroke competition, Dave's putt stops 2 cms short of the hole. His fellow competitor concedes the next putt and Dave picks up and finishes the round. Dave incurs:**
- No penalty.
  - One shot penalty.
  - Two shot penalty.
  - Dave is disqualified.
40. **Joy is playing in a stroke play championship. On the 8<sup>th</sup> hole, she slices her tee shot and it is about to roll out of bounds when a spectator deliberately stops it just before it reaches the margin of the boundary. It is determined that the ball would have come to rest out of bounds if the spectator had not stopped it. How must Joy proceed?**
- Joy must replay her tee shot without penalty because it was deflected by an outside agency.
  - Joy must play again from the tee under penalty of stroke and distance.
  - Joy must play the ball without penalty from the spot where it was stopped by the spectator.
  - Joy must play the ball under penalty of one stroke from the spot where it was stopped by the spectator.
41. **In a stroke competition, Ric's caddie, Eddy, removes the flagstick and walks to the edge of the green as Ric lines up his putt. As Eddy watches players on a nearby green putt, he moves and is accidentally positioned on an extension of Ric's line of putt behind his ball. Ric is unaware that Eddy is standing there and putts. Ric's marker states that he should be penalised for his caddie's actions. What is the ruling?**
- There is no penalty because a caddie can be positioned anywhere during a stroke.
  - Ric is penalised two strokes because his caddie was positioned on extension of his line of putt behind the ball.
  - Ric is not penalised because his caddie was inadvertently located on extension of his line of putt behind the ball.
42. **A white line defines an area of ground under repair. A ball lies on the white line, but no part of the ball protrudes over the inside edge of the line. Is the ball considered to be in the ground under repair area?**
- Yes
  - No

- 43. In stroke play, Paul tees his ball in front of the tee-markers and plays. After he plays his third shot, a fellow-competitor calls Paul's attention to the error. What is the ruling?**
- A. There is no penalty since Paul did not tee off more than two club-lengths in front of the tee markers.
  - B. Paul must count the three strokes played, return to the tee and play from within the teeing ground.
  - C. Paul is penalised two strokes and must continue play with the ball played from in front of the tee markers.
  - D. Paul is penalised two strokes and must return to the tee and play from within the teeing ground. Strokes played with the ball outside the teeing ground do not count.
- 44. In which one of the following cases is Jon penalised when his ball moves after he has addressed it and before he makes the stroke?**
- A. On the putting green, the ball is moved by a dog running across the green.
  - B. In the rough on a calm day, the ball moves immediately after Jon starts his back-swing.
  - C. On the fairway, the ball is moved by a ball played a member of another group.
  - D. On a fast putting green the ball is moved by a strong gust of wind.
- 45. A ball comes to rest in a paper cup in a bunker. What is the procedure?**
- A. No relief may be granted. The ball must be played as it lies.
  - B. The ball may be lifted and the cup removed. The ball must be dropped within one club-length of the spot where it lay but within the bunker and no closer to the hole.
  - C. The ball may be lifted and the cup removed. The ball must be placed on the exact spot from which it was moved.
  - D. The ball may be lifted and the cup removed. The ball must be dropped as near as possible to the spot directly under the place where the ball lay in the cup, but not nearer the hole.
  - E. The ball may be lifted and the cup removed. The ball must be placed within one club-length of the spot where it lay but within the bunker and no closer to the hole.
- 46. Greg played a stroke over a water hazard and the ball spun back into the hazard. Greg, in error, treated the water hazard as a lateral water hazard and dropped the ball within two club-lengths of where it last crossed the hazard margin when it spun back into the hazard. At this point, another player questioned his procedure. What is the ruling?**
- A. Greg must play the ball as it lies incurring a two-stroke penalty for dropping a ball in a wrong place. However, Greg was not guilty of a serious breach of dropping a ball in a wrong place.
  - B. Greg incurs a two-stroke penalty for dropping a ball in a wrong place and because it is a serious breach of dropping a ball in a wrong place Greg must correct his error by correctly dropping a ball in accordance with the Water Hazard Rule.
  - C. If he was playing a match, Greg would lose the hole for dropping a ball in a wrong place provided his opponent made a valid claim.
  - D. Greg has dropped a ball in a wrong place, but he may, without penalty, correct his error and drop a ball correctly in accordance with the Water Hazard Rule.
- 47. Frank's ball lies just off the putting green. Immediately in front of his ball on the putting green is his ball mark, and closer to the hole on his line of play is an old hole plug. Frank walks forward to repair the old hole plug, and as he returns to his ball, also repairs the ball mark. In the process of repairing the ball mark, Frank accidentally moves his ball with his hand. He then replaces the ball. Frank incurs:**
- A. No penalty.
  - B. One penalty stroke.
  - C. Two penalty strokes.
  - D. Three penalty strokes.

