

R&A

R&A RULES Limited

THE

**RULES OF
GOLF**

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MALTA GOLF ASSOCIATION



The Rules of Golf

SESSION 1

History
Etiquette
Basic Principles
Definitions
Changes for 2012

SESSION 2

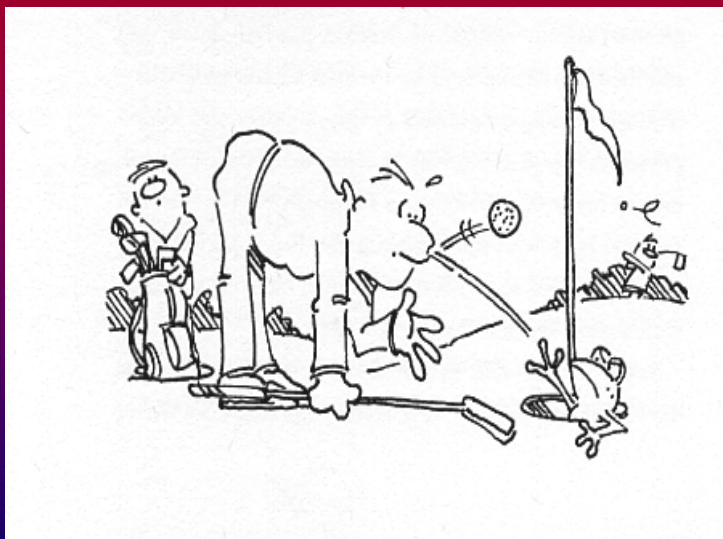
Rules of Golf > Rules 1 - 20
RMGC Situations

SESSION 3

Rules of Golf > Rules 21 - 34
RMGC Situations
Fun Test



Toad in the Hole



R&A

Toad in the Hole



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HISTORY





History of the Rules and The R&A

Circa 1450

Golf was already being played in Scotland

1744 First Code was written in 1744 by The Gentlemen Golfers of Leith (later to become The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers at Muirfield)

The original Code consisted of 13 Rules

1754 Golfers at St Andrews establish their own Rules

For the next 100 years golf clubs in the UK increased from 20 to nearly 1000. Most depended on the rules of the game as written either by Muirfield or St Andrews



History of the Rules and The R&A

September 1897

The R&A established The Rules of Golf Committee

This was the point when The R&A, by consent of the other leading clubs, became the governing authority for the Rules of Golf

1952 Codes of the R&A and USGA unified and were similar in many ways apart from minor issues mainly concerning equipment

2012 One common Rule Book throughout the world



INTRODUCTION



Introduction to the Rules of Golf

Understanding the Rules

- The wording in the Rule book is legalistic and complex - it has to be as there is no game like golf
- Most sports are played in an arena with uniform dimensions regardless of where the sport is played
- Golf around the world has a huge variety of conditions, objects and circumstances with which the Rules must cope
- In addition, there are a number of varieties of golf, e.g. match play, stroke play, foursomes, four-ball, etc



Introduction to the Rules of Golf

Rule Book Content

- Rule Book Divided into 3 principal sections
 - 1. Etiquette Section
 - 2. Definitions Section
 - 3. The Rules of Play
 - Appendix I – Guidance on Local Rules and Conditions of Competition
 - Appendix II – Design of Clubs
 - Appendix III – The Ball
 - Appendix IV – Design of Devices & Other Equipment
- Other content:
 - **Quick Guide**
 - Rules of Amateur Status
 - Appendix on Gambling Policy



Introduction to the Rules of Golf

Understand the Words

Be aware of and understand the difference between:

"**may**" (e.g. the player **may** cancel the stroke)
means the action is **optional**

"**should**" (e.g. the marker **should** check the score)
means the action is a **recommendation**
but is **not mandatory**

"**must**" (e.g. the player's clubs **must** conform)
means it is an **obligation** and there is a
penalty if it is not carried out



Introduction to the Rules of Golf

Understand the Words

- “**a ball**” (e.g. drop **a ball** behind the point)
means you **may** substitute another ball
(e.g. Rules 26, 27 and 28)
- “**the ball**” (e.g. the player must lift **the ball** and drop it)
means you **must not** substitute another ball
(e.g. Rule 24-2 or 25-1)



ETIQUETTE





Etiquette

- **AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE RULES**
- Etiquette Section describes the manner and spirit in which the game of golf should be played
- It contains essential information to anyone new to the game
- All new golfers and new members of golf clubs should be required to read the Etiquette Section before playing on the course



BASIC PRINCIPLES





Basic Principles of the Rules

Basic Principles

The basic principles are simple

- Put your ball into play at the start of the hole and strike it with a club until it is holed and then do the same on the next hole (see Rule 1-1)
- In doing so, play the ball as it lies and play the course as you find it (see Rules 13-1 and 13-2)
- But to do what is fair, you need to know the Rules of Golf



Basic Principles of the Rules

Exceptions to the Basic Principles

The majority of the other Rules simply provide exceptions to these basic principles because:

- Sometimes the ball is hit to a place where it cannot be played as it lies (e.g. a water hazard or out of bounds)
- Relief is available from parts of the course that are not in proper condition (e.g. casual water) or from objects that are not intended to be an integral part of the course (immovable obstructions)



