

# GOLF AUSTRALIA RULES

## NEWSLETTER

Summer 2015



GolfAustralia



## Rules on Tour

By Tom Duguid

(Editor, GA National Referee and part-time PGA Tour Referee)

It has been a very quiet Summer season for interesting rulings by your editor to date. The Betfair Masters at Metropolitan Golf Club was a great venue with immaculate fairways and a good mixture of long and short holes. It created a good dose of nostalgia, as my first job in the golf industry was at Metro, many moons ago. The spacious new clubhouse is somewhat different to the one I worked in!

On Metropolitan's 17th hole, Alistair Presnell's drive faded towards an elderly spectator standing on a grassy mound. As the gentleman stumbled to get out of the ball's way, he realised that he had in fact trodden on the ball. After receiving a call from base, I arrived at the scene to find the ball clearly depressed into the ground amongst thickish rough. My first instinct was to have the ball replaced but I quickly found out that in scurrying away the spectator did not see the ball come to rest and therefore he did not know its exact position or lie before he trod on it.

Therefore Rule 20-3c applied and Alistair was happy to drop the ball as near as possible to its resting place.

On another day I was assigned to a zone on the front nine and answered a call to the 4th fairway. Peter Lonard's ball was in very light rough amongst a multitude of worm or insect casts, one of which was directly in front of and almost touching his ball. I advised that such little mounds are loose impediments and he carefully brushed the offending cast away. He said that he had never come across that situation before, which was a surprise to me considering how long Peter has been playing!

During the Mercedes Truck and Bus Victorian PGA Championship at Huntingdale in February, I was called to a green-side bunker at the 17th hole where two balls were very close to each other. Ed Stedman's and Marcus Cain's balls had both run into the bunker at virtually the same place and judging by the tracks in the sand the second ball had moved the first ball by about 5 or 6 centimetres. We were able to precisely determine the spot to replace the first ball (Ed's) at the apex of the tracks. After replacing the ball Ed then marked a spot nearby and lifted his ball

### Summer 2015: In this edition



**To Drop or to Place?**  
National Referee Sue Fabian explains



**From The R&A**  
All the latest news from The R&A Website



**Rules Quiz**  
Test your Rules knowledge with the latest Rules Quiz





Simon Magdulski conducting a workshop on Temporary Immovable Obstructions prior to the ISPS Handa Women's Australian Open

so as to not interfere with Marcus's shot. As that stroke subsequently altered Ed's original lie, he re-created the lie, replaced his ball and blasted out.

The 2015 ISPS Handa Women's Australian Open was recently held over the famed Royal Melbourne composite course which provided its usual searching test of the players' short game and putting in very hot weather. Here is one of the items provided by Simon Magdulski (Golf Australia's Director of Rules & Handicapping) for the assistance of the referee team at RMGC.

#### Golf Australia: GENERAL NOTES ON PROVIDING RULINGS

A Referee requires not only a good knowledge of the Rules, but an awareness of their duties and responsibilities and an appreciation of how best to handle various Rules situations. The following points are useful when delivering rulings:

- Be polite but be respectfully firm, definite, and positive.
- Be helpful.
- Remain calm and measured in awkward situations.
- Do not be abrasive or aggressive. Such a manner is NOT in the interests of the event or the organisation you represent.
- Display a degree of energy and personality, and be relatively relaxed without being overtly laid-back. [Every referee will have their own style and each person needs to develop a style with which they are comfortable.] This does not mean that a referee should make providing a ruling about them. But it does mean the referee should endeavour to display a manner which is respectfully friendly as well as empathetic to the player's circumstances.  
Note that this is an important consideration: being a good referee is not simply about knowing the Rules, it is also about projecting a respectful confidence to the player. The player should believe you are sharp and in control (and being "in control" does not preclude you from taking your time to consider the situation or from asking for a second opinion). FURTHERMORE, FOR COMPETITION ORGANISERS (WHO NEED TO CONSIDER THE IMAGE OF THEIR EVENTS AND THE IMPRESSIONS OF THE PLAYERS) IT IS OF SIGNIFICANT VALUE TO HAVE REFEREES WHO INSTIL CONFIDENCE.
- Remember that a player is there to play golf so avoid going out of your way to engage a player in conversation other than introductions. Do not make observations to players such as: "Gee, that's in three- putt territory."
- Ensure you have properly established the facts of the situation. This involves being clear as to the player's intent.
- Do not treat a ruling as an academic exercise. Do not unnecessarily

quote Rule numbers at players. Do not use Rules jargon or terminology that will alienate the player.

