



A SUMMARY OF THE MAIN CHANGES TO THE RULES OF GOLF

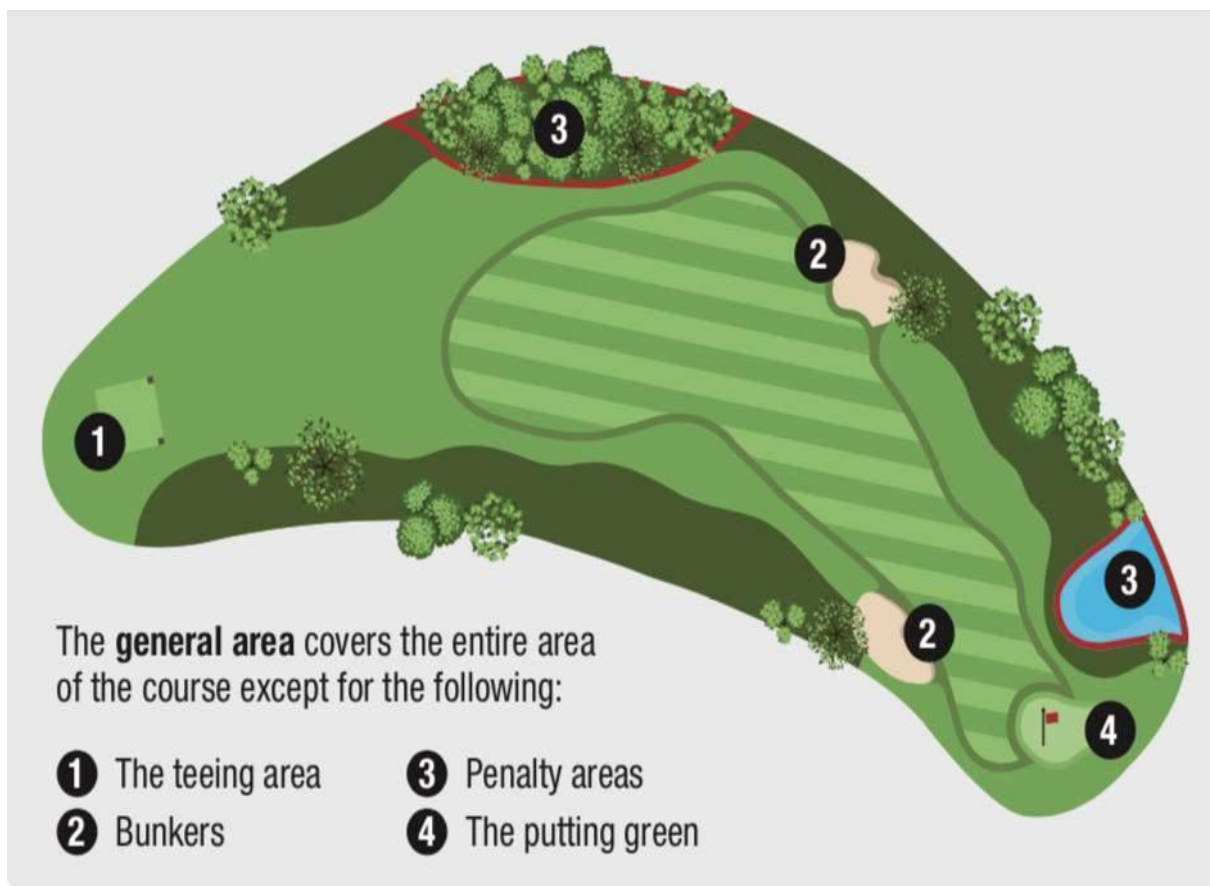
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1ST, 2019

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THE 5 AREAS OF THE GOLF COURSE:

- **GENERAL AREA** - previously known as "*Through the Green*:" The General Area covers the entire course, except the following four specific areas.
- **TEEING AREA** - area you must play from in starting the hole you are playing.
- **BUNKER** - A specially prepared area of sand.
- **PENALTY AREA** - previously known as "*Water Hazards*". Includes all areas defined by the Committee as a penalty area (with or without water).
- **PUTTING GREEN** - area on the hole you are playing that is specially prepared for putting.



DROPPING A BALL:

The ball **must be dropped in the Right Way**, meaning:

- The player must drop ball.
- The ball must be dropped straight down **from knee height**. “**Knee height**” means the height of the player’s knee when in a standing position. But the player does **NOT** have to be in a standing position when dropping a ball. The ball must fall straight down without the player throwing, spinning or rolling it, or using any motion to affect where the ball will come to rest.
- The ball, when dropped, must **NOT** touch any part of the player’s body or equipment (such as a tee or a club) **BEFORE** it hits the ground.
- The ball **must** be dropped in **AND** come to rest in **the Relief Area**.

If a ball dropped in the Right Way rolls against the player’s foot or equipment accidentally **AFTER** striking the ground **AND** then comes to rest in the relief area, the ball **IS** in play and the player has **completed taking relief**.

If a ball is dropped in a wrong way (such as from shoulder height) and not yet been played, the player may correct the error (under **Rule 14.5**) by dropping a ball in the Right Way. A ball dropped in a wrong way does **NOT** count as one of the two drops required, before a ball must be placed where it landed after being dropped again.

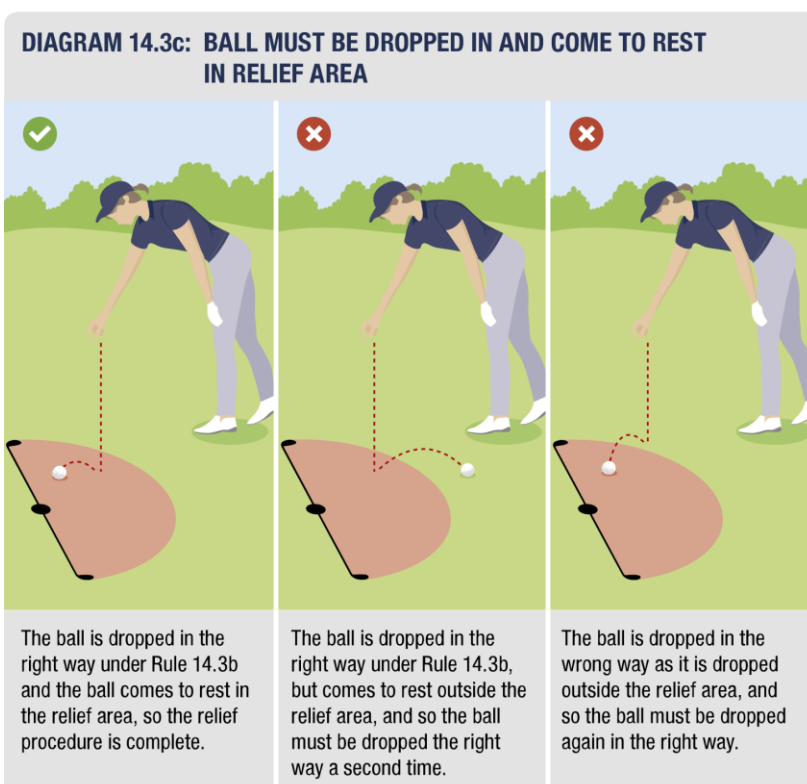
DROPPING AGAIN:

- If the ball is dropped in the Right Way (see Rule 14.3b) **but** rolls outside the relief area, it must be dropped again. Then, when dropped in the right way a second time, if it rolls outside of the relief area a second time, the ball must be placed where it first struck the ground on the second drop.
- If the placed ball will not stay at rest on that spot, it must be placed on that spot a second time, and if it still will not stay there, it must then be placed on the nearest spot where it will stay at rest, no nearer the hole.
- If a Dropping Zone is being used, the ball when dropped **must** land in **AND** come to rest in the Dropping Zone – meaning the Dropping Zone is the Relief Area.



