

2024 ANNUAL QUIZ

Think you've got the Rules of Golf all figured out? Test yourself with our annual Rules Quiz. Let the NCGA be your guide to the Rules of Golf. Remember, knowing the Rules can help save you strokes!

BY RYAN GREGG, NCGA Chief Operations Officer

1 A player's ball comes to rest on a red line defining a penalty area and is also touching sand in a bunker. Which area of the course does the ball lie?

- A. The ball lies in the general area.
- B. The ball lies in the bunker.
- C. The ball lies in the penalty area.
- D. The ball lies in either the bunker or penalty area.

2 A player's tee shot comes to rest in a greenside bunker. The ball is partially buried in the sand. Their next stroke buries the ball deeper in the sand. The player decides to declare the ball unplayable and drops the ball outside the bunker on the back-on-the-line relief. The player completes the hole in two more strokes. What is their score for the hole?

- A. 5
- B. 6
- C. 7
- D. 8

3 Which of the following is true regarding obstructions?

- A. A player is entitled to relief for a wall that is entirely out of bounds, provided it does not define the boundary of the course.
- B. A player is not entitled to relief for a ball lying on top of a movable obstruction in a penalty area.
- C. A player is entitled to relief without penalty for interference by an immovable obstruction in a penalty area, provided the ball lies outside the penalty area.
- D. A player is entitled to relief from an immovable obstruction if there is interference on the player's line of play.

4 In stroke play, a player's tee shot came to rest in a red penalty area. The player chose to proceed with the back-on-the-line relief option. The player drops their ball almost one club-length to the side of the line. The ball rolled and came to rest on the line. The player played to the putting green and holed the putt. What is their score for the hole?

- A. 3
- B. 4
- C. 5
- D. 6

5 In stroke play, a player's tee shot goes into a wooded area. The player then searches for 2 minutes and finds their original ball has broken into multiple pieces. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty. The player must substitute and replace another ball as near as possible on the spot where they found the largest piece of the original ball, and the original stroke counts.
- B. There is no penalty. The player must substitute and drop another ball within one club-length of where they found the largest piece of the original ball, and the original stroke counts.
- C. There is no penalty. The player must play another ball from where the previous stroke was made, and the original stroke does not count.
- D. There is no penalty. The player must play another ball from where the previous stroke was made, and the original stroke counts.

6 Which of the following is an outside influence?

- A. An opponent's caddy in match play.
- B. A loose impediment.
- C. Wind.
- D. Water.

7 A player's tee shot comes to rest on a sprinkler head very close to the putting green. The player measured a one club-length relief area from the nearest point of complete relief and dropped a substituted ball on the putting green. The ball remained within the one club-length area on the putting green. The player completed the hole in two more strokes and then played from the next hole. What is their score on the hole?

- A. 3
- B. 4
- C. 5
- D. The player is disqualified.

8 In which one of the following may a player's original ball be played without penalty?

- A. The player searched for 1 minute, returned to where the original ball was played, and dropped and played a provisional ball. The original ball is found before the 3-minute search time expired.
- B. The player searched for 1 minute, returned to where the original ball was played, and dropped and played another ball without announcing it as a provisional ball.
- C. The player's caddy searched for 2 minutes before the player arrived, and the player and their caddy then searched together for another 2 minutes.
- D. The player has played their provisional ball from a point nearer the hole than where the original ball was estimated to be, but then finds it (the original ball) within the 3-minute-search time at a point nearer the hole than where they played the provisional ball.

9 In stroke play, Player A and Player B both hit their tee shots on the putting green at a par-3 and both are a similar distance from the hole. Player A mistakenly marks, lifts, replaces and plays Player B's ball that ends up short right of the hole. Player B marks and lifts Player A's original ball and notifies Player A of their mistake. Player A returns Player B's ball to its original location and Player B replaces Player A's. Player A then holes their original ball from its original location with the next stroke? What is Player A's score on the hole?

- A. 4
- B. 5
- C. 6
- D. 7



10 After proceeding correctly in taking lateral relief from a red penalty area, and as the player awaits their turn to play, natural forces caused the ball to roll back into the red penalty area where it could not be retrieved. What is the ruling?

- A. The player must replace a new ball at the spot from where it was at rest after taking relief, without penalty.
- B. The player must drop a new ball at the spot from where the ball was at rest after taking relief, without penalty.
- C. The player must drop a new ball at the spot from where the ball was at rest after taking relief, getting a one-stroke penalty.
- D. The player must replace a new ball at the spot from where it was at rest after taking relief, getting a one-stroke penalty.

11 Which one of following statements is true about a provisional ball?

- A. If the original ball played from the teeing area might be out of bounds, a player who wishes to play a provisional ball must do so before leaving the teeing area.
- B. The original ball is found in bounds within 3 minutes of starting to search for it. If the player decides it is unplayable, the provisional ball becomes the ball in play.
- C. If the original ball played from the teeing area is known to be in a red penalty area, the player must either continue with the provisional ball under stroke and distance or take penalty area relief.
- D. If a player makes a stroke at a provisional ball from a spot nearer the hole than where the original ball is estimated to be, the provisional ball becomes the ball in play.



12 A player played their first stroke of the round with stickers on the face of their club. They were inadvertently left on from a club fitting exercise from a few days earlier. The issue was brought to the attention of the Committee. What is the ruling?

- A. The player gets a two-stroke penalty and may use the club for the remainder of the round after removing the stickers.
- B. The player gets a two-stroke penalty and may not use the club for the remainder of the round.
- C. The player is not penalized and may use the club for the remainder of the round.
- D. The player is disqualified.

