



Rule of the Month

October 1, 2018

Where Fore Art Thou?

Parts of the Course in 2019.

While scientists have been debating for years the question of is it possible for a person to be in two places at once, the question can also reasonably be asked about a ball on a golf course. And since it's important for players to know exactly on which part of the course their golf balls lie, the purpose of this month's article is to add clarity to some major changes in the Rules for next year that redefine the parts of the golf course. Understanding the basics offered here this month, will be a great help as you transition into a new world of Rules next January.

Questions: True / False

1. There are five defined areas of the course.
2. The general area of the course is defined as the entire course, except for the four other defined specific areas.
3. When the ball touches both the general area and one of the other defined specific areas, it is treated as laying in the general area.
4. Other than the general area, the four specific areas of the course consists of penalty areas (formally water hazards), bunkers, the putting green and no play zones.
5. If a ball is inside the prepared edge of a bunker it is always treated as in the bunker.
6. The Committee may define a bunker as part of the general area by a Local Rule.
7. The two club-length depth of the teeing area the player will play from may be measured with a long putter.
8. The Committee may define any area of the course as a penalty area.
9. When a penalty area is marked by stakes, the edge of the penalty area is defined by the center of the stake to the center of the next stake.
10. If part of the ball touches the putting green and also the fringe, the ball is treated as on the putting green.