THE RELIEF AREA:

- The Relief Area is the area where a player **must** drop a ball when taking relief under a Rule. A Relief Area is comprised of three (3) factors: the Reference Point, the Size of the Relief Area and the Limits on the Location of the Relief Area.
- The Relief Area is a defined area that is equal to the length of the longest club carried by the player, other than a putter.
- No matter what club is used to measure the relief area, the ball **must** come to rest within the longest club carried by the player, other than a putter. Using a sand wedge will **not** provide a smaller relief area.
- The one club-length Relief Area will be uniform for all procedures, **except** when a player is using the two club-length "Lateral Relief" option from a red penalty area or for an unplayable ball.
- This change makes the Relief Area more consistent. No matter if a player is dropping a ball from an *immovable obstruction*, from an *embedded ball*, from a *wrong green*, when using "Back-On-The-Line Relief" under penalty, or when using the "Stroke-and-Distance Relief" option under penalty, the Relief Area is one club-length.
- When taking free relief or penalty relief, the original ball **or** another ball must be dropped in the relief area. As a general rule of thumb, whenever a player is dropping a ball, he MAY substitute balls.



ELIMINATION OF PENALTIES:

- There is now **NO** penalty for an accidental double hit. All accidental deflections, other than those played from on the putting green, are treated the same way: **NO** penalty and the ball is played as it lies.
- Other than on the putting green, there is now **NO** penalty if a ball in motion accidentally hits the player, his caddie or his equipment. There is only a penalty if it is deliberate, or if the player or his or her caddie deliberately positions equipment to stop a ball in motion.
- On the putting green:
 - A ball that accidentally strikes a moving *loose impediment* (such as a leaf) after a stroke made from the putting green is NO longer canceled and replayed. The ball will be played as it lies.
 - A ball that accidentally strikes the person attending the flagstick or the flagstick now results in **NO penalty**. The ball will be played as it lies.
- During a search for a ball, there is now **NO** penalty if a ball is moved by the player, his or her caddie or any other person. In all cases, the ball will be **replaced**. If the original spot is not known, it must be estimated. The ball will never be dropped when **replacing** the ball.
- There is still **NO** penalty for a ball or ball-marker accidentally moved on the putting green. The ball or ball-marker MUST be **replaced**.



- There is now **NO** penalty for carrying a non-conforming club. The penalty, which is DQ, applies only for the player **making a stroke with the non-conforming club**.
- If a ball has been moved by an Outside Influence, it must be **replaced** in all cases, including when the original spot is not known. The ball will never be dropped when **replacing** the ball.

REPLACING A BALL:

- The Rule for replacing a ball applies whenever a ball is **lifted** or **moved**, and a Rule requires it (THE original ball) to be replaced on its original spot, which, if it is not known, must be estimated.
- The original ball must always be used when replacing a ball, with the following exceptions:
 - the original ball cannot be recovered with reasonable effort and in a few seconds, so long as the player did not deliberately cause the ball to become unrecoverable.
 - The original ball is cut or cracked (see Rule 4.2c)
 - Play resumes after it had been stopped (see Rule 5.7d), or
 - The original ball was played by another player as a wrong ball (see Rule 6.3c(2))
- When “replacing” a ball, the ball is **NEVER** dropped.
- The player **MUST use his or her hand** (not a club) in replacing a ball and MUST set the ball down on the required spot and then let it go so that it stays on the required spot.
- If the ball was at rest on, under or against an **object**, other than a loose impediment, the ball must be replaced on, under or against such an object. The **object** could include any *immovable obstruction, integral object, boundary object* or any growing or attached natural object (such as grass).
- **If the original lie has been altered**, the player **MUST**:
 - **If the ball was in sand**, whether in a bunker or anywhere else on the course, RE-CREATE THE ORIGINAL LIE as much as possible. If the ball had been covered by sand, the player may leave a small part of the ball visible when re-creating the lie.
 - **If the ball was anywhere on the course, except in sand**, the player MUST PLACE THE BALL ON THE NEAREST SPOT WITH A LIE MOST SIMILAR TO THE ORIGINAL LIE that is:
 - Within one club-length from its original spot
 - Not nearer the hole than the original spot, and
 - In the same area of the course as the original spot

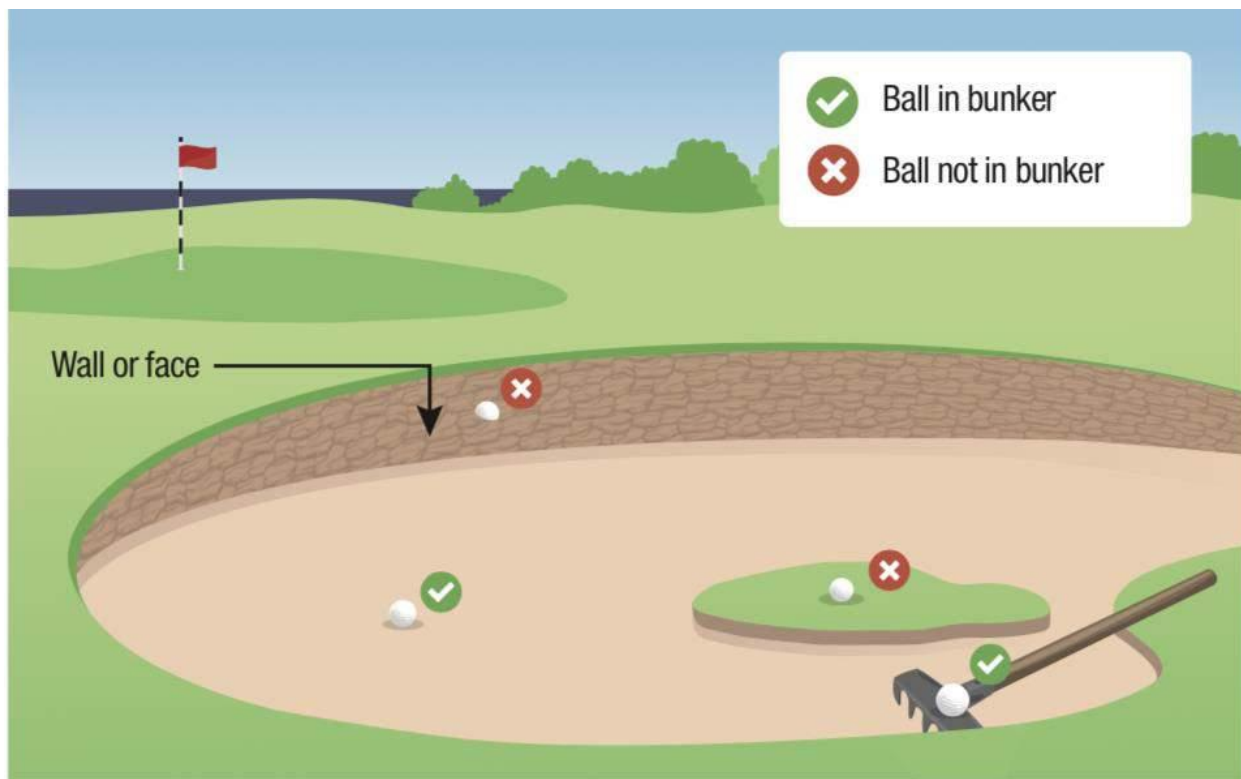
BUNKERS:

- Loose impediments in a bunker may now be removed or touched, provided the ball does not move. If the ball moves as a result, there is a one stroke penalty and the ball must be replaced. Hence, a Local Rule for Stones in Bunkers will no longer be used, as the Rules now allow for their removal.