- Rule 1-1 states: "The Game of Golf consists of playing a ball with a club from the teeing ground into the hole by a stroke or successive strokes in accordance with the Rules." As a referee, your role is to enable the player to get on with doing this. Giving a good ruling is your objective, but a component of a good ruling is only taking the time necessary.
- Sometimes it takes a while to complete a ruling. This can occur in cases for example where 28b comes into play, or where the player is dropping from one relief situation into another. And sometimes it's best to take a little extra time in an awkward situation or if doing so will help you to maintain your composure. Don't panic if things are taking longer than you would like, but don't take time unnecessarily.
- Always be willing to give a player a good hearing if they disagree with your determination. Do not be afraid to change your mind if they present an effective follow-up argument. Nevertheless, be ready to politely but firmly let the player know that "we need to keep moving".
- When a player is being argumentative, try to avoid getting drawn into an argument. You do not need to answer their questions; you should focus instead on saying what it is that you want to say, and reiterating your lines if necessary.
- Delivering a ruling can at times be an intimidating experience. Have a pre-conceived strategy for composing yourself.
- Never be afraid to call for a second opinion. It is usually a sign of strength, not weakness.
- You will know when you've handled a situation poorly. Learn from it and think about strategies to employ next time. If the potential for a situation arose once, it will arise again.
- If you want a player to mark but not lift their ball, your first instruction to the player should be to not lift their ball!
- Counsel the player in a situation where they are entitled to relief to not touch their ball until they have established where it is that they are entitled to drop the ball.
- Generally, try to avoid placing yourself in a position where during a ruling you have to handle the player's equipment (or ball). Common sense should dictate when it would look a little silly not to handle the player's equipment (or ball).
- If driving a cart, try to keep it away from the immediate area of the ruling (you do not want it to interfere with the player's ball or the dropping procedure!). Try to park it such that you will be able to vacate the area without delay (you are not there to spectate the stroke).

# To Drop or To Place, that is the Question!



**By Sue Fabian**  
(GA National Referee)

Golfers are generally aware of the basic rule of thumb with regard to dropping and placing the ball: place on the green and drop in hazards or through the green. Most also understand that, when a ball must be replaced (for example if it has been moved

by an outside agency) and the exact spot where it originally lay is not determinable, the spot must be estimated and the ball placed if that spot is on the green, or dropped in a hazard or through the green. However, there are some important exceptions to this generalization.

## Dropping a Ball on the Green

Rules 24 (Obstructions) and 25 (Abnormal Ground Conditions) prohibit a player whose ball is through the green or in a hazard from taking relief by dropping or placing the ball on the green. However, Rules 26-1b and 26-1c (Water Hazards) and 28b and 28c (Ball Unplayable) impose no such restrictions, and in fact, require a ball to be dropped.

Therefore, a player whose ball is in a lateral water hazard close to the edge of a putting green may well find that the spot, no nearer the hole and within 2 club lengths of the point where the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard, is actually on the putting green. In this instance, the ball must be dropped, not placed, on the green, as required in Rule 26-1c. The same would apply if the point on the equidistant opposite margin of the water hazard resulted in a similar outcome. The position of the flagstick is obviously significant in this situation.

Another example of a Rule which would require a ball to be dropped rather than placed on a putting green is Rule 28 (Ball Unplayable). Rules 28b and 28c make no provision for a ball to be placed, even on a putting green, but rather state that the ball must be dropped. Suppose a ball came to rest and could be identified in the branch of a tree overhanging a putting green. If the player declares his or her ball to be unplayable and takes relief under Rule 28, one option is to drop a ball within 2 club lengths, no nearer the hole, of the point immediately below the place where the ball lies in the tree (Rule 28c). Even if the area within 2 club lengths is on the green, the player must drop, not place, the ball (See Decision 28/11).

