

2023 RULES OF GOLF

ULTIMATE TRUE FALSE QUIZ

1. A player leaves a putt about an inch short of the hole. In disgust, they hit their shoe with the head of the putter. The impact bends the neck of the putter, accidentally changing its playing characteristics. The player then holes the one-inch putt with the damaged putter. The player is disqualified.
2. In a stroke play event, A and their marker B, who is also a player, are unsure if the relief area for an abnormal course condition is one club-length or two. Unaware of the Rule, they agree that it is two club-lengths and A takes relief from interference with a ball dropped almost two club-lengths from the nearest point of complete relief and continues play. Both players are disqualified.
3. A player makes a pitch shot up a hill toward the putting green and sees the ball returning back down the hill. They use a club that stops the moving ball. The player gets the general penalty and must play the ball as it lies.
4. In stroke play, if a player fails to hole out on the final hole of a round, the player will be disqualified if they do not correct the mistake before leaving the putting green.
5. After a warning for previously doing so, A throws a club towards B, another player in the competition. If the Committee finds that A committed serious misconduct, they may be disqualified.
6. After playing from a bunker, a player smooths footprints that affects the stroke to be made by another player. There is no penalty if the player smooths the footprints to care for the course.

7. In stroke play, B's ball lies on the fringe of the putting green. Prior to B's stroke at their ball, A deliberately steps on B's line of play on the putting green and damaged it; A gets the general penalty and B may restore the worsened conditions on the putting green as nearly as possible.

8. In stroke play with a group of A and B, A's ball lies under a partially detached tree branch and is in discussions with an official about whether A is allowed free relief. B lifts the branch to argue A's case for relief, accidentally worsening A's line of play. B gets the general penalty.

9. A player must not lay their golf bag parallel to the line of play on the putting green to shield the line from the wind during a stroke; however, there is no penalty if the object is removed before the stroke is made.

10. Prior to dropping a ball in taking free relief from ground under repair, a player deliberately breaks a branch of a small bush that lies adjacent to the relief area that might affect their stroke to be made after the dropped ball comes to rest in the relief area. There is no penalty.

11. The player may repair damage to the hole on the putting green that was caused by removing the flagstick and where the dimensions of the hole have been changed.

12. In Four-Ball match play with side A-B, A's ball lies 30-feet from the hole and B's ball lies 3-feet from the hole on the putting green, with both A and B having taken two strokes. The opponents have scored four for the hole. A putts and, as the ball is rolling past the hole, B strikes the ball, returning it in the direction of where A is standing. B holes their putt for a score of three. Side A-B wins the hole.

13. A player sees their uphill chip shot returning to the spot from where they played it. The player replaces the large divot taken by the shot into the divot hole and presses it down for the purpose of preventing the ball coming to rest in a bad lie. The ball stops short of the replaced divot. There is no penalty.

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14. When returning a ball to play on the putting green, if a player firmly presses it into the surface of the ground to help prevent it from being moved by wind and plays the ball, the player gets the general penalty.
 15. A player's ball comes to rest next to a cactus. The player may not place a towel on the cactus to improve their area of intended stance.
 16. As they are approaching the first putting green in the finals of the club's match play championship, A and B agree that all putts within the leather are good and don't have to be holed. They are aware that it is only the next stroke that may be conceded. They have not yet acted on the agreement. There is no penalty if they immediately cancel the agreement prior to play on the first putting green.
 17. Before playing a ball that has come to rest on a branch of a tree, a player moves their motorized cart to assist in making the stroke by standing on the cart. The player removes the cart before making the stroke. There is no penalty.
 18. A player's ball lies in a bunker next to a discarded cardboard water carton that is covered with a detached branch of a bush. The player removes the branch that causes the player's ball to move. The player replaces the ball. The player then removes the water carton and the ball moves while the player is removing the carton. The player replaces the ball and plays the ball from the bunker. The player gets a total of two penalty strokes.
 19. A player starts a round with 14 clubs. During a suspension of play, the player's pitching wedge is struck by a tree fallen in a storm and the shaft is bent. The player may replace the damaged club with any club prior to restarting play.
 20. The Committee has defined all bird nests on the course to be no play zones. A player's ball comes to rest near a bird nest and both the ball and the nest lie in a penalty area. The nest interferes with the player's intended swing. The player must take penalty relief under the penalty area Rule.