- The Rules will now allow the player to generally touch the sand in a bunker with a hand or a club, **but** there remain limitations. For example:

-You **cannot** touch the sand in a bunker when making a practice swing or in the backswing for the stroke. -You **cannot** deliberately touch the sand in the bunker with your hand, club, rake or other object to test the condition of the sand to learn information for the stroke. -You **cannot** touch the sand in a bunker with a club in the area right in front of or right behind the ball, except when searching for a ball or in removing a loose impediment or movable obstruction.

- There is **NO** longer a penalty for striking the sand in anger or frustration, or for leaning on a club in the sand away from the ball while waiting to play.



PENALTY AREAS:

- Penalty Area is the new name for Water Hazard.
- Penalty Areas will still be marked either **Yellow** or **Red**.
- In a Penalty Area the player can now ground the club lightly behind the ball, move/remove a loose impediment, take a practice swing and touch the ground or the water.
- A player may **NOT** proceed under the Unplayable ball rule when his or her ball lies in or touches a Penalty Area. The player must play the ball as it lies or take relief under the Penalty Area rule (Rule 17.1d).
- **NOTE:** As was the case previously, the player may **NOT** take free relief from Abnormal Course Conditions, including Immovable Obstructions, or an Embedded Ball when his or her ball lies in a penalty area.

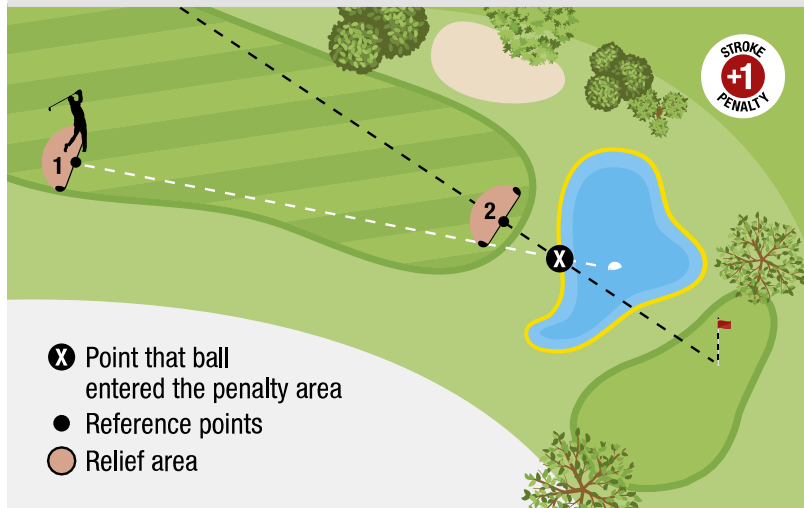
Relaxed Rules in Penalty Area

You will be allowed to ground your club and move loose impediments in a penalty area (an expanded concept of water hazards that does not include bunkers).



IMPORTANT NOTE: Opposite Edge relief from a Red Penalty area is **NOT** available by the Rule. A player may use this option **ONLY** if a Local Rule allowing it has been adopted by the Committee for the specific Red Penalty Area on the course from which the player is seeking relief.

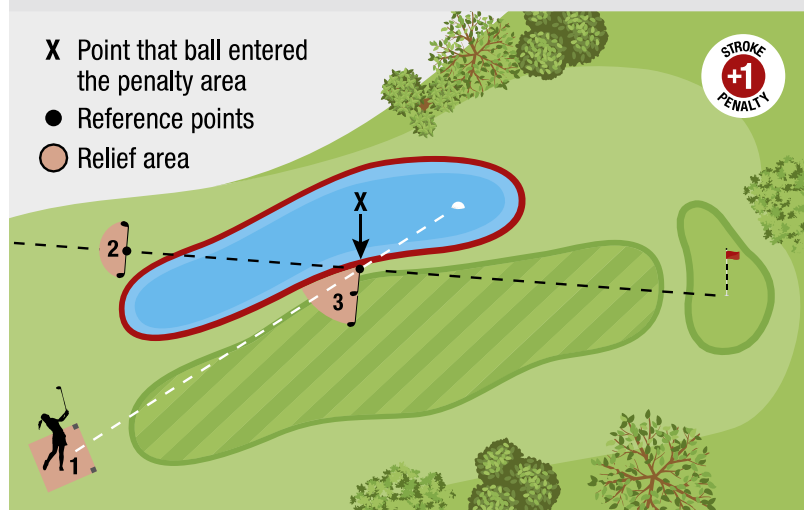
DIAGRAM #1 17.1d: RELIEF FOR BALL IN YELLOW PENALTY AREA



When it is known or virtually certain that a ball is in a yellow penalty area and the player wishes to take relief, the player has **two options**, each for one penalty stroke:

- (1) The player may take stroke-and-distance relief by playing the original ball or another ball from a relief area based on where the previous stroke was made (see Rule 14.6 and Diagram 14.6).
- (2) The player may take back-on-the-line relief by dropping the original ball or another ball in a relief area based on a reference line going straight back from the hole through point X. The reference point is a point on the course chosen by the player that is on the reference line through point X (the point where the ball last crossed the edge of the yellow penalty area). There is no limit on how far back on the line the reference point may be. The relief area is one club-length from the reference point, is not nearer to the hole than the reference point and may be in any area of the course, except the same penalty area. In choosing this reference point, the player should indicate the point by using an object (such as a tee).

DIAGRAM #2 17.1d: RELIEF FOR BALL IN RED PENALTY AREA



When it is known or virtually certain that a ball is in a red penalty area and the player wishes to take relief, the player has **three options**, each for one penalty stroke:

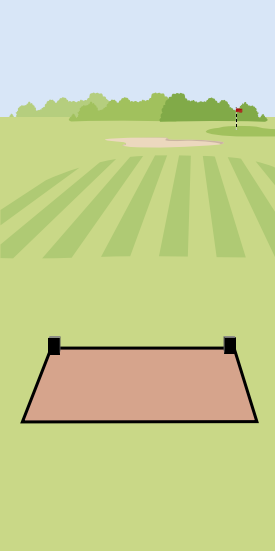
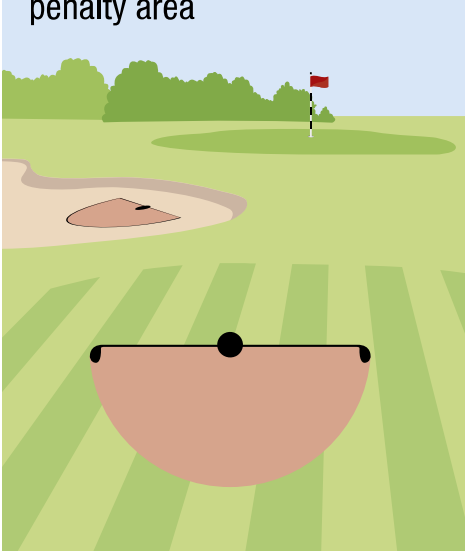
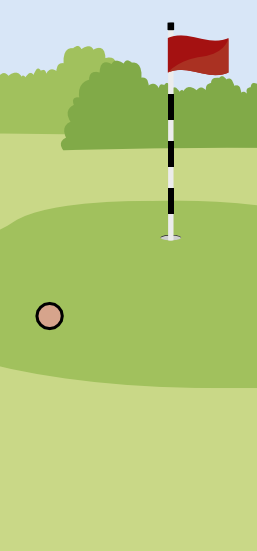
- (1) The player may take stroke-and-distance relief (see point (1) in Diagram #1 17.1d).
- (2) The player may take back-on-the-line relief (see point (2) in Diagram #1 17.1d).
- (3) The player may take lateral relief (red penalty area only). The reference point for taking lateral relief is point X, which is the estimated point where the original ball last crossed the edge of the red penalty area. The relief area is two club-lengths from the reference point, is not nearer to the hole than the reference point and may be in any area of the course, except the same penalty area.

