



Rule of the Month

April 1, 2019

An Object At Rest

Ball at Rest Moved by the Player

The new Rules have cleared up some of the confusion about what to do when a ball at rest has been moved by the player other than by a stroke. However, determining if the player incurs a penalty for causing the ball to move is still confusing and many exceptions may exonerate the player of penalty. Where on the course, and when the ball moves, must be looked at in order to determine if a penalty applies. One thing that should always be remembered is that every time the player moves the ball, other than by a stroke or when proceeding under a relief Rule, it must be replaced.

Test your knowledge with the following questions regarding when a player causes their ball at rest to move.

Questions: True/False

1. A player takes a practice swing in the fairway and accidentally hits the ball with the toe of his club, moving the ball a few inches. There is a one-stroke penalty and the ball must be played from its new location.
2. A player takes a practice swing on the putting green and accidentally hits the ball with the toe of his club, moving the ball a few inches. There is no penalty and the ball is replaced on the original spot.
3. A player accidentally kicks her ball in the fairway causing it to move, and she is uncertain of its original spot. She gets one penalty stroke and must drop the ball within one club-length of an estimated point.
4. There is no penalty for causing your ball to move when trying to find or identify it.
5. A player's ball is at rest against a bunker rake. The player moves the rake and the ball moves. There is no penalty and the ball must be replaced on the original spot.
6. As the player is determining the nearest point of complete relief from a cart path, he accidentally kicks his ball that was still lying on the path. He must replace the ball and add one penalty stroke.
7. A player takes several practice swings about a foot from the ball. She then decides to select a different club for the stroke and while doing so the ball moves. She is considered to have caused her ball to move because of the practice swings and incurs one penalty stroke.
8. There is no penalty for accidentally causing your ball to move on the putting green. The ball must be replaced on the original spot.
9. As a player is marking the spot of the ball to lift it for identification, he accidentally causes the ball to move. There is no penalty and he must replace the ball.
10. The original ball must be used when the player is required to replace a ball that was accidentally moved by the player.