Basic Principles of the Rules

Two Basic Forms of Play

- In **match play**, only you and your opponent are involved and your opponent, being present, protects his own interests
- In **stroke play**, every competitor has an interest in the results of your play and, therefore, the Rules have to protect their interests as they cannot all be present
- The Rules reflect these differences in the forms of play



Basic Principles of the Rules

Example of Difference in Match Play/Stroke Play Rules



“Ball played from outside teeing ground when starting play of hole”

- In match play, opponent can recall the player's stroke if he feels he has suffered some disadvantage
- In stroke play, as the Rules must protect the rights of all absent competitors, the player incurs a two-stroke penalty and must replay the stroke properly



Basic Principles of the Rules

Penalties

- There are four different types of penalty under the Rules
- Basic principle is that the penalty must not be less than the advantage that the player could derive from the breach of the particular Rule
- Ensures that the integrity of the game is protected as there is little to be gained from breaching a Rule due to the severity of the penalty



Basic Principles of the Rules

Penalties

- **One stroke penalties due to accidental play**
- Accidental action where there is no advantage to player (e.g. Rule 18-2b : Ball Moving after Address)
- However, player has been careless, so a one-stroke penalty is appropriate



Basic Principles of the Rules

Penalties

- One stroke penalty due to error of play e.g.

➤ Ball out of bounds,

in a water hazard

or unplayable



Basic Principles of the Rules

Penalties

- **Loss of hole or two stroke penalties**
(match play/stroke play)
- Generally a prohibited action has occurred
- Potential to gain advantage from breach
(e.g. Rule 13-2 : Improving Lie, Area of Intended Stance or Swing, or Line of Play)
- To discourage use of a prohibited action,
the penalty has to be greater than
the potential advantage



Basic Principles of the Rules

Penalties

- Disqualification

- Applied when a player fails to comply

- with a basic regulation of the game

- or commits a serious breach of the Rules

- (e.g. Rule 1-2 : Exerting Influence on Ball

- and Rule 4-1 : Form and Make of Clubs)



DEFINITIONS

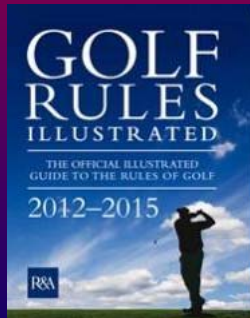




Definitions

Rule or Rules

- Rules of Golf and Decisions on the Rules of Golf
- Conditions of the Competition
- Local Rules
- Specifications on clubs, ball, etc (App II, III & IV)



Definitions

Abnormal Ground Conditions





Definitions

Burrowing Animals



Definitions

Addressing the Ball





Definitions

Advice



Definitions

Bunker





Definitions

Caddie



- assists player in accordance with the Rules
- may include carrying or handling player's clubs



Definitions

Casual Water



- any temporary accumulation of water on the course
- must be visible before or after player takes stance
- a ball is in casual water when it lies in it or any part of it touches the casual water
- Snow and natural ice are either casual water or loose impediments
- Dew and frost are **NOT** casual water



Definitions

Committee



- The Committee in charge of the competition or course



Definitions

Competitor



- a player in a stroke play competition
- fellow-competitor is a player in the same group as the competitor (not a partner)



Definitions

Equipment



- anything used worn or carried by or for the player
- does not include small objects (e.g. coin or tee) when used to mark ball or area where ball to be dropped
- ball is equipment when lifted and not put back into play



Definitions

Ground Under Repair (GUR)

- any part of the course so marked or declared
- includes material piled for removal and hole made by a green-keeper
- all ground and growing things in the GUR are part of GUR
- margin extends vertically downwards but not upwards
- stakes and lines defining GUR are in the GUR
- ball is in GUR when it lies in or any part touches the GUR
- **Note: Local Rule**



Definitions

Line of Play / Putt

- direction or line player wishes his ball to take
after a stroke
- includes a reasonable distance on either side
- does not extend beyond the hole



Definitions

Loose Impediments

- natural objects, including
 - stones, leaves, twigs, branches
 - dung
 - worms/insects and casts/heaps made by them
- provided the natural objects are not
 - fixed or growing
 - solidly embedded
 - adhering to the ball
- **sand and loose soil are loose impediments on putting green only**



Definitions

Lost Ball

- five minutes search
- stroke made at provisional ball
- another ball into play under penalty of stroke & distance
- another ball into play under "known or virtually certain"
- player has made stroke at a substituted ball