MAKING NEXT STROKE FROM WHERE PREVIOUS STROKE MADE:

- At any time and no matter where the player's ball lies on the course, a player may take stroke-and-distance relief by adding one penalty stroke and playing the original ball or another ball from where the previous stroke was made (see Rule 14.6).
- A player may take stroke-and-distance relief by adding one penalty stroke and playing the original ball or another ball from where the previous stroke was made (see Rule 14.6) under the **Rule 17 (Penalty Areas)**, **Rule 18 (Stroke and Distance Relief; Ball Lost or Out of Bounds; Provisional Ball)** and **Rule 19 (Unplayable Ball)**.

DIAGRAM 14.6: MAKING NEXT STROKE FROM WHERE PREVIOUS STROKE MADE

When a player is required or allowed to make the next stroke from where the previous stroke was made, how the player must put a ball into play depends on the area of the course where that previous stroke was made.

Teeing area	General area, bunker or penalty area	Putting green
		
<p>The previous stroke was made from the teeing area, so a ball must be played from anywhere inside the teeing area.</p>	<p>The previous stroke was made from the general area, a bunker or a penalty area, so the reference point is the spot where the previous stroke was made. A ball is dropped within one club-length of that reference point, but in the same area of the course as the reference point and not nearer the hole than the reference point.</p>	<p>The previous stroke was made from the putting green, so a ball is placed on the spot where the previous stroke was made.</p>

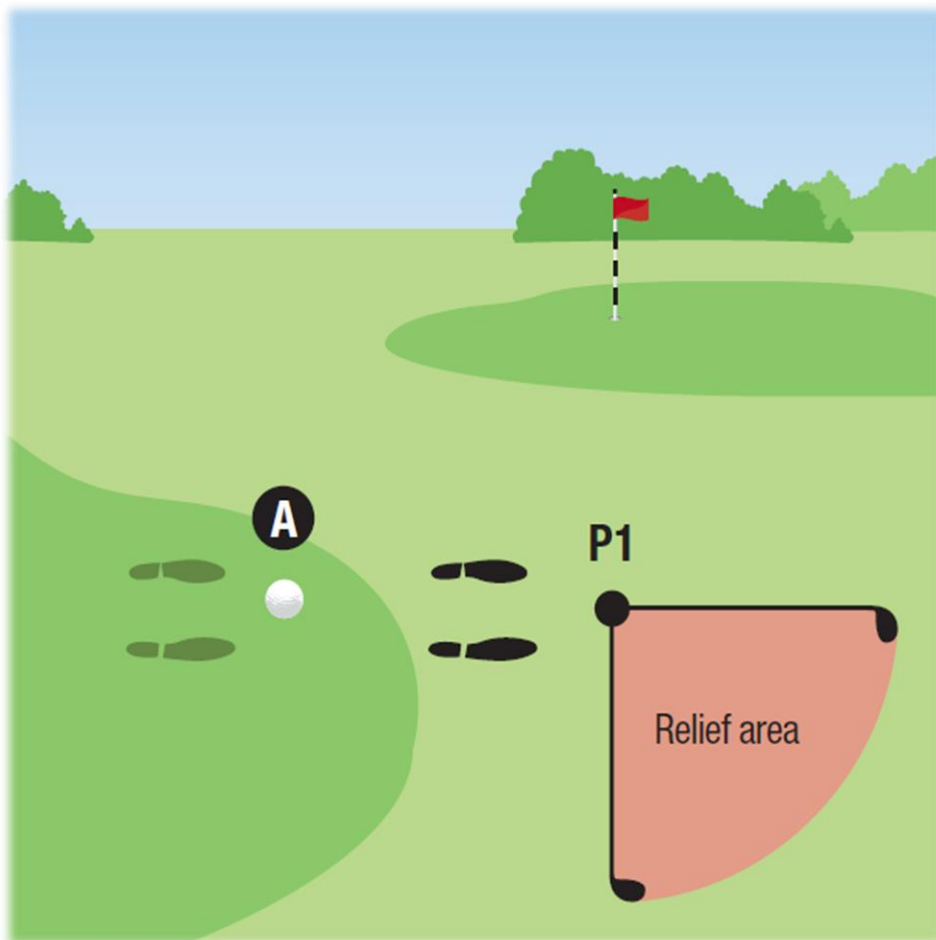
THE PUTTING GREEN and REPAIRING DAMAGE:

- Damage to a putting green may be repaired.
- Damage is described in the Rule [Rule 13.1c(2)] as any damage caused by a person or outside influence and includes **ball marks, old hole plugs, turf plugs, shoe damage** (such as **spike marks**) and **scrapes or indentations** caused by equipment or the flagstick. Any repair must be done promptly without unreasonably delaying play.
- It does **NOT** include natural surface imperfections (such as weeds or areas of bare, diseased or uneven growth), aeration holes or natural wear of the hole.
- Before lifting a ball under a Rule requiring the ball to be **replaced** on its original spot (such as on the putting green), the position of the ball **MUST** be marked with an **artificial object** such as a tee, a coin, an object made to be a ball marker or another small piece of equipment, such as a ball mark repair tool. A player must not use anything else such as a loose impediment. A player could also mark the spot of the ball by holding a club on the ground right behind or right next to the ball.
- A player must **NOT** make a stroke with the ball marker left in place marking the spot of the ball. If the player makes a stroke with the ball-marker left in place, the player gets a one penalty stroke.
- The line of play on the putting green may now be touched, including when pointing out a line for putting, but the line must not be improved beyond what is now permitted when repairing damage, i.e., the player may **NOT** create a pathway or channel to the hole.
- If the player's ball on the putting green moves after the player had already lifted and replaced the ball, the ball **MUST** be replaced on its original spot, which if not known must be estimated. This is the case no matter what caused the replaced ball to move, including natural forces (wind). If a ball at rest on the putting green was **NOT** yet lifted and replaced and is subsequently moved by natural forces, the ball is played as it lies.



MANDATORY RELIEF FROM WRONG GREEN:

- Interference from a wrong green now includes physical interference from a player's area of intended stance or swing, in addition to when a player's ball lies on a wrong green or his ball lies on or in anything inside the edge of a wrong green.
- A player **MUST** take free relief from interference from a wrong green. If a player plays his or her ball when he or she has interference from a wrong green, the player incurs the general penalty.
- The player must drop a ball (the original or a substituted ball) using the reference point of the nearest point of complete relief in the general area. A wrong green is part of the general area.
- The relief area is one club-length from the reference point, must not be nearer the hole than the reference point and in the same part of the course (the general area) as the reference point and avoids all interference from the wrong green.



FLAGSTICK:

- The player can now putt leaving the flagstick in the hole, but the player must decide this **before** making the stroke.
- There is **NO** penalty if the ball strikes a flagstick left in the hole prior to the stroke, or for a ball accidentally striking a flagstick that is attended or removed.
- If the player elects to putt with the flagstick in the hole, it must **NOT** be moved after the stroke to affect where a ball in motion may come to rest. It may be removed only when there is no reasonable possibility that the ball will strike the flagstick.
- If a ball rests against a flagstick in the hole and part of the ball is below the surface of the putting green, the ball will be considered **holed**, even if the entire ball is not below the surface. There is no longer a requirement to move the flagstick to see if the ball falls into the hole. The ball may be simply picked up.

Leaving Flagstick in the Hole

If you make a stroke from on the green and your ball hits the flagstick in the hole, there will be no penalty.



LOST BALL and PLAYING A PROVISIONAL BALL:

- The time to search for a ball has been reduced from 5 minutes to **3 minutes**. The time of search still starts when the player **or** caddie begins to search. If the original ball is found, the provisional ball must be abandoned.
- Once the search time has begun, there is **NO** penalty if the ball is accidentally moved during the search by anyone, including the player or caddie. Simply **replace** the ball in its estimated position.
- The player may now go back to the spot where the ball was last played and play a provisional ball at **any time** before the original ball is found.
- The player must still announce that the ball about to be played is a provisional ball. The player must use the word "provisional" or otherwise clearly indicate that he or she is playing the ball provisionally.