48. In stroke play, Jean's ball lies in grass overhanging a bunker. Jean removed a small detached tree branch lying in the bunker near her ball. She also touched the sand in the bunker prior to playing her stroke. What is the ruling?
- A. No penalty.
  - B. Jean incurs a penalty of one stroke.
  - C. Jean incurs a penalty of two strokes.
  - D. Jean incurs a penalty of three strokes.
  - E. Jean incurs a penalty of four strokes.

49. The following are a number of statements about a lost ball.

- i. A ball is lost when a player verbally declares it to be lost.
- ii. A ball is lost when it has not been found or identified by the player within five minutes of starting to search for it.
- iii. A ball is lost when a player has made a stroke at a substituted ball.
- iv. A ball is lost when a provisional ball has been played from the place where the original ball is likely to be or from a point nearer the hole than that place.
- v. A player is required to search for an original ball even if a provisional ball has been put into play.

Which of the above statements are CORRECT?

- A. (i), (ii) and (iii) only.
  - B. (ii), (iii) and (iv) only.
  - C. (iii), (iv) and (v) only.
  - D. (i), (ii), (iii) (iv) and (v).
50. Mike plays a ball toward some deep rough and goes forward to search for it. He then realises it might be hard to find and goes back and plays a "provisional" ball. He finds his first ball within 5 minutes and plays it.
- A. Mike proceeded correctly.
  - B. Mike's procedure was incorrect, as the second ball was the ball in play.

# Sample Examination Answers

- |     |   |                                |     |   |                                    |
|-----|---|--------------------------------|-----|---|------------------------------------|
| 1.  | D | Rule 17-2                      | 26. | B | Rule 26-2b(iii)                    |
| 2.  | D | Rule 13-4 Exception 2          | 27. | A | Rule 26-1b                         |
| 3.  | C | Rule 19-3                      | 28. | C | Rule 4-4a Penalty Statement        |
| 4.  | A | Definition of "GUR"            | 29. | B | Rule 19-2                          |
| 5.  | A | Rule 20-3b (iii)               | 30. | C | Rule 27-2b                         |
| 6.  | B | Rule 21                        | 31. | B | Definition of "Advice"             |
| 7.  | C | Rule 22-2                      | 32. | A | Rule 18-2b                         |
| 8.  | A | Rule 24-1                      | 33. | B | Rule 24-2 (exception)              |
| 9.  | B | Rule 25-2 & 20-7c Note 3b      | 34. | D | Rule 28                            |
| 10. | B | Rule 24-2b (iii)               | 35. | C | R18-1/20-3c, Def "Outside Agency"  |
| 11. | C | Definition of "Water Hazard"   | 36. | B | Rule 18-1 & Def "Outside Agency"   |
| 12. | A | Exception 1b to Rule 13-4      | 37. | E | Rule 25-1 & Note 1                 |
| 13. | C | Rule 24-2b Exception           | 38. | A | Rule 19-1a                         |
| 14. | B | Rule 20-3b(i)                  | 39. | D | Rule 3-2                           |
| 15. | C | Rule 17-3                      | 40. | B | Note to Rule 19-1 part (a) (ii)    |
| 16. | D | Definition of "Outside Agency" | 41. | C | Rule 14-2b                         |
| 17. | C | Rule 25-1b(iii)                | 42. | A | Definition of "GUR"                |
| 18. | B | Rule 18-4                      | 43. | D | Rule 11-4b                         |
| 19. | E | Rule 20-2c(v)                  | 44. | B | Rule 18-2 + Exception              |
| 20. | B | Rules 12-1b & 18-2a            | 45. | D | Rule 24-1b & Def "Movable Obstr."  |
| 21. | B | Rule 7-2b                      | 46. | D | Rule 26-1b                         |
| 22. | B | Rule 12-2                      | 47. | A | Rule 16-1c                         |
| 23. | B | Rule 12-2                      | 48. | A | Rule 23-1 & Definition of "Bunker" |
| 24. | D | Rule 14-3c(iii)                | 49. | B | Definition of "Lost Ball"          |
| 25. | B | Rules 4-3b                     | 50. | B | Rule 27-2a                         |