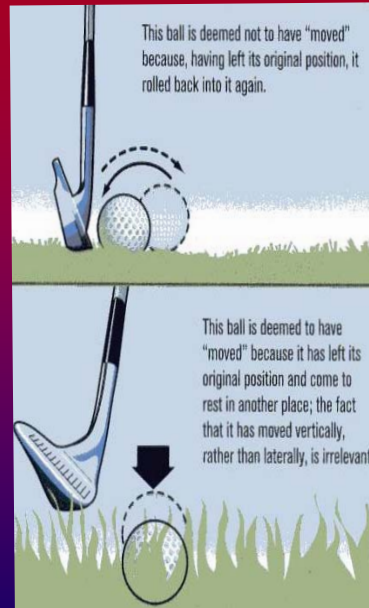
Player can never declare his ball lost



Definitions

Move or Moved

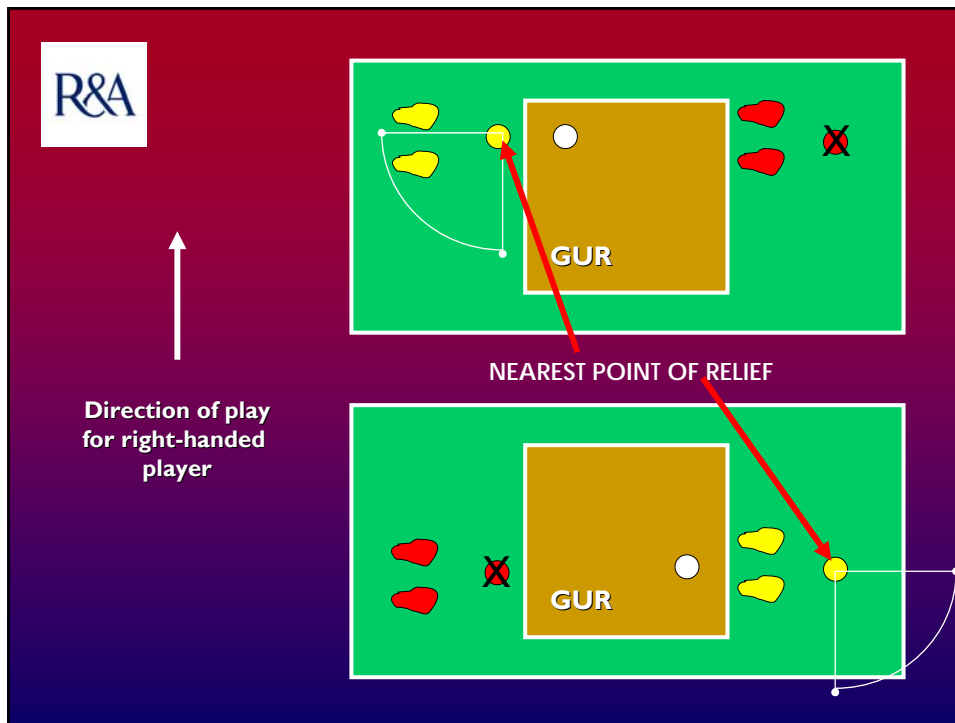
a ball is deemed to have moved if it leaves its position and comes to rest in another place



Definitions

Nearest Point of Relief

- reference point for taking relief from immovable obstructions, abnormal ground conditions and wrong putting greens
- NPOR is point on the course nearest to ball that
 - is not nearer the hole
 - where, if ball were positioned, no interference would exist for the stroke that would have been made had the condition not been there
- Note provides recommended procedure for determining NPOR accurately
- **NB: Not always one club length option**



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Definitions

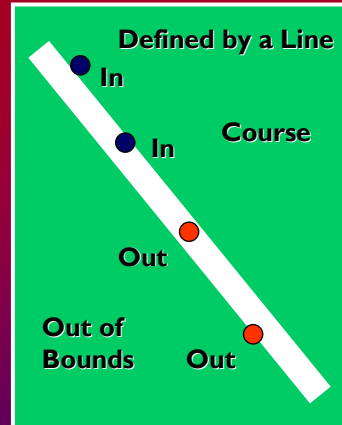
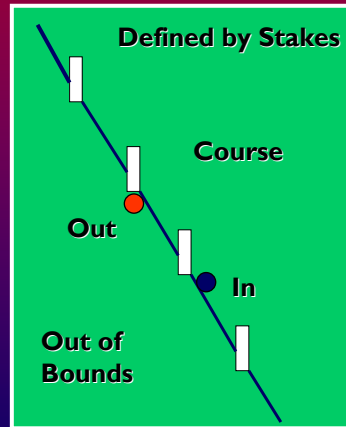
Obstructions

- anything artificial except
 - objects defining out of bounds
 - any part of an object that is out of bounds
 - any construction declared an integral part of the course
- an obstruction is movable if it can be moved without unreasonable effort, without undue delay and without causing damage



Definitions

Out of Bounds



Definitions

Out of Bounds (continued)

- objects defining out of bounds are not obstructions; they are fixed and **must not be moved**
- out of bounds line extends vertically upwards and downwards
- player may stand out of bounds to play ball lying in bounds



Definitions

Outside Agency

- any agency other than
 - the player's side
 - the opponent's / competitor's side
 - any caddie of either side
 - any ball played by either side
 - any equipment of either side
- does not include wind or water



Definitions

Provisional Ball

- a ball played under Rule 27-2 for a ball that may be lost **outside** a water hazard or may be out of bounds
- purpose is to save time





Definitions

Putting Green

- all ground of the hole being played that is specially prepared for putting
(other greens are wrong putting greens)
- a ball is on putting green when any part of it touches the green



Definitions



Referee

- person appointed to accompany players to decide questions of fact and apply the Rules
- must act on any breach



Definitions



Rub of the Green

when a ball in motion is accidentally deflected or stopped by an outside agency



Definitions

Stipulated Round

- playing holes in correct sequence (unless otherwise authorised)
- consists of 18 holes unless smaller number authorised
- Committee can extend in match play [Rule 2-3]





Definitions

Stroke



- forward movement of the club with the intention of striking at and moving the ball
- if downswing stopped voluntarily before club head reaches ball, no stroke made
- if intent to strike ceases during downswing then no stroke made
- if downswing stopped involuntarily then stroke counts



Definitions

Tee

a device used to raise the ball off the ground
cannot be longer than 4 inches
must not indicate line of play or
influence movement of the ball