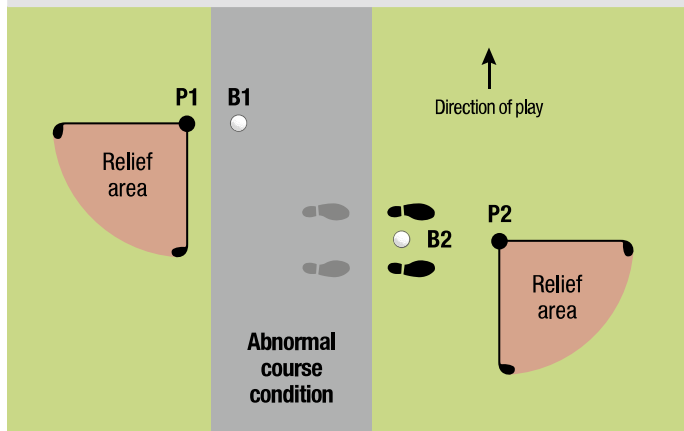
ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS:

- Abnormal Course Conditions is the new umbrella term for ***Animal Holes, Ground Under Repair, Temporary Water*** (formerly Casual Water) and now includes ***Immovable Obstructions***. Each term has its own definition.

- A player is **NOT** entitled to free relief from an Abnormal Course Condition if his or her ball lies in or touches a Penalty Area.

WHEN RELIEF IS ALLOWED FOR AN ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITION:

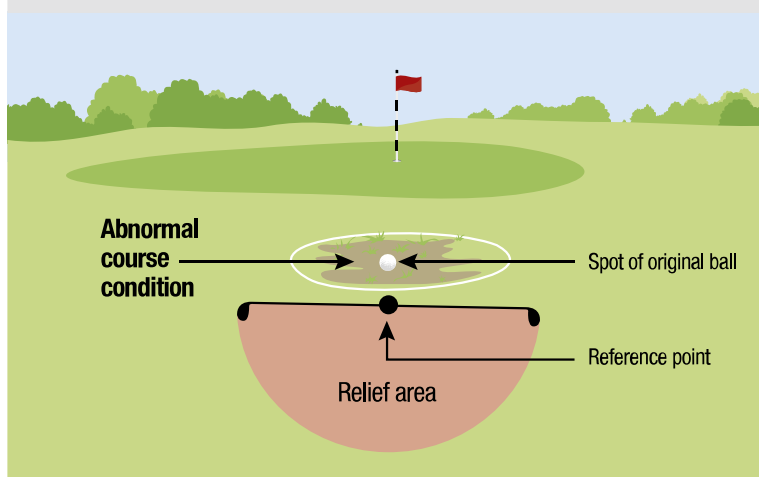
DIAGRAM 16.1a: WHEN RELIEF IS ALLOWED FOR ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITION



The diagram assumes the player is right-handed. Free relief is allowed for interference by an abnormal course condition (ACC), including an immovable obstruction, when the ball touches or lies in or on the condition (B1), or the condition interferes with the area of intended stance (B2) or swing. The nearest point of complete relief for B1 is P1, and is very close to the condition. For B2, the nearest point of complete relief is P2, and is farther from the condition as the stance has to be clear of the ACC.

FREE RELIEF FROM ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITION WHEN BALL IS IN THE GENERAL AREA:

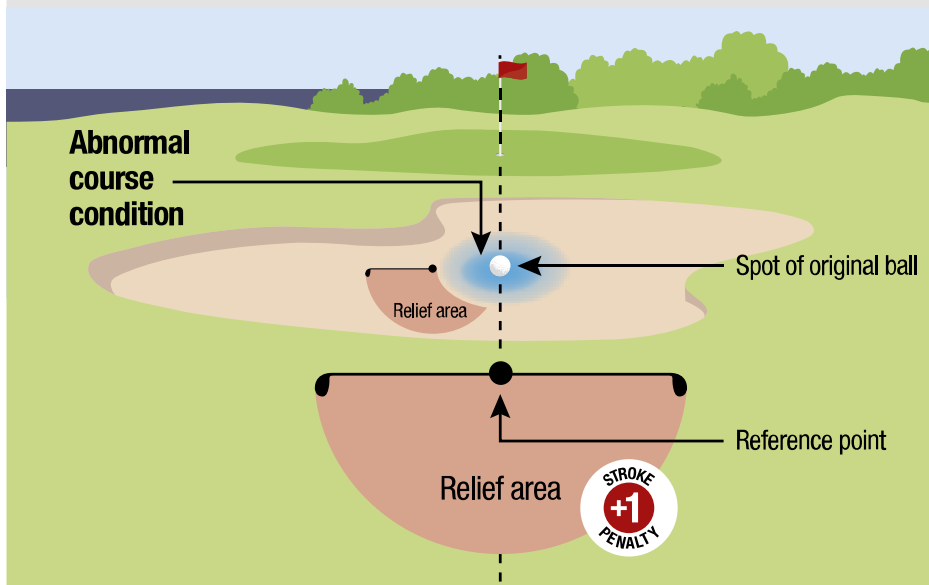
DIAGRAM 16.1b: FREE RELIEF FROM ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITION IN GENERAL AREA



Free relief is allowed when the ball is in the general area and there is interference by an abnormal course condition. The nearest point of complete relief should be identified and a ball must be dropped in and come to rest in the relief area. The relief area is one club-length from the reference point, is not nearer to the hole than the reference point and must be in the general area. When taking relief, the player must take complete relief from all interference by the abnormal course condition.

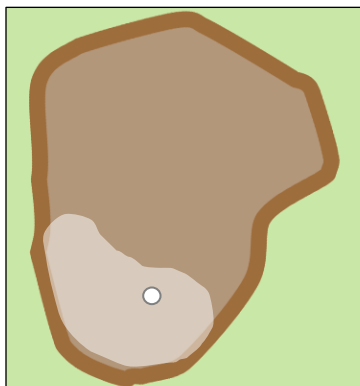
RELIEF FROM ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITION **WHEN BALL LIES IN** **A BUNKER:**

DIAGRAM 16.1c: RELIEF FROM ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITION
IN BUNKER



The diagram assumes a right-handed player. When there is interference from an abnormal course condition in a bunker, free relief may be taken in the bunker under Rule 16.1b or relief may be taken outside the bunker for one penalty stroke. Relief outside the bunker is based on a reference line going straight back from the hole through the spot of the original ball in the bunker. The reference point is a point on the course outside the bunker chosen by the player that is on the reference line and is farther from the hole than the original spot (with no limit on how far back on the line). The relief area is one club-length from the reference point, is not nearer to the hole than the reference point, but may be in any area of the course. In choosing this reference point, the player should indicate the point by using an object (such as a tee).

