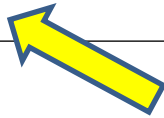


Please find attached GV Summer Rules Newsletter.
Click [here](#) to view the document.



What's the Rule?

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**Q:** In a match play competition, the four semi-finalists, are playing their two matches. Play is interrupted due to inclement weather, and by mutual agreement both match participants, agree to resume play on another day, before the scheduled final the following week. The Committee believe only they can reschedule matches, and wish to disqualify both pairs.

**WTR:** Unless the Committee includes in its conditions of entry, or conditions of the competition, then the rescheduled matches are valid.  
See Rule 6-8b EXCEPTION – Players discontinuing match play by agreement, are not subject to disqualification, unless by so doing the competition is delayed.

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Q:
In match play, the first player hits from the tee, and the ball strikes an object and ricochet's back behind the tee. Who's turn is it to play?

A: The second player must tee off next...
Rule 10 – 1b Order of Play - match play- During the playing of a hole
After both players have started playing the hole, the ball farther from the hole is played first.

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**Q:**  
At our club garden beds are defined as G.U.R. - If there is a tree growing in the garden bed, do you also get relief from overhanging branches as well as the actual garden bed?

**WTR:**  
To answer your question you must refer to the definition of *ground under repair* which in part reads...  
“.....all ground and any grass, bush, tree, or other growing things, within the GUR, are part of the GUR.”

Therefore, interference from a tree rooted in GUR, when your ball lies outside the GUR, is still interference from the GUR, and you are entitled to free relief. - See decision 25-1a/1

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Q:
A Local Rule at our club, is that all trees and shrubs UNDER 2 CLUB LENGTHS IN HEIGHT are deemed IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS. If such a tree or shrub interferes with a player's stance or the area of the intended swing, free relief may be taken under RULE 24-2b (i).

This rule is obviously in place to protect young trees. However we have some old trees that have suffered storm damage and have been cut down in size. If the remains of the tree or stump are under 2 clubs lengths in height, are you able to take free relief under this Local Rule? And if so, how could the Rule be worded such that free relief is not available in these circumstances.

WTR:
These trimmed older trees fit the criteria of your “2 club length” local rule, and therefore interference from them, would be eligible for a free relief.

Your Committee, need to identify and exclude these older trees in some other way.

Is it possible to only allow free relief from staked or guarded trees?

If guarded or staked is not possible on your public course – are you allowed to spray-paint on or near those trees, or can you obtain permission to put in your own stakes? (i.e. pink stakes = no relief) or

Can these older trees be identified by their thickness? – ie - no free relief if the diameter of the trunk is greater than say 4cm

Can they be identified by location? - Relief is not allowed from trees that have been trimmed below 2 club lengths, on the LHS of the 12, and RHS of the 15th?

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Q:

Player A was asked to move his marker on the green, as it interfered with a fellow competitors line to the hole. When it was A's turn to putt, he forgot to move the marker back and holed out from a wrong place. While playing the next hole he realized his mistake – what is the ruling.

WTR:

Under rule 20-7 the player has played from a wrong place and is penalized 2 strokes.

Only a serious breach of this rule (see Note1) - where a player gains a significant advantage, would attract a penalty of disqualification.

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Decision 14-3/17

Player Listens to Music or Broadcast During Round

Q. A player uses a device to listen to music, a radio broadcast or any other type of broadcast during a stipulated round. What is the ruling?

A. Under Rule 14-3a, a player may not use any artificial device or unusual equipment that "might assist him" in making a stroke or in his play.

" Listening to music or a broadcast while making a stroke or for a prolonged period might assist the player in his play, for example,

by eliminating distractions or promoting a good tempo. Therefore, the use of an artificial device to listen to music or a broadcast, whether or

not through headphones, while making a stroke or for a prolonged period of time during a stipulated round is a breach of Rule 14-3.

However, it would not be a breach of Rule 14-3 for a player to listen to a device briefly, for example, to obtain the results of another sporting event or traffic information, while walking between the putting green of one hole and the teeing ground of the next hole.

A Committee will have to consider all available facts and circumstances in determining whether a player using an artificial device to listen to music or a broadcast has done so for a prolonged period such that the action might have assisted the player in his stroke or his play.

By definition a prolonged period to assist his play might be 5-10 minutes, a prolonged period to assist his stroke might be 1 or 2 minutes.

Please Note : Breach of Rule 14-3 is disqualification

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**Q: Can a Caddie be shared by 2 players**

Decision 6-4/6 cites a situation where player A and B are sharing a caddie.

Decisions 30/1 and 30/2 also talk about shared caddies - However, Rule 6-4 allows a Committee to limit and or restrict the use of caddies in the conditions of play. *See appendix 1C 2*

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WHAT IS THE STATUS OF A GATE IN A BOUNDARY FENCE

Decision 27/18 The gate may be open or it may be closed. If the gate is open, may a player close it, if it interferes with his swing?