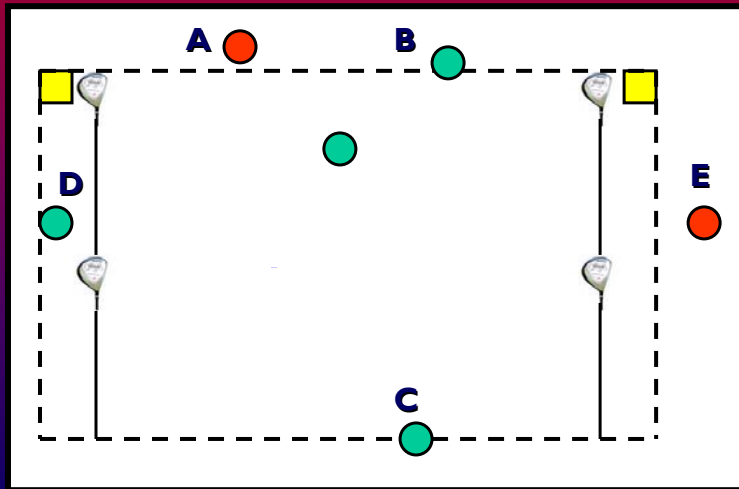
Examples of NON-conforming tees:





Definitions

Teeing Ground



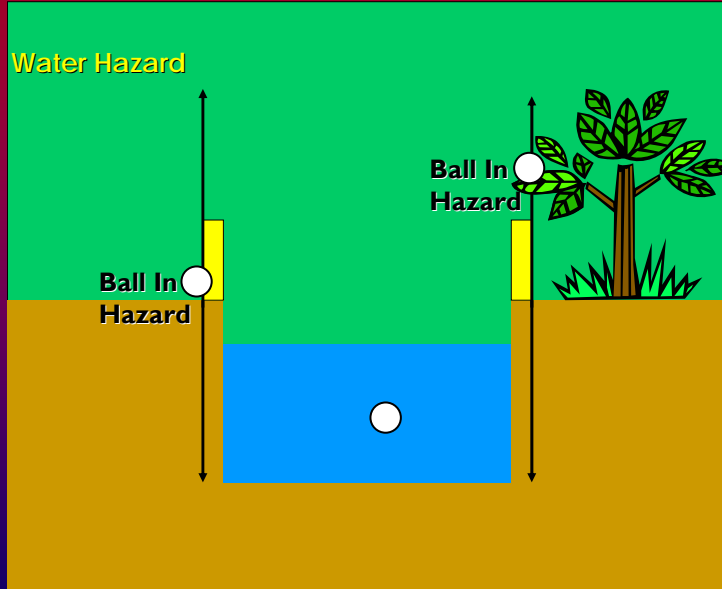
Definitions

Through the Green

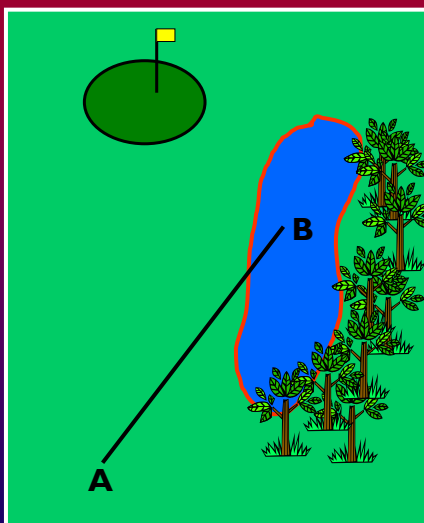




Definitions



Definitions



Lateral Water Hazard

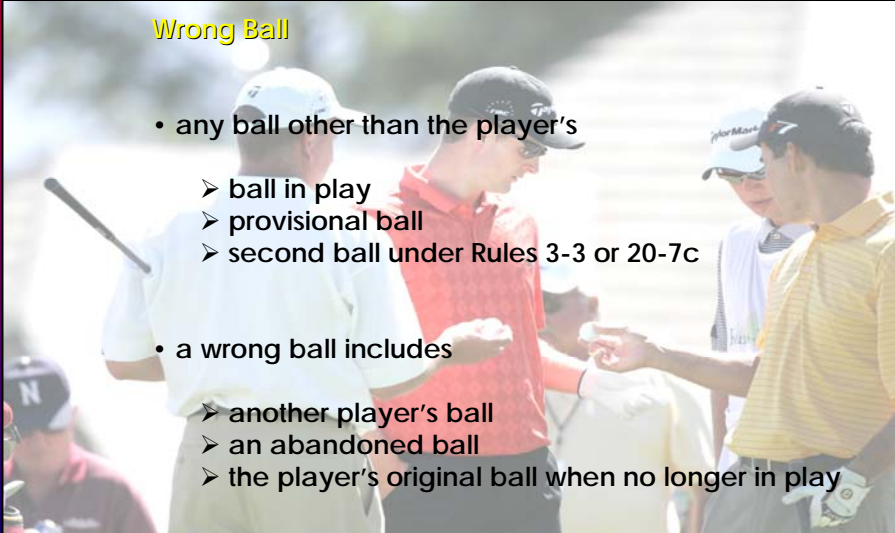
- a water hazard where it is not possible or deemed impracticable by the Committee to drop (behind the hazard) under Rule 26-1b
- stakes or lines used to define a LWH must be red
- a ball is in a LWH when it lies in or any part touches the Lateral Water Hazard