"MAXIMUM AVAILABLE RELIEF": FROM ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITION WHEN BALL LIES IN A BUNKER:



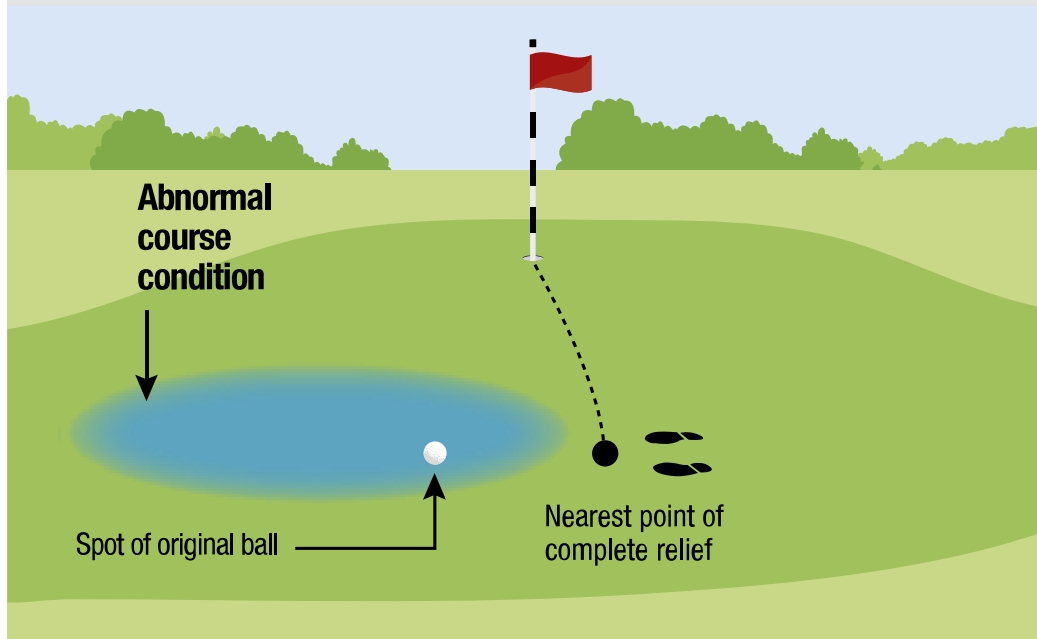
Complete relief
in bunker from
temporary water
NOT possible

If there is no such nearest point of complete relief in the *bunker*, the player may still take the free relief by using:

- the *point of maximum available relief*
- **in the *bunker*** as the *reference point*.

FREE RELIEF FROM ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITION WHEN BALL LIES ON PUTTING GREEN:

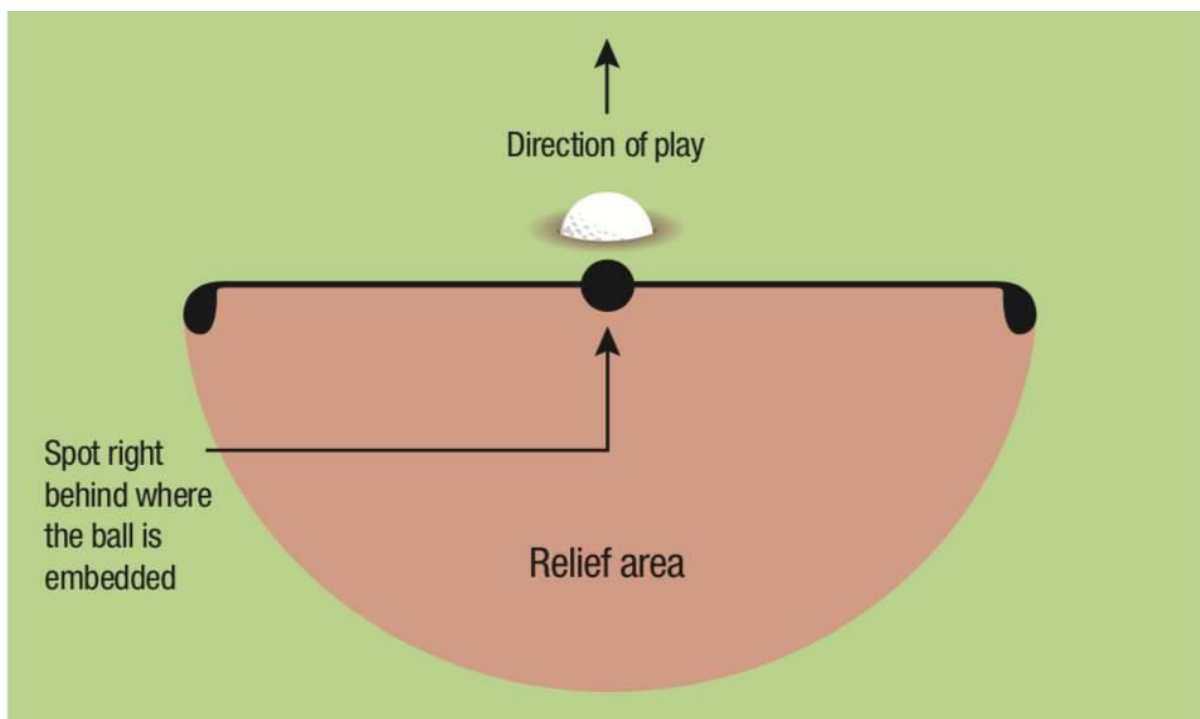
DIAGRAM 16.1d: FREE RELIEF FROM ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITION ON PUTTING GREEN



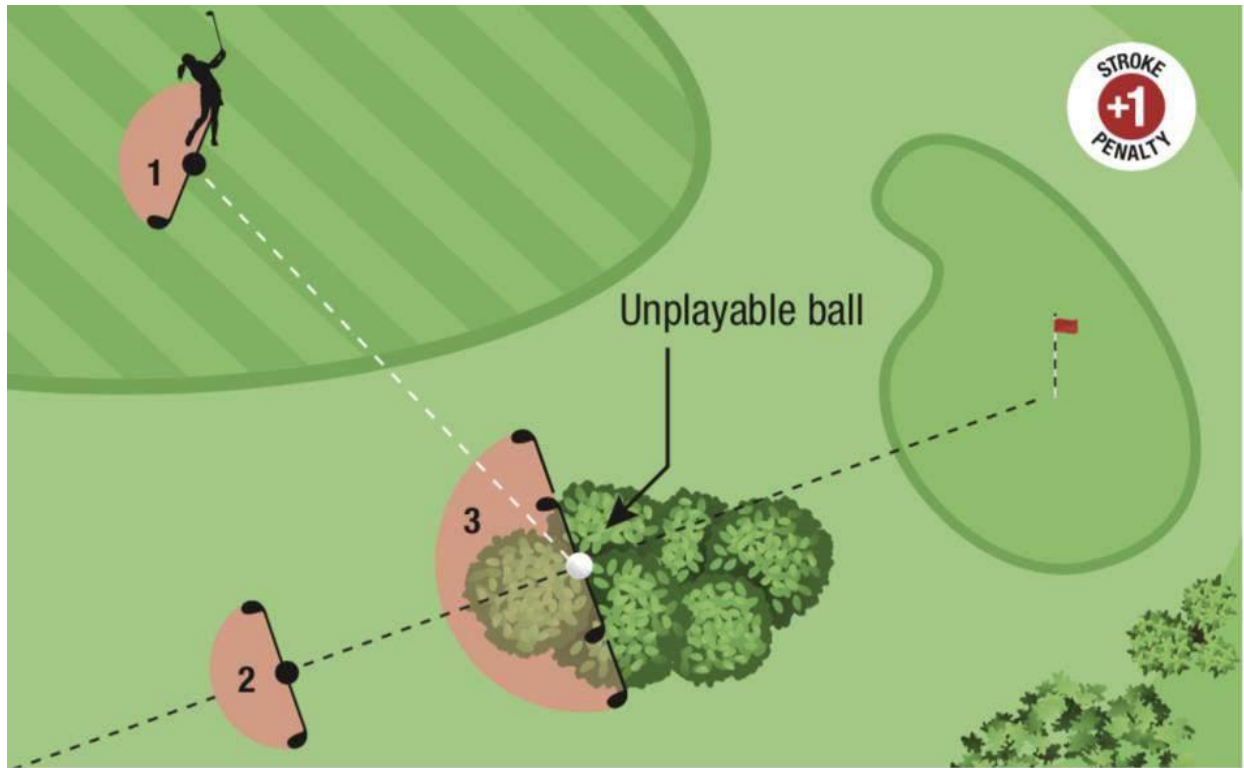
The diagram assumes the player is left-handed. When a ball is on the putting green and there is interference by an abnormal course condition, free relief may be taken by placing a ball on the spot of the nearest point of complete relief. The nearest point of complete relief must be either on the putting green or in the general area. If there is no such nearest point of complete relief, the player may still take this free relief by using the point of maximum available relief as the reference point, which must be either on the putting green or in the general area.