Similarly, a player who finds his or her ball in an unplayable position close to a green, say in a large clump of reeds, may find that the area, not nearer the hole and within 2 club lengths of the spot where the ball is at rest, is on the putting green. Once again, the ball must be dropped, not placed. Again, also, the player's action would depend on the location of the flagstick at any particular time.

Note that Rules 26a and 28a require a player who chooses to proceed under stroke and distance to comply with Rule 20-5 in playing a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played. According to Rule 20-5, if the stroke is to be replayed from the teeing ground, the ball may be played from anywhere on the teeing ground and may be teed; through the green, the ball must be dropped; on a putting green, the ball must be placed. Therefore, a player who hits an overly enthusiastic putt from a putting green into a very deep bunker, and decides to declare the ball unplayable and proceed under Rule 28a, would, in this case, place the ball on the green as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was played. Similarly, if the ball on the green has been putted into a water hazard and the player decides to proceed under Rule 26a, the ball must be placed on the green as nearly as possible to the spot where it originally lay.

## Placing a Ball Off the Green

There are also instances where a player is required to place a ball at a spot which is not on a putting green. A player who is entitled to take relief under the Rules for a ball at rest on a putting green, for interference or intervention on the line of play by a condition such as an Immovable Obstruction or an Abnormal Ground Condition, may find that the nearest point of relief or maximum available relief is off the green. The player would be required to place the ball at this point, rather than to drop it within one club length. An example of this would be when casual water or GUR intervene on a player's line of putt for his or her ball at rest on a putting green and the player elects to take relief under Rule 25-1b(iii), only to find that the nearest point of relief is off the green. In this instance, although the player may be expecting to drop the ball within a club length of the nearest point of relief, no nearer the hole, in fact he or she is required to place the ball at the nearest point of relief or maximum available relief (see Decision 25-1c/10.5, which also includes a useful diagram). Note that this example refers only to a ball which is originally at rest on the putting green. If the original ball was off the green, no relief for intervention on line of play would be available.

## Resumption of Play after a Suspension

Generally speaking, for a ball at rest through the green or in a hazard which has been moved and where the exact spot at which it originally lay cannot be determined, the player must estimate the original position of the ball and must drop a ball as nearly as possible to this spot (see Rule 20-3c). This example would apply, for example, in any circumstance where the ball has been moved by an outside agency such as a bird, animal, vehicle or another person. If the ball were originally at rest on a putting green, the player must estimate its original position and place a ball at this spot.

However, after a suspension of play where a player has marked and lifted his or her ball, or has left the ball in place, and the ball or marker have been moved during the suspension, the player must estimate the original position of the ball and place a ball at that spot. This requirement to place the ball applies throughout the course, not simply on a putting green (see Rule 6-8d and Rule 20-3c: Exception).

## Correcting an incorrect placement or drop

The penalty for placing a ball which should have been dropped, or dropping when a ball should have been placed under any Rule, is 2 strokes in stroke play and loss of hole in match play. However, provided the player has not made a stroke at the ball, Rule 20-7 comes to the rescue! The player is permitted to lift a ball incorrectly placed or dropped and to proceed correctly, without penalty (Decision 20-6/1).

In stroke play, a player who is uncertain whether to drop or place the ball should consider playing two balls in accordance with Rule 3-3. Note, however, that only two balls may be played; the playing of a third ball is prohibited (Decision 3-3/10). Therefore, since the player is not playing the ball from its original position, he or she takes the risk that neither the dropped nor the placed ball complies with the Rules (see Decision 3-3/0.5 for discussion of possible penalties).

In match play, if the player and opponent cannot agree on the correct procedure, two balls must not be played. The opponent may make a claim in accordance with Rule 2-5.



# From The R&A Website: [www.randa.org](http://www.randa.org)

## Rule 16-1a (Touching the Line of Putt) and Players Who Straddle or Walk Alongside the Line of Putt



The R&A and the USGA have recently been asked about methods of reading a putting green where players stand astride or stand or walk alongside their estimated line of putt to assess the slope of the green and the break of the putt. The question is whether such actions have the

potential to breach Rule 16-1a.