NO - A gate in a boundary fence when closed is part of the boundary fence and may not be moved. A player who finds a gate open may close it, or leave it... he must not move it to another position.

Moving the gate with your body, in fairly taking your stance, is also not allowed -see decision 13.2.18

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## INTERFERENCE FROM A WATER HAZARD STAKE (Yellow or Red)

Q: May a player take relief from a stake defining a water hazard, if his ball is not in the hazard?

Yes: a stake defining a water hazard is an obstruction. By definition you cannot get relief from an obstruction in a water hazard.

However if your ball is not in a water hazard, and a stake interferes with your stance and or swing, then you may take free relief. (If stakes are moveable then it may be moved / If stakes are immovable, then find Nearest Point of Relief, plus a club-length)

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Q: We have a local rule stating a player **must** take free relief from a ball lying in a garden bed.

(a) Should nearest point of relief be determined from the location of the ball, or from the point of entry to the garden bed? (b) If it is **known or virtually** certain that the ball is in the garden bed, does it have to be found? If not found does it have to be treated as a lost ball?

WTR:

(a) The nearest point of relief **from the ball** –

Note even if that point is unfavourable, i.e. under a bush or tree outside the GUR, that is the nearest point.

(b) Please read 25-1c: The key words here are known and virtually certain – the ball must be seen to enter the garden bed, and there is no possibility that the ball has escaped the garden bed and is resting (lost) outside the garden bed.

In this instance the ball is not lost, but deemed to be not found, in abnormal ground conditions.

The point of entry is determined and relief is obtained from that point under 25-1b (i)

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Q – I am not sure if there is a ruling for this or if it should be covered by the Conditions of the competition.

I recently played Handicap Match-play which ended up as all square after 18 holes.

The rules of the competition indicate that if the match is square after 18 holes the players should arrange to continue play until a winner is decided. The question is that if the Match continues past the 18 holes, do the Handicaps start again or should all the playoff holes be played without reference to handicaps.

WTR: This question surfaces regularly, and you are correct it should be in the conditions of play. A stipulated round can be extended by the Committee, by introducing playoff holes. (see Rule 2.3) It is the Committee's responsibility to determine how handicaps should be treated in extra holes, and should be included in Conditions of Play.

If nothing is in the conditions, then Rule 1-4 Equity should be applied.

Note : Either answer is correct –

- A team has used their handicap over the 18 holes and should not be entitled to any more.
- A team is given a handicap for 18 holes, and additional holes, should merit additional handicap.

My personal opinion is that in equity, Committees should allow the latter to apply. I have read notes and blogs including some on the USGA & the R&A – most concur that a pro-rata handicap should apply to playoff holes

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Q: In match play, A holed out and stated to B his opponent, that he had scored a 4. B having already played 4 strokes, picked up his ball assuming he had lost the hole. The players then realize that A had in fact scored a 5. What is the ruling?

WTR see Decision 9-2/6

A gave wrong information as to the number of strokes taken, and under the principles of Rule 9-2 A would normally lose the hole. However, since A had holed out for no worse than a half, the hole is halved.

(Also see Rule 2-2

When a player has holed out, and his opponent has been left with a stroke for a half, if the player subsequently incurs a penalty, the hole is halved.)

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### Definition of GUR

Q: I am confused about the definition of ground under repair.

It states that the margin of GUR extends vertically down, but not up. Yet, anything growing in GUR (tree bush etc) is to be considered as part of the GUR.

This is contradicted by the Decision which says that if a ball lies in a tree, rooted in GUR, but the vertical point below the ball is outside of GUR, the ball is considered to be in GUR and relief may or must be taken.

How is the ball in GUR, when the margin does not extend vertically up?

WTR: The best way to clarify this, is to consider a tree is rooted outside of GUR, but the ball is in a branch that is hanging over GUR, that ball is not in the GUR, because GUR margin is not vertically up.

However, anything rooted in GUR, is GUR;

Therefore a tree in GUR, with branches hanging outside of GUR, then those branches are still GUR.

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Q: If relief MUST be taken from GUR, and you have taken relief, but you then hit a branch of a bush rooted inside GUR, with your backswing. Even though that branch is hanging outside of GUR, is there a penalty?

WTR: Yes! See question above. The branch is considered to be GUR and you have not taken full relief. You would be penalized 2 strokes or loss of hole. [References: See Rules 25-1a; 20-2c(v) decisions 25-10.5 and 25-10.7]

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Q: Can a player hold an umbrella for protection from the elements, and at the same time play a shot.

WTR: Yes he can. Rule 14-2 Assistance – Only prohibits a player from making a stroke while accepting physical assistance or protection from the elements

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Question 10 in a recent golf rules exam threw most of the people sitting the exam.

Q10: Jack and Nick are having a great match in the 1st round of the summer knock-out event. The match is all square as the players reach the 18th green. Jack holes a curling two-meter putt for a par leaving Nick with a similar putt from one meter for a half.