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21. A player's ball lies near a live alligator. Both the player's ball and the alligator are in a penalty area. The player may take free relief within the penalty area or penalty relief outside the penalty area.

22. A "dangerous animal condition" exists when a dangerous animal near a ball could cause serious physical injury to the player if they had to play the ball as it lies.

23. In stroke play, a player's ball lies in a bunker where the player takes several practice swings each time touching the sand. Another player advises the player that this is a breach of the Rules. The player disagrees and takes several more practice swings, again touching the sand before making a stroke. The player gets two separate general penalties for a total of four penalty strokes.

24. A player who started a round with 13 clubs breaks their putter in anger, adds a club from their locker and makes a stroke. There is no penalty.

25. In a match, A requests B to lift B's ball that lies on the putting green and is on A's line of play. A's ball lies near but off the putting green. B refuses to do so and A makes a stroke with B's ball in place. B gets the general penalty.

26. In match play without a referee, both balls are at rest on the putting green. A makes a stroke and their ball strikes B's ball. The players disagree about how to proceed under the Rules so they agree that the hole be halved. They are disqualified for deliberately agreeing to ignore the Rules.

27. In match play, A has holed out. As B is preparing to putt for a half, A gives advice to B as to B's line of putt. A is in breach of the Rules but the hole is halved because A had already gained a half.

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28. A player uses one of their 14 clubs as a cane while climbing a hill and the shaft breaks. The player may replace the club with another club from their locker.
 29. In match play, an opponent lifts their ball without marking it because of a reasonable misunderstanding that the player's statement was a concession of the opponent's next stroke. There is no penalty and the opponent's ball must be replaced on its original spot.
 30. In Four-Ball match play with side A-B, A continues play of a hole after A's next stroke has been conceded. If this would help B, A's score for the hole stands without penalty, but B's score for the hole cannot count for the side.
 31. In Four-Ball stroke play with side A-B, partners A and B agree to leave A's ball in place on the putting green to help B's play. The players do not know this agreement is not allowed. With A's ball left in place, B then makes a stroke. The side gets the general penalty.
 32. In stroke play, a player who is uncertain about the right procedure while playing a hole may complete the hole with two balls without penalty. The player should choose which ball will count by announcing that choice to their marker or to another player before making another stroke. If the player does not choose in time, the original ball is treated as the ball chosen by default.
 33. A player damages one of their 14 clubs in making a stroke during a round. In the player's attempt to repair the club, they cause the shaft to break. The club may not be replaced with another club.
 34. A player presses down the grass behind their ball in play, improving the lie of the ball and accidentally moving the ball as well. The ball is replaced before the stroke. The player gets a total of three penalty strokes.

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35. In stroke play, a player deliberately changes the loft of their sand wedge during a round but the club still conforms to the Equipment Rules. The club is not used during the round but is used during a play-off. There is no penalty.
 36. Any person who walks or rides along with the player and carries things such as a rain-suit, umbrella or food is not the player's caddie unless they are named as such by the player or also carries, transports or handles the player's clubs.
 37. In stroke play, if a marker for a player is not identified by the Committee, the player may choose their marker in a way approved by the Committee.
 38. In stroke play, a player completes play of the first four holes of their round using two caddies. Walking to the teeing area of the fifth hole, they are told that this is not allowed and discontinues employment of one of the caddies. The player gets the general penalty added to their score at the each of the first five holes.
 39. A penalty must not be added or corrected after stroke-play qualifying followed by match play when a player had teed off to start their match.
 40. In a two-day event, a player failed to certify the hole scores on the scorecard for the first-round. The mistake was not discovered until near the end of the second-round. The player was unaware of the mistake. There is no penalty.
 41. A ball that is internally damaged or out of shape as a result of the player making a stroke may be replaced during play of a hole.
 42. In match play, A and B agree to stop play due to heavy rain. This does not delay the competition. The rain continues to fall and A wishes to resume play. B refuses because they do not want to play in the rain. B is disqualified.