Under Rule 16-1a, the player must not touch the line of putt. (There are exceptions to Rule 16-1a, but none of them relate to methods of reading the putting green or determining a line of putt.) The "line of putt" is defined in the Rules as "the line that the player wishes his ball to take after a stroke on the putting green" including "a reasonable distance on either side of the intended line". The penalty for a breach of Rule 16-1a is loss of hole in match play or two strokes in stroke play. Consequently, players who use such green-reading methods should take care to avoid walking on their line of putt in order to avoid the risk of penalty under Rule 16-1a.

The same is true of any other practices used by players to gain information when their ball is on the putting green, such as walking alongside the line of putt to measure the distance to the hole or standing at a midpoint to the hole and hovering the putter over the line of putt. To avoid the risk of penalty, players or their caddies who take any such actions should take care to avoid touching the line of putt, which includes a reasonable distance on either side of the intended line, with their feet, the club, or anything else.

## The R&A appoints new Chief Executive

The R&A has announced the appointment of Martin Slumbers as Chief Executive and also as Secretary of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, with effect from 1 October 2015.

Mr Slumbers will succeed Peter Dawson who is retiring in September 2015 after 16 years leading the body which organises

The Open Championship and governs golf worldwide, jointly administering the sport with the USGA.

He will join The R&A in March 2015 as Chief Executive Designate and spend six months working with Mr Dawson before his retirement.

Born in Brighton and educated at Lancing College, Mr Slumbers (54) gained a BSc in Production Engineering and Economics from the University of Birmingham. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant with Price Waterhouse in London before embarking on a career in investment banking. He spent 12 years working for Salomon Brothers International in London and Hong Kong, becoming Chief Financial Officer in Asia and then Europe.



In 1998, he joined Deutsche Bank and served in a number of senior executive roles. He was appointed Global Head of Deutsche Bank's Investment Banking Operations in 2006 and the following year as Global Head of Global Business Services. He is a keen golfer and a member of Worplesdon Golf Club in Surrey where he plays to a handicap of two. He is married with two sons.

"The R&A is one of the most influential bodies in world sport and I am delighted to be taking up this position," he said. "Golf has always been close to my heart and I am very much looking forward to living and working in St Andrews. I am honoured to be appointed to lead The R&A and to serve such an historic and prestigious Club."

Professor Wilson Sibbett, Chairman of The R&A, said, "I would like to congratulate Martin on his appointment. He has enjoyed a long and successful career and will bring a great deal of experience to the position. He has a passion for golf and is absolutely committed to the work of The R&A in governing the game, running The Open and supporting development initiatives around the world."

## 18 Holes of Golf Reaches Anniversary Milestone



In October 1764, a momentous decision was taken by the Society of St Andrews Golfers, which would become The Royal and Ancient Golf Club in 1834. On the 3rd of October, twelve golfers had played in the Challenge for the Silver Club and the new Captain was William St Clair of Roslyn. The next day, the 4th of October,

they decided that the Old Course should be reduced from 22 holes to 18.

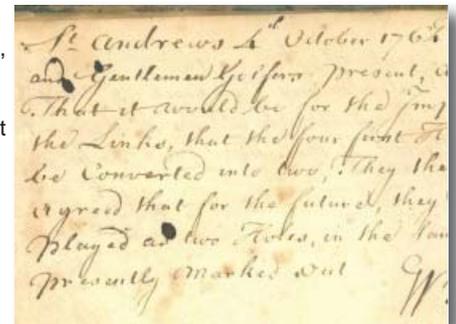
It was minuted that: 'The Captain and Gentlemen Golfers present are of the opinion that it would be for the improvement of the links that the four first holes should be converted into two, they therefore have agreed that for the future, they shall be played as two holes, in the same way as presently marked out.'

The Old Course thus became the first 18 hole course on the 4th of October 1764.

In a revision of the Rules of Golf by The Royal and Ancient Golf Club in 1842, the concept of 18 holes as a round of golf was enshrined in Rule One, which read:

'One round of the Links, or 18 holes, is reckoned a match, unless otherwise stipulated'

On the anniversary of this momentous decision, Angela Howe, Museum and Heritage Director at The R&A, commented: "It seems remarkable that what is so important to the game and how it is played today, emerged from a single sentence in the minutes 250 years ago."