Definitions

Wrong Ball

- any ball other than the player's
 - ball in play
 - provisional ball
 - second ball under Rules 3-3 or 20-7c
- a wrong ball includes
 - another player's ball
 - an abandoned ball
 - the player's original ball when no longer in play



Definitions

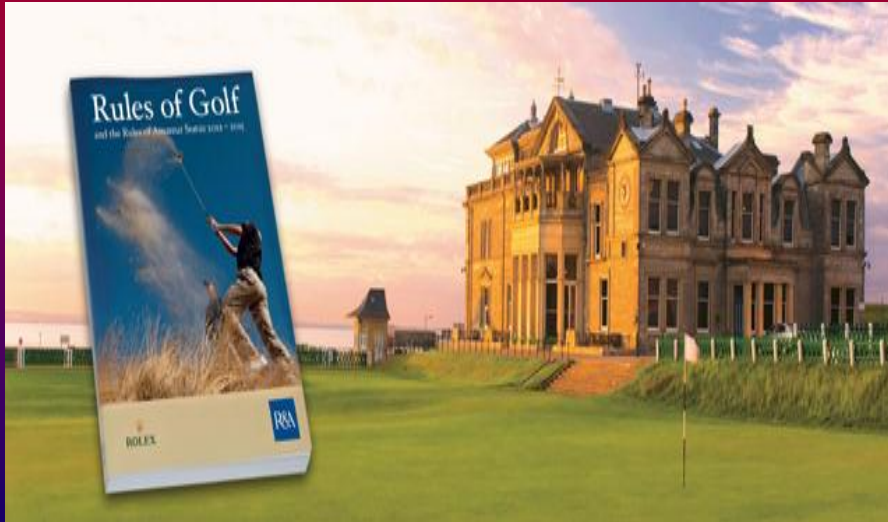
Wrong Putting Green

- any putting green other than that of the hole being played
- includes a practice putting green and a practice pitching green on the course, unless Committee states otherwise





PRINCIPAL CHANGES FROM 2012



Principal Changes from 2012

Appendix IV: Devices and Other Equipment

- design of tees, gloves, distance measuring devices

Definitions: Addressing the Ball

- Player has addressed the ball as soon as he grounds the club regardless whether stance taken

Rule 18-2b: Ball Moving After Address

- New exception provides for no penalty if ball moves after address not through player's action



Principal Changes from 2012

Rule 6-3a: Time of Starting

- Penalty (2 strokes / loss of 1st hole) for starting late but within 5 minutes is now a Rule of Golf

Rule 13-4: Ball in Hazard – Prohibited Actions

- Amended to permit player to smooth sand or soil in a hazard at any time provided it is for the sole purpose for caring for the course

Rule 1-2; Rule 12-1; Rule 19-1; Rule 20-7c



The presentation is based on the Rules of Golf as published by the R&A Rules Limited. The R&A is golf's governing body and organiser of The Open Championship. The R&A is committed to working for golf and operates with the consent of 136 organisations, from the amateur and professional game, and on behalf of over 30 million golfers in 123 countries.



RULES OF GOLF SESSION 1 – Friday 24th February 2012

On behalf of the Malta Golf Association I am very pleased to welcome you all to this first session on the Rules of Golf.

Tonight we hope to cover very briefly the History of the Rules and then proceed to the Etiquette; the principles on which the Rules are based; the Definitions and finally the Changes to the Rules that came in affect on January 2012.

In the second session we will then cover the first half of the Rules including some situations that arise at the RMGC from these Rules. In our last session we will cover the remaining Rules again with RMGC examples and end up with a fun test.

One of the main criteria when refereeing a match is to keep your cool no matter how difficult or funny the situation becomes. And sometimes even with all the knowledge at one's fingertips the situation can really become difficult. In 1978, a golfer at Royal St. George's holed a long putt, but as he stepped forward to pick his ball out of the hole, the ball jumped on to the green closely followed by a frog which had been relaxing in the cup. Had the golfer holed out or not?

Well the question was actually referred to the R&A Rules of Golf Committee who decided that the golfer had not holed out because the ball had obviously never hit the bottom of the cup. The definition of 'holed' nowadays makes the matter even more difficult. A ball is holed when it is at rest within the circumference of the hole and all of it is below the level of the lip of the hole.

So if the ball was at rest before the frog bounced it back out, then the putt was holed. If not then.....

HISTORY

For the first 300 years of its existence, golf was played without any written code of regulation. In 1744, the Gentlemen Golfers of Leith set a code of 13

Rules. This original code still forms the basis of today's rules. In fact, in those early years of the game, the code already guided the players on matters like the teeing ground, ball to be played as it lies, water hazards, stroke and distance penalties, outside agencies, abnormal ground conditions etc . The golfers at St Andrews established their own rules 10 years later and indeed so did most of the other Clubs in the UK. The growth of golf in St Andrews and the respect that the St Andrews Golf Club enjoyed from other Clubs in the UK, led to the Royal and Ancient becoming, towards the end of the 19th century, the governing authority for the Rules of Golf.