# Club Level Rules Exam

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## Overview

The Rules of Golf Examination involves a 50 multiple choice question exam on the Rules of Golf. To pass, a minimum of 40 correct answers must be given. There is a time limit of three hours and Rules of Golf booklets may be used during the examination. Successful candidates will receive a Club Level Rules Accreditation Certificate of Achievement.

Club Level Rules Accreditation remains valid on a yearly basis on the payment of an annual fee.

Persons remaining accredited receive a quarterly newsletter containing rules decisions received from The R&A, Golf Australia or decisions given by a State Association. It is envisaged that Member Clubs and Country Districts will utilise Club Level Accredited persons when requiring referees for major club/district events.

Sample multiple choice rules questions, similar to the exam questions are contained in this booklet for all participants to take home for practice.

## Advice

1. Take the full 3 hours.
2. Read the questions thoroughly.
3. Use a pencil and **DO NOT MARK THE EXAM SHEET.**
4. Do the 'easy' questions first, then come back to the 'difficult' questions.
5. Use the Rule Book Index to check if you're not sure.
6. Don't panic.
7. Assume Stroke Play unless stated as Match Play.
8. Only use the Rule Book and not the Decisions Book.

# State Level Rules Accreditation

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Outlined below are the entry criteria and format for the State Level Rules Accreditation Course:

- ❖ The Course is conducted on the basis of a one-day seminar and a one-day examination.
- ❖ The State Level Course is open to any person who has passed Club Level.

The seminar involves a comprehensive coverage of the many facets of the Rules of Golf and the requirements of a Rules Official/Referee including:

- The “Language” of the Rules.
  - How to use the Rules and Decisions books.
  - A full outline of the definitions, rules and key decisions through a PowerPoint presentation.
  - Local Rules, Competition Conditions and Temporary Local Rules used in Open events.
  - Marking the Course.
  - Duties of Rules Officials/Referees including the delivery of rulings and Slow Play procedures.
  - On-course practical session.
  - Open forum to allow course participants to raise rules questions they would like more information on.
- ❖ The State Level Exam consists of 60 multiple choice questions with most answerable using the Decisions Book. A few questions can be answered using the Rule Book only.
  - ❖ The practical component of the exam comprises participants being confronted with 15 on-course rules situations. To pass, correct rulings must be given to at least 13 situations.
  - ❖ To finally obtain Golf Australia State Level Accreditation, persons successful through the written and practical exam stages, are then required to serve a minimum of 10 hours as a rules official or referee at events as determined by the State Association.

There are a large number of National/State Championships and additional events, so significant opportunity exists for all State Level Referees to become involved and maintain their accreditation through the best means possible – practical experience.

The format for the State Level Accreditation is more difficult than the format used for the Club Level Program. However, given that persons who achieve State Level are utilised in major State and National events it is felt that a program of substance is needed to satisfy these demands. The course is most enjoyable, interesting and is well worth attending.

Golf Australia Club Level Accredited persons interested in participating in this course should contact their State Association for further information.