



Rule of the Month, Rule 18

April 1, 2015

To Replace or Not To Replace?

That is the question that I ask of thee. Of the many Rules a golfer must adhere to on the course, Rule 18 can be particularly difficult. When a ball is moved, other than by a stroke, the player must know when to replace the ball or play it as it lies. Playing the ball as it lies when a Rule requires it to be replaced or vice versa will result in a penalty for playing from a wrong place. In a slight variation from the true/false quiz, **your task is to determine if the ball must be replaced or played as it lies in each of the following situations.** Good Luck.

1. While helping to search for a player's ball, a spectator accidentally steps on the ball pushing it deeper into the grass.
2. A player addresses his ball and it moves due to the club pressing down grass behind the ball.
3. After lifting his ball from the putting green and cleaning it, the player replaces the ball but leaves his ball marker behind the ball. He walks to the other side of the hole to assess the slope and his ball begins to move due to gravity and the slope of the green coming to rest closer to the hole.
4. The player's ball is at rest in the fairway. He makes a practice swing and accidentally moves the ball.
5. A player is searching for his ball in a bush and moves a branch causing the ball to fall.
6. After an approach shot to the green, a neighborhood dog runs across the green and moves the player's ball that was at rest.
7. A player's ball at rest is moved by another ball in motion.
8. On a stormy afternoon, a player addresses his ball on the putting green and a gust of wind blows the ball to a new location.
9. On a calm day a player addresses his ball. After address, it rolls away from the hole due to the slope of the green.
10. After a drop for relief from a water hazard, the player's ball comes to rest in a spot not requiring a re-drop. As he is returning to his bag to retrieve a club, the ball begins to roll and re-enters the water hazard.

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