

READY GOLF NOW ENCOURAGED

“Ready Golf”



Playing out of turn in stroke play to save time, also known as ready golf, is encouraged.



- If a player is going to play when someone else is further from the hole, it should be communicated with that golfer as to who is going to play first to avoid any confusion.

- It is not permissible to play out of turn if doing so is purposely to help another player.

REPAIRING DAMAGE ON PUTTING GREEN

Repairing Spike Marks



It is permitted to repair spike marks and any other damage on the putting green caused by a person, an animal or maintenance practices.

It is also permitted to use reasonable actions to restore the putting green as nearly as possible to its original condition. Player CANNOT repair natural surface imperfections (weeds, bare turf, uneven growth, etc.) or damage from natural forces such as rain or irrigation.

LEAVING FLAGSTICK IN THE HOLE

There is no penalty if a golfer makes a stroke from on the green and their ball hits the flagstick.

Players must determine prior to their stroke if they wish to leave the flagstick in or have it removed. It is not permissible to decide while the ball is in motion. It is still allowed to have the flagstick “attended”, which means it will be removed prior to the ball reaching the hole.

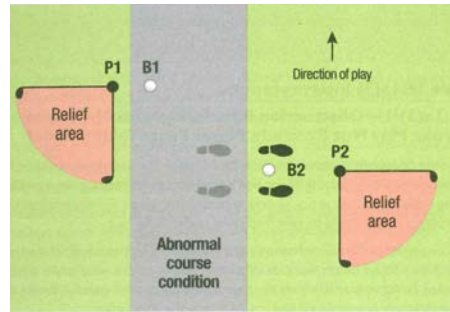


USING GOLF CLUB AS ALIGNMENT AID

- A player must not use any object that was placed on the ground to help them line up for a shot, such as an alignment rod or golf club.
- This prohibition does not prevent a player from setting his or her clubhead behind the ball and then taking their stance.

NEAREST POINT OF COMPLETE RELIEF

Diagram 16.1a: When relief is allowed for abnormal course condition



area of intended swing.

- Nearest point of complete relief cannot be closer to the hole than the spot where your ball originally lay.

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.



USGA RULES OF GOLF REFERENCE

This pamphlet does not contain the entire language for each rule. This is to serve as a quick reference guide.

For the full rules, please see the USGA Rules of Golf book.



DROPPING FROM KNEE HEIGHT



The ball must be dropped the correct way, which includes the following three actions:

- 1) Player must drop his or her own ball.
- 2) Ball must be let go of from a location at knee height so the ball:

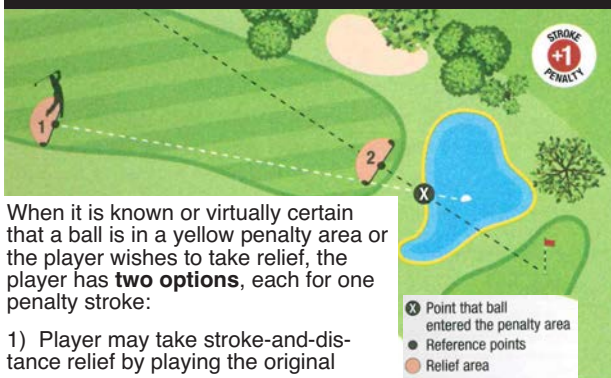
- Falls straight down, without throwing, spinning or rolling it or using any other motion that might affect where the ball will come to rest, and;

- Does not touch any part of the body or equipment before it hits the ground.

3) Ball must be dropped in the relief area. Player may stand inside or outside the relief area when dropping the ball.

A ball must be dropped straight down from knee height. "Knee height" means the height of a player's knee when in a standing position. But the player does not have to be in a standing position when the ball is dropped.

RELIEF FOR BALL IN YELLOW PENALTY AREA

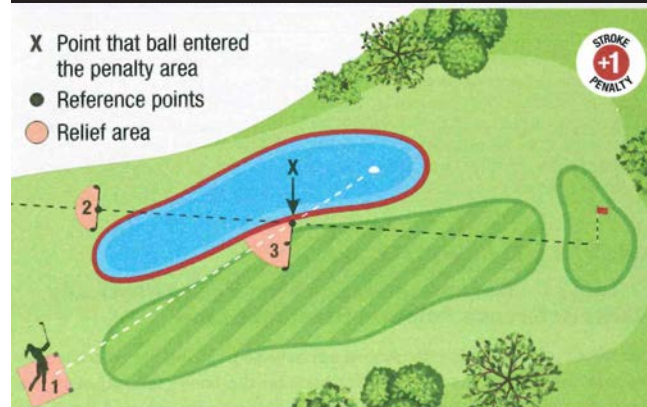


When it is known or virtually certain that a ball is in a yellow penalty area or the player wishes to take relief, the player has **two options**, each for one penalty stroke:

- 1) 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 or diagram above).
- 2) 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 (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).

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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) Player may take stroke-and-distance relief (see point (1) in above diagram or Rule 17.1d).
- 2) Player may take back-on-the-line relief (see point (2) in above diagram or Rule 17.1d).
3. 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.

PENALTY AREAS - RELAXED RULES

Relaxed Rules in Penalty Area

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



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BUNKERS

- Players are allowed to move loose impediments in a bunker.
- Players **CANNOT** ground a club in a bunker. (This is different than a penalty area, where it is allowed to ground your club.)

SEARCH TIME - REDUCED TO 3 MINUTES



Players have three minutes to find their golf ball. The clock starts when the player arrives at the area where it is estimated the ball to be and start searching for it.

Ball moved during search:

- If a player accidentally moves their own ball during a search, there is no penalty.
- If a player knows exactly where the ball was, it should be placed directly on that spot.
- If a player does not know exactly where the ball was, they should estimate it as best they can and place it on that estimated spot, including how "high or low" it was sitting in the grass.

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