# It's Your Shot!

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

Golf Australia's Director – Rules and Handicapping, Simon Magdulski, provides the answers to your queries.

## From Andrew Ellis (RACV Golf Club, Victoria)

Thanks for your Spring edition. It is always great to see others grappling with how best to apply the rules of Golf. Your responses are both encouraging and educational.

I have two questions from recent competitions;

Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship (Royal Melbourne October 2014)

A player on the 14th hole, a dogleg right, put his tee shot in the trees short of the inside right corner of the fairway. He made one attempt to hit his ball out but was unsuccessful and ended up still in the trees on the corner with an even worse lie. He then, under rule 28b, chose to deem his ball unplayable and requested assistance from the referee as to where the line from the pin back behind the ball was. Unfortunately the line to the pin was obscured by thick trees. The referee identified what he believed was the correct line but the player disagreed and asked the referee to check and confirm the line, and perhaps a little offended at being asked a second time, the referee insisted on the line previously given. The player seemed unhappy with the ruling given, but accepted the referee's judgement and dropped his ball on the line given to him and then pitched back onto the fairway where he then could pitch into the green.

In this situation if the line cannot be objectively determined what can a player do if he disagrees with the line given by a referee? Or is it the case that once you ask for assistance from a referee are you bound to accept their determination of the line?

*SM replies: In match play, the referee's decision is final. That said, the player could request a second opinion but the referee would not be obliged to grant that request.*

*In stroke play, if the committee has provided to referees the authority to make final decisions then the referee is always deemed to be correct in these circumstances – the player could request a second opinion but the referee would not be obliged to grant that request. If the committee has not provided to referees the authority to make final decisions, the player could either seek a second opinion or play a second ball under Rule 3-3.*

At the Australian Open Day 3 in Sydney Rory McIlroy on the 9th tried to play out of the tall reedy rough but his ball was driven under the weed matting making it virtually impossible to hit without removing the weed matting. From my understanding from what I saw on TV, he was not permitted to remove the weed matting and had to treat the ball as unplayable and take a two club length drop under rule 28c. It appeared that he was not able to treat the weed matting as a movable obstruction (as it appeared it could be removed and replaced without damage) or an immovable obstruction.

It was not marked as GUR although it appeared to be fairly newly created rough. Is this a local rule?

Was the weed matting considered an integral part of the course?

How should a referee approach this situation to determine the right course of action (rule) to apply?

*SM replies: The exact local rule for the tournament was: "Biodegradable Matting in Native Grass Areas – Integral Part of the Course. All biodegradable matting (eg in native grass areas) is deemed to be an integral part of the course."*

*Editor's Note: Thanks Andrew, you win the prize for this edition's most interesting letter.*

## From John Cocks

An interesting situation arose while playing overseas recently.

Playing an uphill par 3, a player hits his tee shot into trees on the left, well short of the green. The player correctly plays a provisional ball, and this also goes into the same tree area on left. After a short search the player finds a ball which he declares to be his original ball, and plays this into the rough at the back of the green. They cannot find the other ball. On approaching the green there is a ball on the green which the player then finds is his true original ball. (Both balls were identically marked, and the player thought he would know which ball was which because the marking was somewhat worn on his original ball. He had made a mistake in identifying the found ball as his original ball). What ball should be played and what number is his next shot?

Decision 27-2b/7 informs me that the ball hit from the trees is the ball in play, therefore the next shot played should be his 5th by my calculations. 3 off the tee (as it really was his provisional ball) then the shot past the green, and now the next shot should be the 5th.

Is there also a penalty for hitting the "wrong" ball, or a wrongly identified ball? I cannot find any reference to this aspect in the rule book, although if the true original ball had not been seen, subsequently, on approaching the green he would have only been playing "three" onto the green, with, in fact, the "wrong" ball, not "five".

An interesting situation! Can you elucidate?