13 In match play, the player's caddie uses the flagstick to show the aiming point by touching the putting green surface. The caddie leaves the flagstick in place while the player takes their stance, starts the back swing, and then lifts it before the club moves forward for the stroke. This happens on the first three holes before the opponent requests a ruling from the Committee. What's the ruling?

- A. The player is not penalized as the caddie moved the flagstick prior to the player making a stroke.
- B. The player loses each hole where the breach occurred.
- C. The player loses the hole where the breach occurred the first time as it is a breach of the same rule.
- D. The player loses only the third hole since the opponent waited until then to make the request.

14 In four-ball stroke play, where each player is carrying 14 clubs, Player A borrows their partner's putter to make a stroke on the fourth hole. Player A returns the putter to their partner who uses it for the rest of the round. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty for sharing clubs between partners.
- B. Player A gets a two-stroke penalty on the fourth hole. There is no penalty for their partner.
- C. Player A and B both get a two-stroke penalty on the fourth hole.
- D. Player A's score cannot count on the fourth hole and their partner cannot use the club for the remainder of the round.

15 In stroke play, the player's tee shot comes to rest in the fairway a foot behind a sprinkler head. The sprinkler does not affect the player's stance, lie of ball or area of swing for their next stroke. However, the sprinkler head is popped up in a position that would affect the player's line of play. The player pushes the sprinkler head down with their foot and then plays to the putting green. What is the ruling?

- A. The player is not penalized.
- B. The player gets a one-stroke penalty.
- C. The player gets the general penalty.
- D. The player must correct the mistake by replaying the stroke.



16 In stroke play on the 6th hole, a player hits their tee shot toward some boundary stakes on the right. Believing that the boundary stakes are movable obstructions, they pull one out of the ground that was interfering with the area of their intended swing. They played the ball into a greenside bunker then took three more strokes to complete the hole. The player returns their scorecard with a score of 5 for the 6th hole. Before the competition closes, the situation is brought to the Committee's attention. What is the ruling?

- A. The player's score of 5 stands on the 6th hole since the discovery was made after the player returned their scorecard.
- B. The Committee must add the penalty strokes the player failed to include and revise the player's score to 7 on the 6th hole.
- C. The Committee must add the penalty strokes the player failed to include plus an additional two penalty strokes for returning an incorrect scorecard and revise the player's score to 9 on the 6th hole.
- D. The player is disqualified for failing to include the two penalty strokes and returning a lower score than taken on the 6th hole.

17 In stroke play, Player A's third stroke from the putting green is slowly moving past the hole when player B hits the ball back to Player A and says, "that's good." Player A replaces his ball from where it was hit by Player B and holes their next stroke. What is Player A's score for the hole?

- A. 4
- B. 5
- C. 6
- D. 7



18 In match play, Player A arrives at the putting green first and marks and lifts Player B's ball on the putting green. Player B's ball was on Player A's line of play. What is the Ruling?

- A. No penalty to Player A since they are an outside influence to Player B's ball.
- B. Player A gets a one-stroke penalty for moving Player B's ball without authority.
- C. Player A gets a two-stroke penalty for moving Player B's ball without authority.
- D. Player A loses the hole for moving player B's ball without authority.



Answers:

1. C. Rule 2.2c. The ball can lie in only one area of the course at a time.
2. B. Rule 19.3b. Four talent strokes and two penalty strokes.
3. C. Rule 16.1a (2). Definition of Obstructions, Abnormal Course Conditions.
4. D. Clarification 14.3b(4)/1. The ball is in a wrong place irrespective of where it comes to rest, even if it comes to rest on the line. The player gets a two-stroke penalty under Rule 14.7a. Don't forget the original penalty stroke for relief from the penalty area.
5. C. Rule 4.2b. The player is required to cancel the stroke and play again from the teeing area.
6. B. Definition of Outside Influence and Natural Forces.
7. C. Rule 16.1b. The player has played from a wrong place and gets the general penalty under Rule 14.7a. When the ball is in the general area, the reference point and relief area must be in the general area.
8. A. Definition of Lost and Rule 18.3. The player's original ball is in play until another ball is substituted or 3 minutes after the player, caddie or partner has searched for it.
9. D. Rule 6.3b and Rule 14.7. Player A substituted a ball in the wrong place twice and receives a total of four-penalty strokes and three talent strokes.
10. A. Exception 2 to Rule 9.3 states that when a ball at rest after being dropped, placed, or replaced (anywhere but on the putting green) under a Rule is moved by natural forces into another area of the course, the ball must be replaced (not dropped) on its original spot.
11. D. Definition of Provisional Ball and Rule 18.
12. D. Rule 4.1a(3), stickers are considered an external attachment to the club, and it is thereby deemed non-conforming club. Playing a stroke with a non-conforming club results in disqualification.
13. A. Rule 10.2 and Definition of Stroke
14. C. Rule 4.1b and Rule 23.9a(2). Partners may share clubs as long as they carry no more than 14 between them, Rule 23.7. Both players get the penalty for the violation.
15. A. Clarification 8.1/10 allows a player to put a movable part of an immovable obstruction back in its intended position.
16. B. Rule 8.1 and Exception - Rule 3.3 The player gets a two-stroke penalty for improving the conditions affecting the stroke and since the player didn't know they incurred a penalty, the committee can add it after the scorecard has been returned.
17. C. Rule 11.2c(2) Player A was required to cancel the stroke and replay their third stroke. Since they did not replay the stroke, they get the general penalty and the stroke counts.
18. B. Rule 9.5b a player may not mark and lift an opponent's ball in play without the authority of the opponent.