A few years ago, a decision was taken whereby the roles of the governing body were segregated from those of the Club. So where the Royal and Ancient remains synonymous with the golf club, the R&A Rules Ltd or the R&A in short, governs the Rules of Golf and is the organising body behind The Open Championship. The R&A and American codes were unified 50 years ago but remained slightly separated mainly because of some minor issues on equipment. Any changes in the Rules must meet approval during the biannual meetings of the Rules of Golf Committees of the R&A and the United States Golf Association. The changes find themselves published once every four years. The 32nd edition of the Rules has just been launched and is effective over the four year period starting 1st January 2012. For the first time in history, this edition – including the Rules on Amateur Status – is presented jointly by the R&A and the USGA. Parallel to the Rules Book, a Decisions Book is published every two years. This contains over 1200 decisions on a variety of incidents to assist with the correct interpretation and application of the Rules.

INTRODUCTION

In reality, there is no other game like golf. We know that the game is played on courses with wide-ranging dimensions, huge variety of conditions and in different formats. The Rules of Golf must cope with all these circumstances. The Rules of Golf book is split into 3 sections followed by four appendices, the Rules of Amateur Status and a further appendix on Gambling.

Section 1 provides guidelines on the manner in which the game should be played. The overriding principle is that consideration should be shown to others on the course at all times.

Section 2 is a list of definitions – an explanation to the terms used throughout the book. There are over 60 defined terms and these are the foundation around which the Rules are written. The terms are italicised when they appear in a Rule.

Section 3 is The Rules of Play – 34 of them – listed in a logical order. Rules 1-9 deal with the essentials to play the game; Rules 10-17 deal with anything between tee to green; Rules 18-28 are the action areas; and Rules 29-34 deal with other forms of play and the Committee.

Appendix 1 then advises on Local Rules and Conditions of a Competition; Appendices 2, 3 and 4 respectively deal with the design of Clubs, the specifications of the ball and regulations for the design of devices and equipment such as tees, gloves, clothing and distance measuring instruments.

The Quick Guide – found at the very beginning of the Rules Book – focuses on commonly encountered Rules situations and attempts to provide a simple explanation of these Rules. At the bare minimum – a player should be familiar with the points covered by this Quick Guide.

Before we have a look at the Rules, there is one important matter to understand. The use throughout the book of the words MAY, SHOULD and MUST indicating optional, recommended and obligatory actions the latter of which carries a penalty if the instruction or action is not carried out;

There is also as a substantial difference between the use of the indefinite article “a” and the definite “the”.

ETIQUETTE

The governing bodies introduce the actual Rules of Golf by a Section on Etiquette.

Good manners and behaviour on the course, if correctly followed, eliminate most of the problems we face when playing the game. The R&A places such importance on Etiquette that they commissioned Padraig Harrington to do a video on this. If we have time we will share this at the end of this evening.

BASIC PRINCIPLES

The Basic Principle of golf is to put a ball in play and strike it with a club until it is holed and then do the same on the next hole and in so doing play the ball as it lies and play the course as you find it. The Basic Rules lay down how to do this and the majority of the other Rules provide exceptions to these basic rules because sometimes you just cannot play the ball as it lies and sometimes you cannot play the course as you find it.

As we know there are two main forms of play: match play and stroke play. Effectively in a match only you and your opponent are involved and each protects his own interests. In stroke play however every competitor in the tournament has an interest and the Rules of Golf are there to protect these interests.

A typical example is when a ball is played from outside the teeing ground. In match play, the opponent can recall the stroke if he feels that he has suffered some disadvantage. In stroke play, the Rules must protect the rights of all competitors and whatever the result of the player's tee shot (even if he has hit it in a water hazard e.g.) he incurs a two stroke penalty and must replay the stroke. Notwithstanding, as referees we would recommend that if you were to see your opponent teeing in front of the markers you draw his/her attention before the shot is played and not after.

Four different types of penalties can be applied for a breach of the Rules. The principle is that the penalty must not be less than any advantage that could have been derived from breach of the Rule.

The first type of penalty is that of one stroke applied for accidental or careless actions with the ball usually played as it lies or replaced.

The second type of one stroke penalty is that related with an error in play with the player having to drop a ball either from where the original ball was last played, or in line with the flag as back as the player wants or within two club lengths relative to a determined position as provided by the Rules.

Then we have two stroke penalties or loss of hole in match play. These are generally applied when a prohibited action has occurred and are intended to discourage such actions which if allowed to occur can lead for the player to gain potential advantage.

And finally there is the ultimate disqualification penalty for a serious breach of the Rules – starting after 5 minutes from your allotted tee time; returning a wrong gross score for a hole; failure to sign your card; indicating a higher handicap than you actually have are examples when the Committee would be forced to apply such a penalty.

DEFINITIONS

Section II of the Rules of Golf deals with over 60 definitions. These terms are the foundation around which the Rules are written and are used to describe things found on the course or relating to the playing of the game. The defined terms are italicised where they appear in a Rule and without a good knowledge of the Definitions it will be even more difficult to understand the Rules.

We shall now go through these terms – the first one I will mention of course is the *Rules* themselves which comprise of one or all of the highlighted publications. Do not forget to look out for any changes in the Local Rules before you play a competition. The addition or removal of winter rules, for example. If you want to sharpen up your knowledge then invest in the Golf Rules Illustrated publication. It includes a number of photographs and incidents which will help to simplify things.

Abnormal Ground Conditions – is any casual water; ground under repair or hole on the course made by a burrowing animal, reptile or bird.

In turn, a burrowing animal is defined as one that makes a hole for habitation such as rabbit or mole. A worm, insect, dog or cat for example is not a burrowing animal.