*SM replies: The provisional ball became the ball in play when it was played from a place that the player thought his ball was likely to be. This stroke was the player's 4th. There are no additional penalties.*

## From Rob Huther

Thanks for the Rules Newsletter, I learn at least 2-3 new rules or interpretations each issue.

I discovered last week that we have a sprinkler head about 20mm off the edge of our 6th green.

A fellow player had his ball come to rest on that sprinkler-head so he took relief. He deemed

Nearest Point of Relief was actually just on the edge of the green, so placed his ball there and completed the hole.

We have a Local Rule which states:

### "Obstruction Close to Putting Green"

If the ball lies off the green outside a hazard within two club-lengths of an immovable obstruction which is on or within two club-lengths of the green and intervenes on the line of play it may be lifted, cleaned and dropped without penalty at the nearest point of relief, not nearer the hole. If the ball lies on the green, the ball must be placed."

So I guess both the Local rule and R&A Rule 24-2 could apply?

Looking on the R&A website I see the Definition of Nearest Point of Relief does not preclude the Nearest Point of Relief being on a green. But rule 24-2 for Immovable Obstruction states Nearest Point of Relief must NOT be in a hazard or on a putting green..

So I am left with two questions:

1. Is Nearest Point of Relief allowed to be on a green ?
2. If both a R&A Rule and a Local Rule overlap, (i.e. both apply to your situation) can you choose which relief to apply ?

*SM replies: The Nearest Point of Relief can be on the green in some circumstances, eg when the player's ball is on the green and they are taking 24-2 relief. However for the reasons you describe the Nearest Point of Relief cannot be on the green in these circumstances so the*

*player played from a wrong place.*

*If a player has interference under multiple Rules (and note that by definition a Local Rule is a Rule), the player must choose the Rule under which they are taking relief.*

### From Sue O'Connor

I love the rules newsletters. It is difficult to imagine the number of situations that can occur on a golf course. While in fact there are few rules, the interpretation and situations seem endless. The following situation occurred recently giving the official a bit of a headache....

In the Open week at our club we have many visitors that are not familiar with the course although it is well marked. In an individual stroke round a group of four moved from the 4th tee and in error, all played from the 8th tee where they completed the hole and moved on to the 9th tee. Player A made a stroke at a ball from the 9th tee when they realised the mistake.

The four players proceeded back to the 5th tee, each taking a 2 stroke penalty. After playing the 7th hole, they decided to play the 9th hole as they already had a score for the 8th hole (previously played in error). They all skipped the 8th and proceeded directly to the 9th hole. One player thought missing the 8th hole was not correct but didn't query this with officials until the completion of the round.

I believe the following ruling would apply - two separate incidences of the same rule.

11-4 Playing ball from outside teeing ground.

8th tee - The group corrected the error by going back and playing from the 5th tee. Each incurred a 2 stroke penalty. However the strokes made in error on the 8th should not have been counted.

As Player A made a stroke at the ball his first time on the 9th tee, he would have been disqualified at that point. However, Players B, C and D could continue play.

After playing the 7th hole, the group decided not to play the 8th again as they had already had a score for that hole and moved to the 9th tee. At this point Players B, C and D incurred another 2 stroke penalty of 11-4 Playing outside the teeing ground. As they didn't correct the error prior to making a stroke at the ball on the 10th tee Players B, C and D were disqualified.

*SM replied: I would agree with your conclusion.*

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

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

**So, have a think .... let's hear from you! Send your contribution to [rulesnewsletter@golf.org.au](mailto:rulesnewsletter@golf.org.au)**

## Rules Quiz

**By Brian Nesbitt**

(Victorian State Level Referee)

*Answers can be found on the back page*

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

Here I want you to fill in the Rule Headings as by now you should have learned the first ten headings at least:

1. Rule 1 Heading is....
2. Rule 2
3. Rule 3
4. Rule 4
5. Rule 5
6. Rule 6
7. Rule 7
8. Rule 8
9. Rule 9
10. Rule 10

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

1. Dropping and re-dropping
2. Ball in motion moved by opponent
3. Ball at rest moved by opponent
4. Unauthorised attendance of flagstick
5. Touching line of putt
6. Wrong ball
7. Striking the ball - Assistance
8. Improving the lie
9. Identifying the ball
10. Tee markers