EMBEDDED BALL:

- A Local Rule is no longer required to grant authority for free relief from an embedded ball in the rough. The new Rules allow for relief from an embedded ball anywhere in the general area, except in sand **NOT** mowed to fairway height or less.
- The relief procedure has changed for an embedded ball.
- The **reference point** for taking relief from an embedded ball is **the spot right behind where the ball lies** (is embedded), and the relief area measures one club-length from that spot (reference point) and is in the General Area.
- There is **NO** longer a requirement to announce to your marker or another player your intention to mark and lift the ball to check if it is embedded, but it is still good practice to do so. The announcement requirement has also been removed for lifting a ball for identification, or to see if it is cut or cracked.
- A ball is **NOT** embedded if it is below the level of the ground as a result of anything other than the player's previous stroke, such as when the ball was dropped in taking relief under a Rule.
- As with other relief procedures, a ball may be substituted and dropped when taking relief. The original ball may be used, but it is not necessary.

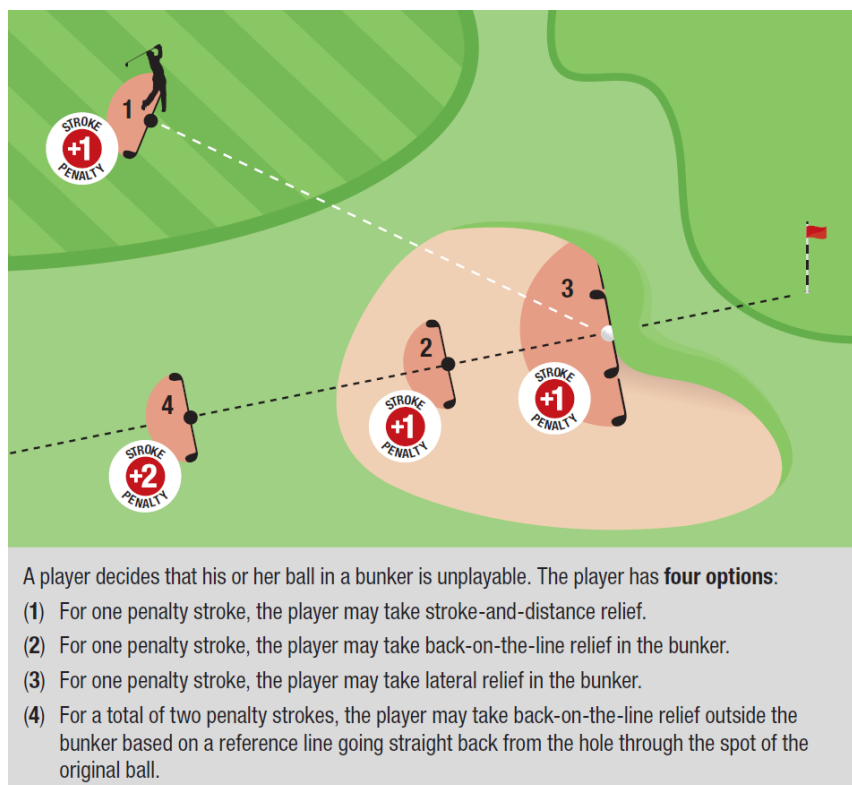


RELIEF OPTIONS FOR AN UNPLAYABLE BALL:



- When using the **"Stroke-and-Distance Relief"** option (#1 above – see "Stroke & Distance" section in booklet) the player must now estimate where the previous stroke was made and drop a ball within one club-length of that spot not nearer the hole (please note, in the picture above, the previous stroke was made from the general area). See Rule 14.6 for making next stroke from where previous stroke made.
- When using the **"Back-on-the-Line Relief"** option (#2 above) or keeping the place where the ball lies between you and the hole, the player can now drop in a one club-length relief area rather than exactly on the line itself as was done previously. The player can go back on the line as far as he wants, select a point on the line and drop within one club-length of that point, not nearer the hole. (*The player should indicate the point on the line by using an object such as a coin or tee.*) The ball when dropped cannot go forward of this point.
- Using the 2 club-length **"Lateral Relief"** option (#3 above) when a ball is unplayable, the ball must stay in the 2 club-length relief area when dropped. It can **no longer** roll 2 club-lengths from where it strikes the ground.

RELIEF OPTIONS FOR AN UNPLAYABLE BALL IN A BUNKER:



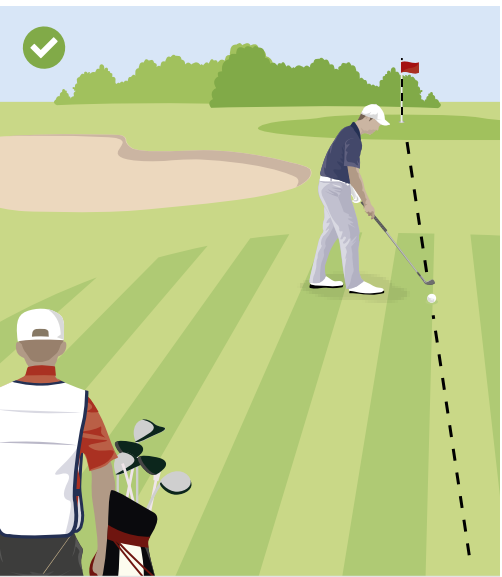
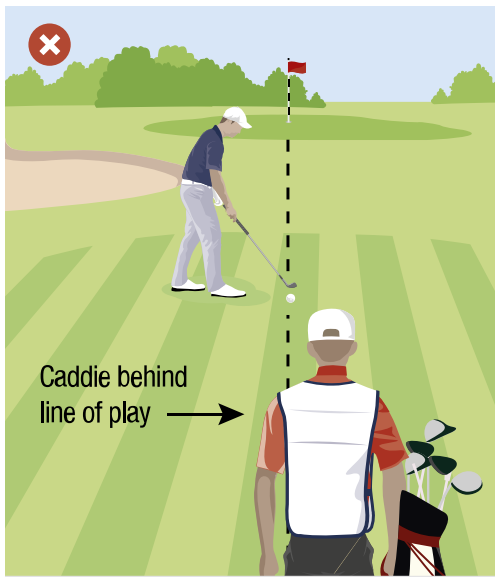
When a player's ball lies inside a bunker, the player may take unplayable relief and use any of the following options under Rule 19.3:

- When using the **"Stroke-and-Distance Relief"** option ((#1 above – see "Stroke & Distance" section in booklet) the player must now estimate where the previous stroke was made and drop a ball within one club-length of that spot not nearer the hole (please note, in the picture above, the previous stroke was made from the general area). See Rule **14.6** for making next stroke from where previous stroke made.
- When using the **"Back-on-the-Line Relief"** option (#2 above) or keeping the place where the ball lies between you and the hole, the player can now drop in a one club-length relief area rather than exactly on the line itself as was done previously. The player can go back on the line as far as he wants, select a point on the line and drop within one club-length of that point, not nearer the hole. (The player should indicate the point on the line by using an object such as a coin or tee.) The ball when dropped cannot go forward of this point. When using this option, a ball **MUST** be dropped inside of the bunker.
 - **New for 2019** – A player may now, for a **total penalty of two strokes**, use the **"Back-on-the-Line Relief"** option & drop back on the line, outside of the bunker. (#4 above)
- Using the 2 club-length **"Lateral Relief"** option (#3 above) when a ball is unplayable in a bunker, the ball must stay in the 2 club-length relief area when dropped. When using this option, a ball **MUST** be dropped inside the bunker.