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43. A player started with 14 clubs. During a suspension of play, the player practised on the practice ground. When play is resumed, the player realizes that one of their clubs was left on the practice ground. After a brief search, the club cannot be found. The player may replace the club with any club from their locker.

 44. Play is suspended for darkness when a group is playing the last hole. The ball of A is in the bunker and the balls of B and C are on the putting green when play is suspended. A marks and lifts their ball after which B and C say they will hole out. A replaces their ball and holes the bunker shot. As any player in the group may choose to go on to continue the hole, there is no penalty to anyone.

 45. In stroke play, a player completes the round and before returning the scorecard discovers that their marker did not certify the hole scores. The player and Committee cannot locate the marker to correct this mistake. There is no penalty.

 46. On the day of a stroke-play competition before starting their round, a player made one practice stroke from a forward teeing area at the first hole into an out of bounds area. The player gets the general penalty applied to the first hole.

 47. A player's ball lies in a bunker. In making the backswing for the stroke, the club touches a solidly embedded stone in the bunker. There is no penalty.

 48. In stroke play, A and B were appointed by the Committee as markers for each other. During the round, a friend, C, joined them, marked the scorecards of both A and B, certified the hole scores and returned the scorecards to A and B. A and B certified the hole scores and returned the scorecards to the Committee. If this is discovered before the result of the competition is final, A and B must be disqualified.

 49. A player, whose ball lies in a bunker, asks for a ruling from a referee, who creates footprints that worsen the conditions affecting the stroke of the player (line of play). The player smooths the footprints made by the referee prior to the player's stroke at the ball. There is no penalty.

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50. In playing from a bunker, a player touches a bare earth wall at the edge of the bunker with their club on the backswing. The player gets the general penalty.

51. A player's club accidentally hits the ball more than once during a stroke. There has been only one stroke and there is no penalty.

52. In a stroke-play of 72-holes, a player returned a scorecard for the first round with a score lower than actually taken on the 12th hole where they got a penalty for removing a boundary object (a stake) that interfered with their stance. The player did not know about the penalty. The player's mistake is discovered before the result of the competition is final. The Committee must add the general penalty to the player's score for the 12th hole of the first round. In addition, the Committee must add the additional general penalty for a breach of the scorecard Rule to the player's score on the 12th hole. There is no disqualification penalty.

53. A player putts with a golf ball held in their left hand against the grip to assist him or her with grip pressure in putting. There is no penalty.

54. During a round of stroke play, a player uses a golf training aid to make a practice swing in preparing for a stroke several times during a round on different holes. The player gets two penalty strokes in total as these are related acts.

55. A player marks their ball on the putting green and sets it aside without intending for it to be in play. By mistake, the player putts the ball from the spot where it was set aside. The player has played from a wrong place, gets the general penalty and must continue without correction of the mistake if the breach is not serious.

56. If a player takes an action in breach of a Rule based on a reasonable misunderstanding of a referee's or Committee's instruction during a round or while play is stopped under the Rules (such as lifting a ball in play when not allowed) there is no penalty and the instruction is treated like a wrong ruling.

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57. A player believes that a found ball is their original ball (it isn't). The ball is in a difficult lie so they lift and drops it back-on-the-line according to the unplayable ball Rule. Before playing the ball, they discover that this ball isn't the original ball. The dropped ball is abandoned. Search resumes for the original ball that is found within the three minutes of search and played. There is no penalty.
58. A player retrieves their ball that has rolled into a bunker after taking relief in the general area under a Rule, creating footprints on their line of play. The player restores the bunker to its previous condition by raking the footprints. There is no penalty because the player was caring for the course.
59. In stroke play, a player marks and lifts their ball on the putting green and tosses the ball to their caddie who failed to catch the ball and the ball came to rest in a penalty area where it could not be recovered. The player substitutes another ball and completes the hole. The player gets the general penalty.
60. A player marks and lifts their ball in a bunker when the Committee orders a suspension of play. During the suspension, wind blows a small tree down that severely alters the conditions of the spot where the original ball lay. The player is not allowed to recreate the original lie to improve the worsened conditions.
61. A player's ball after a stroke is at rest, embedded in the side of the hole without the entire ball being within the circumference of the hole. However, the entire ball is below the surface of the putting green. The ball is considered to be holed.
62. A player removes a mushroom growing on their line of play on the putting green. As this is considered to be damage on the putting green, there is no penalty.
63. In stroke play, a player makes a stroke from the putting green. The hole-liner comes out of the hole when the flagstick is removed. The ball accidentally hits the edge of the hole-liner that is above the lip of the hole. They replace the ball on its original spot, holes out and plays from the next teeing area. There is no penalty.

