

NOTICE 2016/2017-2 TO MGA MEMBERS

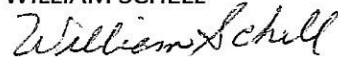
From the Rules Committee

Effective April 13, 2017

In an effort to gather some experience(s) with the proposed USGA/R&A changes to the Rules of Golf, the MGA will "adopt the following rules. Please evaluate your understanding, use and adaptability of these changes through MGA play. We will continue to add and delete changes as we, the Rules Committee members and the Executive Committee, feel we can absorb changes without creating too much confusion.

1. When searching for your ball and you or your partner accidentally move the ball, there is NO PENALTY assessed. If the original position cannot be recreated, ESTIMATE the spot.
2. If you LIFT AND REPLACE your ball on the putting green and it moves, move it back to the original spot regardless of whether the wind, rain, or other natural cause makes it move. NO PENALTY. If your ball is ACCIDENTALLY moved by you, your partner, your opponent, or any of the respective equipment your ball is replaced on the original spot. NO PENALTY. If your ball has not yet been marked and the ball was moved as a result of wind, rain, or some other natural cause such as the effects of gravity, the ball must be played as it lies from its new location. NO PENALTY. (NOTE: If you hit your ball while taking a PRACTICE PUTTING STROKE, you are to replace the ball to its original spot, take a PENALTY STROKE. If you do not you are assessed another PENALTY STROKE for playing the ball from a wrong place.
3. You can repair almost any damage on the putting green, including spike marks and animal damage. You cannot repair natural imperfections.
4. You can leave an unattended flagstick in the cup when your ball is on the putting green, and there is NO PENALTY if your ball strikes it.
5. You can take a TWO STROKE PENALTY to obtain relief outside a bunker on a line from the hole through where the ball was at rest in the sand.
6. If your ball ACCIDENTALLY strikes you, your caddie, your opponent or any equipment there is NO PENALTY. Play it as it lies. (You can't deliberately try to carom a shot off your or another's equipment. The PENALTY is UNSPORTSMANLIKE play and DISQUALIFICATION.
7. You can use a damaged club during a round. But, you cannot replace a damaged club during a round unless you were not responsible for its condition.

WILLIAM SCHELL



Chairman, Rules Committee

Committee Members: Jim Dyer, John Haury, Bill Manson, Billie McCullough, Jack Nederostek