ALIGNMENT:

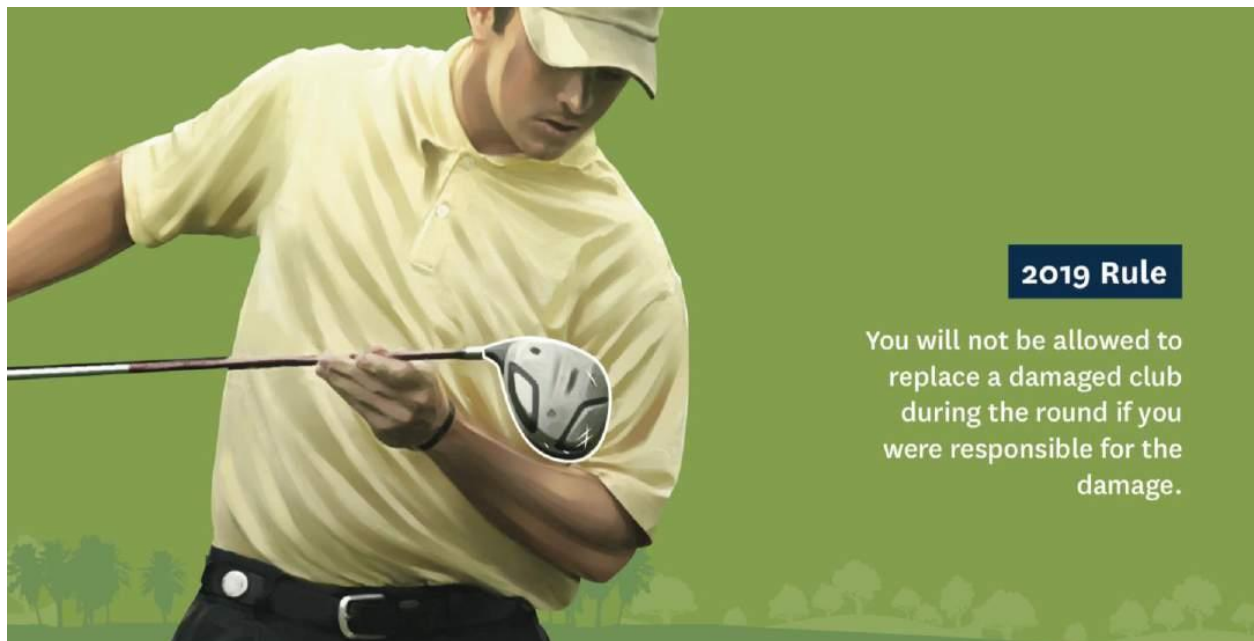
- No one may help the player with his alignment for the stroke. This is an essential skill which the player must do for himself or herself.
- A caddie is **NO** longer allowed to stand behind the player to help with alignment after the player has begun to take the stance. When the player begins to take his stance for stroke and until the stroke is made, the caddie must not deliberately stand directly on or close to an extension of the line of play behind the player's ball. The penalty for a breach of this Rule is the general penalty.
- The penalty can be avoided if the player backs away from his or her stance and starts again without the caddie directly on or close to an extension of the line of play behind the player's ball.
- In taking his stance, the player cannot set something down (such as a club) to help with alignment for a stroke. Once an object is set in place for assistance with alignment, and the player takes his or her stance with the object in place, the player incurs the general penalty. The breach cannot be "undone" by removing the object set in place before the stroke is made.

DIAGRAM 10.2b: CADDIE STANDING IN LOCATION ON OR CLOSE TO LINE OF PLAY BEHIND BALL

Allowed	Not Allowed
 A diagram of a golfer on a green preparing for a stroke. A dashed line represents the line of play. A caddie is standing to the left of this line, looking on. A green checkmark in a circle is in the top left corner of the panel.	 A diagram of a golfer on a green preparing for a stroke. A dashed line represents the line of play. A caddie is standing directly behind the line of play. A red 'X' in a circle is in the top left corner of the panel. An arrow points from the text 'Caddie behind line of play' to the caddie's position.
<p>The caddie is not standing in a location on or close to an extension of the line of play behind the ball when the player begins taking the stance for the stroke and, provided the caddie does not move into such a position prior to the stroke being made, there is no breach of Rule 10.2b(4).</p>	<p>The caddie is standing in a location on or close to an extension of the line of play behind the ball when the player begins taking the stance for the stroke, so there is a breach of Rule 10.2b(4).</p>

CLUBS:

- No matter how a club is damaged, even by abusing it, the player may continue to use the club in its damaged state for the rest of the round, but he will **NOT** be allowed to replace it.
- There will be **NO** replacement of a club damaged during a round (such as a cracked driver face), unless the damage is caused by an outside influence or natural forces. No matter what the nature or cause of the damage, the damaged club is treated as conforming for the rest of that round only.
- The player will be allowed to have the damaged club repaired but the repair is limited to the original components of the club - the same grip, shaft and clubhead. Damage that existed prior to the round must not be repaired.
- A club **MUST** still conform when starting a new round or when starting a play-off in stroke play, if it is to be used. There is **NO** penalty for carrying a non-conforming club, only for using it.



BALLS:

- The player is **NO** longer required to announce that he or she is lifting the ball to determine if it is cut or cracked, or for identification. Simply mark the ball and lift it.
- "Cut or Cracked" replaces the term "Unfit for Play." Therefore, a ball that is out of shape may **NOT** be replaced. A player may substitute balls **ONLY** if the original ball became cut or cracked during play of the current hole.

CADDIES:

- A caddie may now mark and lift the player's ball on the putting green **ONLY**, without needing authority from the player. If the caddie lifted the ball, he may also replace it. The player is still responsible for any related breach of the Rules by his or her caddie.
- A caddie is **NO** longer be able to align the player while he is taking his stance for any stroke. There are strict Rules about where the caddie may deliberately stand when the player begins to take his stance.

DISTANCE-MEASURING DEVICES:

- The 2019 Rules of Golf now allow the use of Distance-Measuring Devices (DMD's), but the player still may **NOT** measure elevation changes. The Committee may adopt a Local Rule prohibiting the use of Distance-Measuring Devices.

TEMPORARY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS:

- The TIO Local Rule was recrafted to enable a player to treat a TIO as an Immovable Obstruction when any physical interference exists, if the player so chooses. This should simplify the process for players when taking relief from a TIO.
- When a player has **both** Physical Interference and Line of Sight Interference, he has a choice of either procedure. However, once this choice is made, the other option may not be used.

PREFERRED LIES:

- When the Local Rule for Preferred Lies is in effect, the spot of the ball may be marked before being lifted, but it is not required. Simply lift the ball and place a ball **once** within one club-length of the original spot, but not nearer the hole. As with other relief procedures, a ball **may** be substituted when a ball is lifted under this Local Rule.

GREENS READING MATERIALS LIMITATION (GRM's):

- There are new limitations on mapped Greens Books, including green diagrams in a traditional yardage book. **ANY** putting green image that is used during the round **MUST** be limited to a scale of 3/8 inch to 5 yards. A yardage or greens book must also meet a size limit of 7 inches x 4.25 inches.
- Any hand drawn or written information by the player or the caddie is allowed, but only if contained in a book or paper meeting this size limit (other than a hole placement sheet). Magnification of putting green information is not allowed, other than a player's normal wearing of glasses.

ACTIONS WHERE PLAYER WILL NOW GET A PENALTY:

- Fails to replace ball in the right way
- Fails to drop ball in the right way
- Fails to take relief from Wrong Green for interference by lie, stance or swing
- Replaces a club during a round that was damaged during the round
- Uses opposite side relief for ball in a red penalty area when a Local Rule is NOT in effect allowing the use of that option
- Uses a natural object (loose impediment) to mark the spot of his or her ball
- Leaves the ball-marker in place when making a stroke
- Plays the ball after searching for more than 3 minutes
- Sets down an object, such as a club to help in lining up for a stroke
- Allows a caddie or coach to deliberately stand on or close to an extension of the line of play behind the player, when the player starts to take his stance