Addressing the Ball – Here we have the first change for 2012. A player is now deemed to have addressed the ball simply by grounding the club immediately in front of or behind the ball regardless of whether or not he has taken his stance. This means, that in a hazard, a player in reality can now never address a ball. A new exception is added under Rule 18-2 which exonerates the player from penalty if his ball moves after it has been addressed when it is known or virtually certain that the player did not cause the ball to move.

During the act of addressing the ball, we quite often see players eliminating irregularities either in front or behind the ball whether they are on the putting green or not. Rule 13-2 prohibits pressing a club on the ground anywhere on the golf course and instructs that the club needs to be grounded lightly. Furthermore, under Rule 13-4 the player cannot touch the ground in a hazard.

Advice – is any counsel or suggestion that could influence a player in determining play, choice of club or method of making a stroke. If the player asks for advice he will get a 2 stroke penalty, if a fellow competitor willingly gives advice the competitor will get a 2 stroke penalty; if the player asks and the fellow competitor responds then both get a 2 stroke penalty. Information on the Rules, distance or public information as such as the position of the pin on a green is not advice. Of course a player can seek advice from his caddie or partner in a foursomes, fourball or similar matches. The most common mistake here is when the competition is based on an aggregate individual stroke play scores. For example play is in groups of four, with two players from each team in each group. The two team members playing in the same group are each playing an individual stroke play and therefore cannot give each other advice even though they are partners in the same team.

Bunker: Well we all know what a bunker is. What one needs to remember is that a ball is considered to be in the bunker when it lies in or any part of

it touches the bunker. Also grass-covered ground bordering or within the bunker is NOT part of the bunker and therefore the club can be grounded in these areas.

Caddie: A caddie is one who assists the player in accordance with the Rules of Golf which may include carrying or handling the player's clubs during play. A player cannot have more than one caddie at any time during the round and the player is responsible for any breach of the Rules by his/her caddie.

Casual Water: A ball is considered to be in casual water even if a part of it touches the casual water. The water must be visible before or after player takes his stance. If the water becomes visible because of excessive effort through pressing down hard with one foot, for example, then the player cannot deem the area as being in casual water. Soft mushy earth is also not casual water unless water is visible on the surface before or after the player takes his stance.

Committee: Here one needs to remember that when treating with the Rules of Golf, the Committee is composed of those people in charge of the competition. At the RMGC this does not necessarily mean everyone that sits on the Captain's Committee, it definitely should not automatically involve the gentlemen that sit on the Board of Management. More importantly remember that everyone is a volunteer and the player should avoid approaching a member of the Committee also playing in the competition with situations concerning the Rules.

Competitor: We know who these are. I suppose the best relation between these and the game of golf was that given by Jack Benny when he said "Give me golf clubs, fresh air and a beautiful partner, and you can keep the clubs and the fresh air."

Equipment: Apart from the maximum 14 clubs rule, Appendix IV in the Rules of Golf prescribes general regulations on tees, gloves, shoes and clothing. Furthermore, at the RMGC we have in place a competition rule that prohibits the use of distance measuring devices.

Ground Under Repair: Grass cuttings are ground under repair only if they have been piled for removal otherwise they are loose impediments and may be removed by the player; aeration holes are not ground under repair; an old sunken hole plug on the green is not ground under repair unless so declared by the Committee and relief may not be taken if this is on one's line of putt; [Decision 16-1c/3 and 25/17] and the Committee would be justified in declaring a deep rut made by a tractor or similar to be ground under repair – but not if this is just a shallow indentation. At the RMGC we have a Local Rule which states that *where marked as GUR, encircled with a continuous white line or blue stakes, it is prohibited to play and relief MUST be taken also if GUR interferes with stance.* MUST means an obligation and, if not observed, one risks a two stroke penalty or loss of hole in matchplay.

Line of play or putt: A player may have the line of play or putt indicated to him by anyone but no one may be positioned by the player on or close to the line while the stroke is being made. Any mark placed to indicate the line must be removed before the stroke is played. There is an exception to this – on the putting green a mark must not be placed anywhere to indicate a line of putting. In fact the line of putt may not be touched by the player, his partner or caddie.

Loose impediments: There are two important things to remember regarding these natural objects. Firstly, unless they are on the putting green sand and loose soil cannot be brushed away even if they interfere with the stroke or stance; secondly anything which is natural cannot be removed prior to the player taking a stroke from a hazard. An exception at Royal Malta, through a local rule, is that a player can remove stones from bunkers.

Lost ball: A player can never declare his ball lost. He can declare it unplayable but never lost and his fellow competitor or opponent has the right to search for it. When a player chooses to play a provisional ball, the original ball only becomes lost once the player makes a stroke with the provisional ball from the place where the original ball is likely to be or from a point nearer the hole than that place.

Move or Moved: At most times this situation is between the player and his conscience to do what is right. If a player causes a ball to move then this

will mean a one stroke penalty and the ball must be replaced. Under Rule 18-2 there are circumstances when such a penalty is not applied.

Nearest Point of Relief: is the reference point for taking relief without penalty from interference by an immovable obstruction; an abnormal ground condition; GUR or a wrong putting green. In order to determine the nearest point of relief accurately the player should use the club which he would have made his next stroke if the condition were not there to simulate the address position, direction of play and swing for such a stroke. One should note that the relief zone is not always one club length in area and more importantly it is the nearest and not the nicest point of relief.

