

Taking Relief and Common On-course Rulings

Red Marked Penalty Areas (3 options available all with a **1-stroke penalty**)

Reference USGA Rule 17.1

1) Lateral relief (*most commonly used*)

- Ball drop within 2 club lengths (not nearer the hole) from where your ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area.

2) Stroke & distance

- Replay shot from original point after ball drop (within 1 club length)

3) Back-on-the-line relief

- Determine the point at which your ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area. Choose a reference point as far back as you wish on a reference line keeping that point directly between you and the hole. Take ball drop, play next shot.

Yellow Marked Penalty Areas (2 options available both with a **1-stroke penalty**)

Reference USGA Rule 17.1

1) Stroke & distance

- Replay shot from original point after ball drop (within 1 club length)

2) Back-on-the-line relief

- Determine the point at which your ball crossed the edge of the penalty area. Choose a reference point as far back as you want on a line keeping that point directly between you and the hole. Take ball drop, play next shot.

Unplayable Lie (3 options available all with a **1-stroke penalty**)

Reference USGA Rule 19.2

1) Stroke & distance

- Replay shot from original point after ball drop (within 1 club length)

2) Drop at that point

- Ball drop within 2 club lengths (not nearer the hole) from where the ball came to rest (and is deemed unplayable)

3) Back-on-the-line relief

- Take the flagstick and the point where your ball came to rest, and move back away from the hole in a straight line as far as you want. Take ball drop, play next shot.

Provisional Ball

Reference USGA Rules 18.2 & 18.3

A provisional ball may be played if a shot taken is deemed to land either possibly being O.B. or in an area where it may not be found (lost ball). The provisional ball is to be played from the same spot (*within 1 club length*) as the original ball was played.

If a provisional ball is being played, *the player must announce a provisional ball is being played and the following applies:*

- 1) If original ball is located and is O.B., the next shot(s) is played using the provisional ball.
- 2) If original ball is in an area and not found after searching for the specified time limit, it is declared to be a lost ball and the next shot(s) played using the provisional ball.
- 3) If original ball is in an area & is found, that ball **must be played** from that spot. If unplayable, one of the options regarding an unplayable lie may be exercised. **The provisional ball is no longer a playable option and should be picked up.**

Note: If either option 1 or option 2 above are exercised, a 1-stroke penalty is applied.

Double Hit

Reference USGA Rules 10.1a & 10.1d

If you **accidentally** strike your ball twice in a single stroke, you do not count the second hit and no penalty is incurred, but you must play the ball where it lies.

Deliberately deflecting or stopping your ball while it is in motion is a **two-stroke penalty**.

- Example: Stroking a putt and realizing the ball is off-line, then quickly using the putter to tap the ball back into the hole while the ball is still rolling.

Relief From A Bunker

Reference USGA Rule 19.3

If your ball lies in a bunker and you declare it unplayable, you have four relief options:

1) Stroke & distance (1-stroke penalty)

- Replay shot from original point after ball drop (within 1 club length)

2) Back-on-the-line relief (1-stroke penalty)

- Ball drop in the bunker behind the point where the ball lies, keeping that point directly between the hole & the spot on which the ball is dropped, with no limit to how far behind that point the ball may be dropped, but again, staying in the bunker.

3) Drop at that point (1-stroke penalty)

- Ball drop in the bunker within 2 club lengths (not nearer the hole) from where the ball came to rest.

4) Drop outside of the bunker (2-stroke penalty)

- You do not have to play from within the bunker. You may elect to take a drop outside the bunker based on a reference line that extends straight back from the hole through the spot of the original ball in the sand. You can drop as far back on that line as you want, but this option comes with a **two-stroke penalty**.