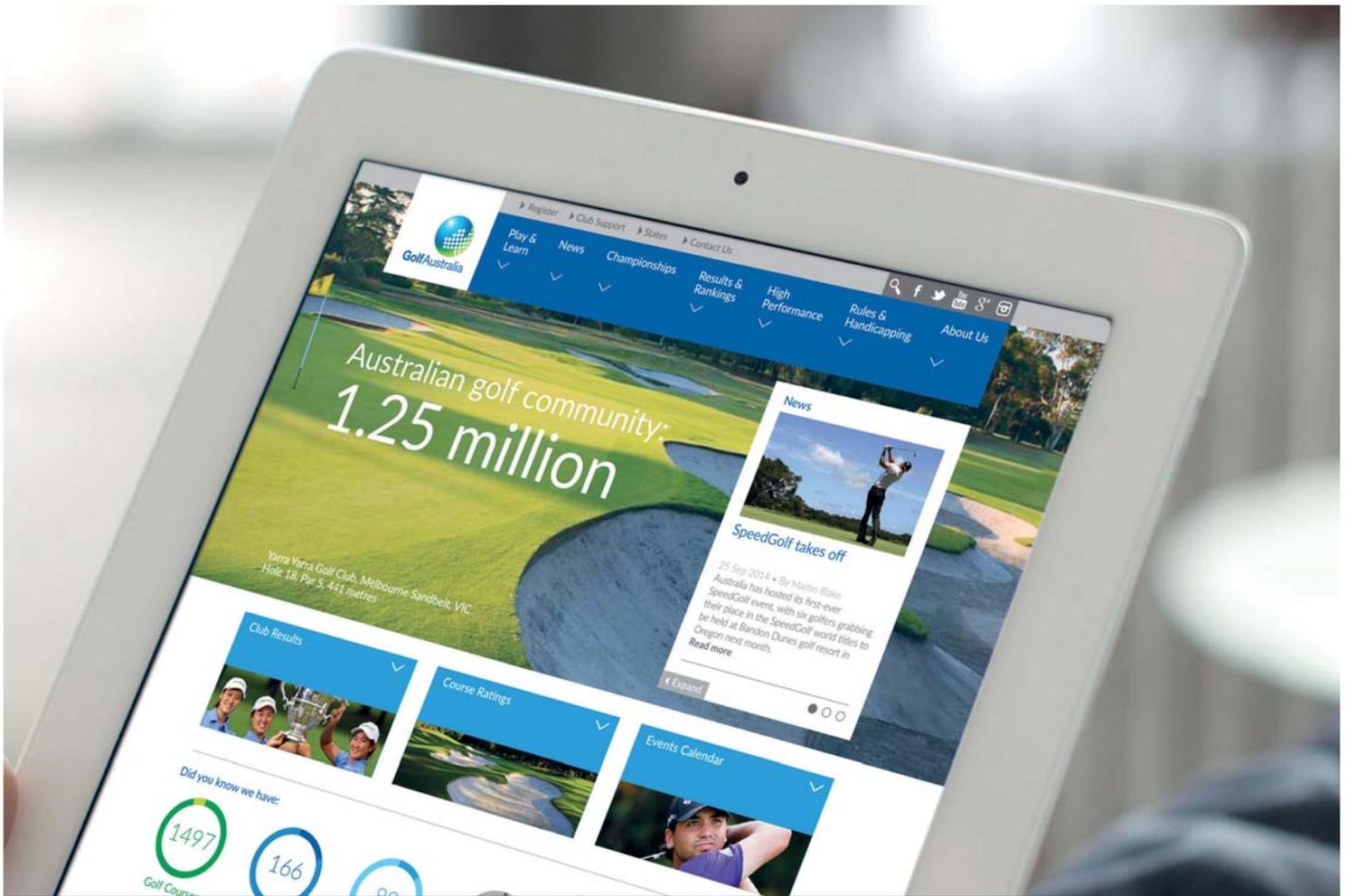
Now for a Hole with Gertrude and Felicity. Please count the strokes and any penalties involved in each paragraph by Gertrude and check her score for the hole at the end. Please give the Rule number too.