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64. In pointing out the line of play, a caddie removed an insect from the edge of the hole and touched the inside of the hole. The player gets the general penalty.
65. Play is suspended (an immediate suspension due to lightning) when a player is in the process of taking relief from an abnormal course condition. The player continued measuring and dropped a ball in the determined relief area but did not make another stroke. The player is disqualified for not stopping play.
66. In match play, while A's ball is in motion on the putting green, B marks and lifts their ball on the putting green because B thought their ball might be struck by A's ball. B gets the general penalty.
67. A player marks their ball, lifts the ball and sets it aside. In replacing the ball, they roll the ball back to the original spot with a club and makes a stroke. The player gets one penalty stroke.
68. In match play, A's ball comes to rest against the flagstick left in the hole with part of the ball below the surface of the putting green. B concedes A's next stroke and removes A's ball. A's ball was holed with A's last stroke.
69. Any ball used or carried by a player is the player's equipment.
70. A player marks, lifts and replaces their ball on the putting green. As the player is preparing to make a stroke, wind blows the ball into the hole. The player has holed out with their last stroke made before replacing the ball.
71. A player marks and lifts their ball in a bunker when the Committee orders a suspension of play. During the suspension, course maintenance staff smooths the sand, altering the lie of the spot where the original ball lay. In replacing the ball, the player must re-create the original lie as much as possible.

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72. A player drops a ball and it comes to rest on the required spot but the Rules required him or her to place the ball. The ball has been placed in a wrong way and if the player makes a stroke at the ball, they get the general penalty.

73. By mistake a player lifts their ball that they thought was out of bounds (it wasn't) and played again from the spot of the previous stroke. The player should have replaced the ball with one penalty stroke but gets the general penalty for lifting and not replacing.

74. A player's towel accidentally fell from the player's golf bag onto the player's ball in play, causing the ball to move. The bag was sitting upright on the ground, not carried by the player or caddie. There is no penalty and the ball must be replaced.

75. In the general area, a player takes free relief from an immovable obstruction. The ball was dropped outside the correct relief area but rolled into the relief area where the ball was played. There is no penalty.

76. In the general area and startled by the signal indicating a suspension of play, a player kicks their ball that was in play before the suspension. There is no penalty because the ball is not in play during a suspension.

77. A player makes a stroke and while the ball is in motion they make a practice swing, taking a divot that accidentally deflects their ball in motion. The player gets one penalty stroke.

78. The lie of a ball includes any growing or natural object right next to it.

79. A player marks their ball on the putting green with a small stone found nearby, replaces the ball on the spot and makes a stroke. The player gets one penalty stroke.

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80. In stroke play, A and B agree to leave A's ball in place on the putting green near the hole to help the play of B, who then makes a stroke. If they are aware that this agreement is not allowed by the Rules, both players get a disqualification penalty rather than the general penalty.
81. Removal of a ball-marker causes a player's ball to move. There is no penalty.
82. A branch of a dead bush rooted in an area defined as ground under repair interferes with the swing of a player whose ball lies outside the ground under repair in the general area. The player is allowed free relief.
83. On the putting green, the point of maximum available relief may be based on the line of play where the ball will need to go through the shallowest or shortest stretch of temporary water.
84. In the general area, not in sand, a player drops a ball and it comes to rest in its own pitch-mark and part of the ball is below the level of the ground. Free relief is allowed under the embedded ball Rule.
85. A player is searching for their ball and the search is temporarily interrupted because the player has mistakenly identified a wrong ball. The time between the interruption (when the player mistakenly identified a wrong ball) and when the search resumes does not count. The total search time is three minutes in total, counting the search time both before the interruption and after search resumes.
86. If a player deliberately touches their ball in play at rest, there is no penalty.
87. In stroke play, A's original ball, played from the putting green, strikes their provisional ball that lies on the putting green. The stroke does not count and the original ball or another ball must be placed on its original spot. There is no penalty.