Being a good sport, Jack says to Nick: “Knock it in mate and we’ll decide it in sudden death. If it’s any help, my putt broke about 6 cm.”

Bill, the Club Captain, watching at the side of the green, overhears the conversation. What should his ruling be?

- A. No penalty. Nick has to hole the putt to halve the match and send it to the 19th.
- B. Jack loses the hole. Nick wins 1up.
- C. The hole is halved and the match is all square. The players are to proceed to the 19th to determine the match.

Answer is C (Rule 2-2)

Jack has incurred a penalty after he has holed out (Rule8), but before Nick has holed out – Nick cannot win the hole, only halve it, so rules 2-2 applies... ..When player A has holed out, and his opponent B is left with a putt to halve, if player A then incurs a penalty, the hole is halved.

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Q: If a ball is dropped, and strikes a tee that was used in finding nearest point of relief or in the measuring of club lengths – does the ball have to be redropped?

WTR: Rule 20-2 defines when a ball must be redropped. This rule specifically describes that if it strikes you or any player including your or their equipment, it must be redropped. See **definition** of equipment which excludes a tee.

Therefore if the ball strikes the tee used for marking, and comes to rest no nearer the hole, and has not rolled more than 2 club lengths, then the ball is in play and does not have to be redropped.

**New Rules Decisions: 2014-2015**

As part of a commitment to provide greater clarity to the Rules of Golf, The R&A and the USGA today announced revisions to the “Decisions on the Rules of Golf” The changes, part of a customary 2-year Decisions review cycle, become effective on January 1, 2014.

A total of 87 changes have been made to the Decisions book: 3 new Decisions, 59 revised Decisions, one re-numbered Decision and 24 Decisions withdrawn.

Among the changes for 2014-2015, four decisions are particularly noteworthy

- **New Decision 14-3/18** confirms that players can access reports on weather conditions on a smartphone during a round without breaching the Rules. Importantly, this new Decision also clarifies that players are permitted to access information on the threat of an impending storm in order to protect their own safety.
- **New Decision 18/4** provides that, where enhanced technological evidence shows that a ball has left its position and come to rest in another location, the ball will not be deemed to have moved if that movement was not reasonably discernible to the naked eye at the time. (*Comment: another Tiger Rule*)
- **Revised Decision 25-2/0.5** clarifies when a ball is considered embedded in the ground through the use of illustrations.
- **Revised Decision 27-2a/1.5** allows a player to go forward up to approx 50 yards without forfeiting his or her right to go back and play a provisional ball.

**Rule 14 3/4** Another *interesting decision is to allow a player to use a compass. I think this is the precursor to allowing Smartphone use. See all changes at: <http://golfadmin.performaustralia.com.au/site/content/document/00016077-source.pdf>*

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Q: A Player makes a stroke at a ball on a tee and only dislodges it. Almost instinctively, he replaces it on the tee, and plays out the hole. Is he disqualified if he plays the next hole without correcting his mistake?

WTR: When the player made a stroke, the ball was then in play. When he lifted it, he incurs a penalty of one stroke and is required to replace it. (Rule 18-2a) By returning it to the tee, he incurs the penalty under rule 27-1a (penalty stroke and distance) and is playing 3 off the tee. Rule 18-2 no longer applies.

*Note in match play – loss of hole*

This same scenario would apply if the player had a fresh air shot, then pushed the tee further into the ground, and played out the hole.

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Q: Can a player create a tee, with soil or sand higher than a conforming tee height (see appendix iv)

WTR: Yes Rule 11-1 The surface of the ground includes any irregularity of surface (whether or not created by the player) and sand or natural substance (whether or not placed by the player)

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Q: I have been advised that it is illegal to mark a line around the full circumference of my golf ball. Can you please advise whether it is legal or not and refer me to the appropriate rule or ruling if it is illegal – I cannot find anything about the rule/ruling on the net.

WTR:

2 Each Player should have an identifying mark on his ball. material must not be applied to a ball, to change its playing characteristics. must not use any unusual equipment, or use equipment in an unusual manner, that might assist him in making a stroke, or in his play. A player is not in breach if he uses it in a traditional manner. (e.g. you cannot use a plumb-bob, but you can use your putter as a plumb-bob as this is a traditional accepted manner)

Rule 6-5, & 12-  
Rule 5-2 Foreign  
Rule 14-3 A player

A player is entitled to put a line around the circumference of the ball, as his way of identifying the ball. If this line assists the player in identifying the roll, it is a bonus not a penalty. The makers name or logo does the same thing.

Rules 6-5 and 12-2: state that each player should put an identification mark on his ball. The Rules do not limit the type of markings a player may put on the ball (i.e. arrows, lines, words, etc). Additionally, there is no penalty for using such lines to "line up" prior to a stroke on the putting green or any place else on the course.

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