### Gertrude and Felicity's Matchless Stroke Play

1. In the Club Stroke Play Championship, Gertrude drove strongly down the centre of the 1st fairway, stood aside and watched Felicity follow her straight down the middle. As they walked along, Gertrude mentioned to Felicity that she was trying out her new driver for the first time and how pleased she was with it. Suddenly she cried, "Oh no! I've forgotten to take the old driver out of the bag; I've got 15 clubs. Is that a problem?"
2. They arrived at their balls and had to wait for the green to clear. Gertrude stood behind her ball and swung her club in a practice swing at 90 degrees to the direction of play, creating an undetached divot about 10cms behind her ball. When it was her turn to play, Gertrude pressed down the divot as it would affect her backswing, and played a great long iron into the heart of the green. Felicity followed her and both were on the green in two shots, with Felicity just on the edge of the green.
3. Felicity was first to putt and she lined up her long putt and struck it straight at the hole. Gertrude, having been chatting, rushed across the green to save the situation by taking the flag out just before the ball dropped into the hole. Gertrude then putted, but missed her birdie putt.

This next Section will require the use of the Decisions Book and is aimed at State Level Referees. Please give the Decision number, but you should be able to give the Rule number and possibly the sub-para from memory!

1. In playing a tee shot A misses the ball. Before playing his next stroke, A presses down the turf behind the ball. Is this permissible, since the ball is in play?
2. A's ball is on the apron between the green and a bunker. A's partner, opponent or fellow-competitor (B) plays from the bunker and deposits sand on and around A's ball. Is A entitled to any relief?
3. A player's lie or line of play through the green is affected by a pitch-mark made by his partner's, his opponent's or fellow-competitor's ball. Is the player entitled to relief?
4. A player removed with his hand an embedded acorn on his line of putt. The acorn was not solidly embedded, so it was a loose impediment. The player then repaired the depression in which the acorn lay. Was the repair of the depression a breach of Rule 16-1a?
5. If a player starts his downswing and his clubhead is deflected or stopped by an agency other than himself, e.g. the branch of a tree, is he deemed to have made a stroke?



## Freshly cut website – ready for play.

Our mission is to inspire more and more people to get involved with the best game in the world, and our new website makes that easier than ever. There is something for everyone; the latest news, finding somewhere to play near you, course ratings and club golf results.

We've got it covered at [golf.org.au](http://golf.org.au)



GolfAustralia



## Rules Quiz Answers

### Club Level Quiz - Rule Numbers

1. The Game
2. Match Play
3. Stroke Play
4. Clubs
5. The Ball
6. The Player
7. Practice
8. Advice; Indicating Line of Play
9. Information as to Strokes Taken
10. Order of Play

### Club Level Quiz using Rule Book

1. Rule 20-2
2. Rule 19-3
3. Rule 18-3
4. Rule 17-2
5. Rule 16-1a
6. Rule 15-3
7. Rule 14-2
8. Rule 13-2
9. Rule 12-2
10. Rule 11-2

### A hole with Gertrude and Felicity:

1. One stroke, two penalty strokes. Rule 4-4
  2. One stroke, two penalty strokes. Rule 13-2
  3. Two putts. Two penalty strokes. Rule 17-2
- Total: 4 Strokes and 6 Penalty strokes. Total 10 Strokes

### Decision Book Answers

1. Yes. Rule 13-2 permits eliminating irregularities of surface on the teeing ground, whether or not the ball is in play. Decision 13-2/2.
2. Yes. A is entitled to the lie and line of play he had when his ball came to rest. Accordingly, in equity (Rule 1-4), he is entitled to remove the sand deposited by B's stroke and lift his ball and clean it, without penalty. Decision 13-2/8.5.
3. If the pitch-mark was there before the player's ball came to rest, he is not entitled to relief without penalty. If the pitch-mark was created after the player's ball came to rest, in equity (Rule 1-4), he may repair the pitch-mark. A player is entitled to the lie which his stroke gave him. Decision 13-2/8.
4. Yes. Decision 16-1a/7.
5. Yes. Decision 14/1.