Obstructions: An obstruction is anything artificial including artificial surfaces and sides of roads and paths. Here one would recommend a careful look at the Local Rules. A player can take relief without penalty from a number of immovable obstructions that are found on the course unless these are deemed to be integral parts of the course. For example, at the RMGC, there is no relief from the he pump room on the 12th as this is considered an integral part of the course; but there is relief from waste bins and benches because these are considered as immovable obstructions. An obstruction becomes movable if it has not been declared as immovable by the Committee and it can be moved without (1) unreasonable effort; (2) without undue delay and (3) without causing damage - unless of course you happen to be Tiger Woods.

Out of Bounds: are those areas beyond the boundaries of the course or any part of the course so marked – the storm water ditch in front of the 17th green for example. When the out of bounds margins are defined by stakes or a fence the out of bounds line is determined by the inside points of stakes or fence posts at ground level. If they are defined by a line that the line is out of bounds and all of the ball has to be on or over the line for it to be Out of Bounds. Again please remember that out of bound stakes are integral parts of the course; they are not obstructions; they are fixed and must not be moved. Of course a player may stand out of bounds to play a ball which is in bounds.

Outside Agency: If you are not the player, his partner, his opponent, his caddie, the ball of either side or the equipment of other side; if you are not the wind or if you are not water then you are an outside agency. A referee, an observer, a marker and a forecaddie are all examples of outside agencies.

Provisional Ball: The player must inform his opponent in match play or his fellow competitors in stroke play that he intends to play a provisional ball and he must play it before he or his partner or caddie goes forward to search for the original ball.

Putting Green: 50% of the game is played on this ground specially prepared for putting. When a player's ball is on the putting green the line of putt must not be touched, spike marks etc should not be pressed down and the ball must not strike the flagstick. A ball is on the putting green when any part of it touches the green.

Referee: Must be appointed by the Committee – the stress being on appointed. The referee should not attend the flagstick; neither should he lift nor mark the position of the ball. He must act on any breach and should be proactive if he sees that a Rule of Golf is about to be breached.

Rub of the Green: In simple terms good luck vs bad luck!

Stipulated Round: Perhaps it is significant to understand here that it is not automatic that matchplay games continue after 18 holes if the match is tied. In fact the Ryder Cup matches stop at the 18th even if the match is tied. In the RMGC knockout competitions this is covered in the Competition Rules and players must continue until the match is won.

Stroke: A player is considered to be striking the ball with the forward movement of his club and with the intention to strike the ball.

Tee: The term describing the tee has been removed from the Definitions and is now found in Appendix 4.

Teeing Ground: Rectangular in area; two club lengths in depth; the front and sides of which are defined by the outside limits of the tee markers. A ball is outside the teeing ground when all of it lies outside the teeing ground. Before a player makes his first stroke with any ball on the teeing ground of the hole being played, the tee markers are deemed to be fixed and must not be moved.

Through the Green: is the term used to describe the whole area of the course except the teeing ground and putting green of the hole being played and all hazards on the course. It is a term that is frequently used in the Rules an example would be for preferred lies in Winter Rules whereby *a ball lying on a closely mown area through the green may be lifted etc. etc. etc.*

Water Hazard: Water hazards are any sea, lake, pond, river, etc whether or not containing water marked by the Committee either with yellow stakes and/or yellow lines. The stakes and lines used to define the margins are considered to be in the hazard as is any ground or water. The margins of the hazard extend vertically upwards and downwards and the ball is deemed to be in the hazard when it lies or any part of it touches the hazard.

A *Lateral Water Hazard*, marked by red stakes or red lines, is a water hazard or that part of a water hazard so situated that it is not possible or deemed by the Committee to be impracticable to drop a ball behind the water hazard according to the Rules. As the margins of a hazard extend upwards the whole bridge is considered to be an obstruction in the hazard. However according to the note under the pertinent Rule the player may touch at any time any obstruction which is in the hazard. Furthermore, since the obstruction is not ground in the hazard touching the bridge is also permissible.

Wrong Ball: There is only one sentence in the Rules of Golf that is repeated twice. This appears under The Player: Rule 6-5 and under Searching for and Identifying Ball: Rule 12-2. The responsibility for playing the proper ball rests with the player. Each player should put an identification mark on his ball.

Wrong putting green: If a player's ball lies on a wrong putting green, the player must not play the ball as it lies. He must take relief without penalty at the nearest point of relief, unless of course, the Committee has designated that putting green as out of bounds – the RGMC practice putting green to the right of the 7th green is an example.

CHANGES FROM 2012

- A fourth appendix has been added to deal with the design of equipment and devices;
- The definition of addressing the ball has been changed and
- A new exception has been added to Rule 18-2b.
- Rule 6-3a has been amended which now makes it obligatory for Committees to implement a two stroke penalty for starting late but within 5 minutes;
- With the amendment to Rule 13-4 it now becomes possible for a player to smooth sand in a bunker at any time as long as this for the purpose for caring for the course.
- And then there are little changes to Rule 1-2 [Exerting Influence on Movement of Ball or Altering Physical Conditions]; Rule 12-1 [Seeing Ball, Searching for Ball]; Rule 19-1 [Ball in Motion Deflected or Stopped by Outside Agency] and Rule 20-7c [Playing from Wrong Place, Stroke Play]. These changes are mainly to clarify situations arising from these Rules and we shall deal with these in the forthcoming sessions.