



Rule of the Month

July 1, 2017

In All Fairness

Answers:

1. True. Decision 25/2 states that any overflow outside the margin of the hazard is casual water and the player would be entitled to relief without penalty provided his ball is not in the hazard.
2. False. Interference includes the player's stance and the area of intended swing as well as the lie of the ball. Therefore, the player may play the ball as it lies or take relief without penalty as described in Rule 25.
3. False. The player may ask the Committee to declare the rut to be ground under repair and the Committee would be justified in doing so but not if the rut is just a shallow indentation. See Decision 25/16.
4. False. The first part of this question is true as it is permissible to clean the ball lifted under Rule 25 for relief. However, a player may not substitute a ball when taking relief unless unreasonable effort is required to retrieve the ball. See Note 2 under Rule 25-1.
5. True. Rule 25 and Note 1 provides the player with relief without penalty from an abnormal ground condition everywhere on the course except when the ball lies in a water hazard. However, see Question #6 for an exception.
6. False. Rule 25 is intended to provide relief from abnormal ground conditions, such as casual water or burrowing animal holes, but an exception in the Rule prohibits relief if interference from anything other than the abnormal ground condition makes the stroke clearly impracticable. In this case, the player's only option is to declare the ball unplayable, incurring a one-stroke penalty under Rule 28.
7. True. When a ball is believed to be lost in an abnormal ground condition the player may take relief without penalty provided he knows or is virtually certain that the ball is within the condition. He may not simply assume the ball is within the condition under Rule 25.
8. True. Full relief from the condition is required under Rule 25. If the player takes relief from the condition but makes his next stroke standing in the condition he would be in breach of Rule 25 and would incur a two-stroke penalty in stroke play or loss of hole in match play.
9. True. It is wise to determine the nearest point of relief from the condition and the one club-length dropping area before lifting the ball. It may be advantageous for the player to play the ball as it lies.
10. False. Relief without penalty under Rule 25 is very restrictive and in this case the player must determine the nearest point of relief from the casual water and drop within one club-length of this point. If the player's ball is in a bunker and he has interference from an abnormal ground condition he may choose to take relief without penalty within the bunker or under a one-stroke penalty outside the bunker keeping the spot where the ball lay between the hole and the spot of the drop. There is no limit to how far behind the bunker he may drop.