

2023 Rules Corner Library

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[Link to USGA "Rules of Golf Explained" Videos](#)

JANUARY 2023 – Ball Moved By Natural Forces

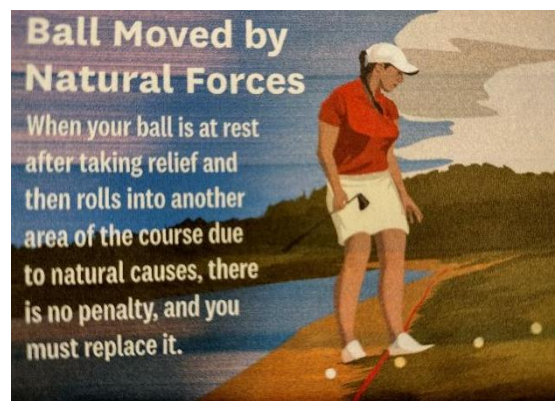
The SDCWGA Board would like to invite you, the members, to submit questions about rules to the Rules Corner. The Rules Committee (Ellen Koury, Cheryl Wohlgemuth, and myself) will answer your questions with appropriate rule references.

To start this off we have a question that arose from a board member about Rule #9. At the end of last year we reviewed some of the major Rule Changes for 2023. This included the following:

Previously a **ball moved by natural forces**, such as wind, was played from the new spot (except on the putting green when it is replaced on the original spot.) But starting in 2023, a ball moved by natural forces that comes to rest in **another part of the course** must be returned to its original spot with no penalty.

The question was asked about whether this applied to balls "dropped" when taking relief that were at rest after being dropped and then rolled into another area.

The answer is "**yes**," it does apply. The ball must be replaced (not dropped) in its original spot in the "relief area" for no penalty.



In the future send any rules questions to:
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MARCH 2023 – Rule 3.2, Match Play

Team play has started and a Match Play issue arose prompting a question to the Rules Committee. A player mistakenly gave wrong information about her number of strokes upon arriving at the green. Based on that information both opponents putted out. Afterward, the first player shared that she had been mistaken and she actually lay one more stroke than she had said. What is the ruling?

The answer can be found in Rule 3 – The Competition. Rule 3.2d states that in Match Play at any time during play of a hole (or after the hole is completed) an opponent may ask any player for the number of strokes (including strokes made and penalty strokes) the player has taken so far on the hole. This is to allow the opponent to decide how to play the next strokes (or to confirm the result on a completed hole.) The player **MUST** respond and give the **CORRECT** number of strokes taken. If the player gives the **WRONG** number of strokes she gets the General Penalty (loss of hole) **UNLESS** she corrects the mistake before the opponent makes another stroke or takes a similar action such as conceding the hole. If the hole is completed she must correct the mistake before any player begins the next hole, or on the final hole, before the results are final. A final exception states that there is no penalty if the wrong information is given after the hole is completed and it does not affect the understanding of the result of the hole.

A further clarification of this is the fact that in our Team Matches loss of the hole applies to the **SIDE**, not just the player who gave the wrong information. This is covered in The Fourball Rule - Rule 23.8a(2) states that the penalty also applies to the partner in Match Play when the player's breach hurts the opponents' play.

If this should happen the side given wrong information must file a claim and report this to their Captain at completion of play. The Captain must contact the Team Director and Rules Committee. She must **NOT** sign the Results Sheet until the Rules Committee has given a ruling after hearing all the facts of the case.

As a side note in Stroke Play there is no requirement to provide number of strokes taken **EXCEPT** to provide your gross score on every hole before signing your score card.

MAY 2023 – Rule 6 – Playing a Hole

It is interesting how often we are asked the same rules questions. So we thought we would look back at previous entries and see if the issue has come up since publishing. Sure enough, here is one from January 2021 that came up at a recent event and the player did not know the rule. Perhaps repetition is called for to help us remember. So for your review:

STARTING A HOLE FROM THE WRONG PLACE

What should a player do if she hits a **tee shot** from the wrong place – either the wrong teeing area or the wrong place in the teeing area? This is covered in **Rule 6 - Playing a Hole**.

First it is important to know that the ***Teeing Area*** is defined as the rectangle that is formed by the space between the two tee markers extending back away from the hole two club lengths.

If a player fails to tee the ball on the correct teeing area (designated by the competition rules) or if she tees the ball outside of the above-mentioned rectangle of the correct teeing area:

- 1) In Match Play this is not a penalty **but** the opponent may cancel the stroke promptly before another player makes a stroke and the player must then play a ball from the designated teeing area. If the opponent does not cancel the stroke the original ball counts, is in play and must be played as it lies.
- 2) In Stroke Play the player gets the **general penalty (two strokes)** and must correct the mistake by playing a ball from the designated teeing area. The original ball played from outside the teeing area is not in play and any strokes made with it do not count. If the player does not correct the mistake before making a stroke to begin another hole or, for the final hole of the round, before returning her scorecard, the player is **disqualified**.