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88. When the player wishes to play a provisional ball, they must announce that they are playing another ball and must use the word “provisional.”
89. In Foursomes, played as match play, only the partner of the side whose turn it is to play may drop a ball when dropping is required by a Rule.
90. In a Four-Ball match with side A-B, A touches the putting green in pointing out the line of play for B’s putt without improving the conditions for the stroke. The spot that A touches is also on A’s line of play. There is no penalty to either player.
91. A player may play a provisional ball after they have gone forward to search.
92. When a Rule refers to a ball at rest or in motion, this means a ball that is in play.
93. Unless the Terms of the Competition say otherwise, if a match is tied after the final hole, the match is extended one hole at a time until there is a winner.
94. Neither a player nor the Committee has the authority to apply penalties in a different way than provided in the Rules. If a Rule allows a Committee to modify a penalty of disqualification, the Rule will state so.
95. A Committee may not mark an area without a watercourse as a penalty area.
96. In stroke play, a player by mistake played a wrong ball and asked the Committee how to proceed. The Committee advised that the player got the general penalty but did not tell the player to correct the mistake. The player was unaware that the Rules required that the mistake be corrected. After the competition closed, the Committee discovered the error. The competition must stand as played.

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97. A player properly played a provisional ball with identical marking to the original ball. Both balls are found in the general area and the player cannot identify which ball is the original ball or provisional ball. The player must choose one of the balls to be treated as the provisional ball that is now in play. The other ball is treated as lost and must not be played.

98. Whenever a player treats a yellow penalty area as a red penalty area when taking relief under the penalty area Rule, the player is guilty of a serious breach of the penalty area Rule and the mistake must be corrected.

99. The Committee has erred in not marking an open watercourse crossing a fairway as a penalty area. A player who plays a ball into this watercourse and decides to take relief must use one of the options for a yellow penalty area.

100. A player's ball touches the line defining the edge of a penalty area but also touches another part of the course such as a bunker or the putting green. The ball must be treated as lying in the penalty area.

101. A player makes a stroke at their ball in the general area and the ball comes to rest in an area of dense undergrowth. After a three-minute search, the ball is not found. The player decides to take stroke-and-distance relief by adding one penalty stroke and playing another ball from where the previous stroke was made. In doing so, the player drops a ball in the right way that strikes the exact spot from where the previous stroke was made. After striking the ground, the ball rolls more than one club-length but less than two club-lengths from where it first struck the ground but not nearer the hole. The player makes their stroke from there. The player gets only the penalty of one stroke under the lost ball Rule (Rule 18.2b).

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102. A player's ball, struck from the general area, comes to rest unplayable in deep water in a penalty area. The player chooses the back-on-the-line relief option under Rule 17.1d(2) and determines the reference line going straight back from the hole through the estimated point where the original ball last crossed the edge of the penalty area. The player drops a ball that strikes the ground nearly one club-length to the side of the line where it remains. The player makes their stroke from there. The player gets only the penalty of one stroke under the penalty area Rule (Rule 17.1d(2)).

103. In stroke play during the last hole of the second round of a three-round competition, A mistakenly replaced their ball on the spot marked by B's ball-marker on the putting green (which was near A's ball-marker at twenty feet from the hole) and made a stroke with the ball coming to rest near the hole. The fact that A played from a wrong place was then discovered. A tried to correct their mistake by lifting their ball near the hole without marking its spot, placed it on the original spot marked by their own ball-marker at twenty feet from the hole and played from there, holing out in two strokes. A spectator nearby told the player of the mistake of not holing out with the ball near the hole that was played from a wrong place, not a serious breach. A certified the hole score for the last hole including a total penalty of four strokes. Since A had not played two balls, A did not report the facts of their play on the last hole to the Committee before returning their scorecard. The Committee discovered these facts before play of the third round. The player must be disqualified.

104. A player's ball comes to rest in the fairway with a worm cast immediately behind the ball. Before playing the ball, they press down the cast, improving their lie and area of intended swing. They get no penalty.