



## TIPS ON THE RULES OF GOLF

### DAMAGE ON PUTTING GREEN

#### **RULE 16-1c. Repair of Hole Plugs, ball marks and other damage**

The player may repair an old hole plug or damage to the putting green caused by the impact of a ball, whether or not the player's ball lies on the putting green. If a ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved in the process of the repair, the ball or ball-marker must be replaced. There is no penalty, provided the movement of the ball or ball-marker is directly attributable to the specific act of repairing an old hole plug or damage to the putting green caused by the impact of a ball. Otherwise, Rule 18 applies. **Any other damage to the putting green must not be repaired if it might assist the player in his subsequent play of the hole.**

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE: Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.

#### **DECISION 16-1a/13. Line of Putt Damaged Accidentally by Opponent, Fellow-Competitor or Their Caddies**

- Q.** An opponent, fellow-competitor or one of their caddies accidentally steps on and damages the player's line of putt. What is the ruling?
- A.** There is no penalty. Rule 1-2 is not applicable. In equity (Rule 1-4), the player may have the line of putt restored to its original condition. The player is entitled to the lie and line of putt he had when his ball came to rest. The line of putt may be restored by anyone. If it is not possible to restore the line of putt, the player would be justified in requesting the Committee to grant relief. If the damage is severe enough, the Committee may declare the area to be ground under repair, in which case the competitor may take relief under Rule 25-1b(iii).

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Q.** May the Committee introduce a Local Rule to enable players to tap down damage to putting surface?
- A.** No. The Committee has no power to waive a Rule of Golf. Players should be encouraged to repair damage, like spike or scuff marks, after their group has finished putting.
- Q.** Tour players are often seen tapping something down on their line of putt? Is this allowed for professionals?
- A.** The professional players have to abide with the same Rules of Golf as amateur players. What these players would be tapping down would be ball or pitch marks and not spike marks or other damage on the green.
- Q.** Why is relief granted from mole cricket casts and not from other damage on the putting green?
- A.** By definition, mole crickets casts are *abnormal ground conditions* and relief is granted under Rule 25-1. These casts may not be tapped down. The player has the option to either brush the casts away or lift and place the ball at the nearest point of relief. Rule 25-1b (iii). The Committee may make a Local Rule stating that the interference by an abnormal ground condition with a player's stance is deemed not to be, of itself, interference under this Rule.



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