

BASIC MATCH PLAY RULES

Rule 2-6: General Penalty

The penalty for a breach of a *Rule* in match play is loss of hole except when otherwise provided. There are **no 2-stroke penalties** in match play. There are loss-of-hole penalties and 1-stroke penalties **only**.

Rule 2-4: Concessions

A player may concede a match at any time prior to the start or conclusion of that match.
A player may concede a hole at any time prior to the start or conclusion of that hole.
A player may concede his opponent's next *stroke* at any time, provided the opponent's ball is at rest. The opponent is considered to have *holed* out with his next *stroke*, and the ball may be removed by either *side*.
A concession may not be declined or withdrawn.

Rule 2-5: Doubt as to Procedure

In match play, if a doubt or dispute arises between the players, a player may make a claim. If no duly authorized representative of the *Committee* is available within a reasonable time, the players must continue the match without delay. The *Committee* may consider a claim **only** if the player making the claim notifies his opponent (i) that he is making a claim, (ii) of the facts of the situation and (iii) that he wants a ruling. The claim must be made before any player in the match plays from the next *teeing ground* or, in the case of the last hole of the match, before all players in the match leave the *putting green*.

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Rule 9-2: Information as to Strokes Taken

a. An opponent is entitled to ascertain from the player, during the play of a hole, the number of *strokes* he has taken and, after play of a hole, the number of *strokes* taken on the hole just completed.

b. Wrong Information--A player must not give wrong information to his opponent. If a player gives wrong information, he loses the hole.

A player is deemed to have given wrong information if he:

- (i) fails to inform his opponent as soon as practicable that he has incurred a penalty, unless (a) he was obviously proceeding under a *Rule* involving a penalty and this was observed by his opponent, or (b) he corrects the mistake before his opponent makes his next *stroke*; or
- (ii) gives incorrect information during play of a hole regarding the number of *strokes* taken and does not correct the mistake before his opponent makes his next *stroke*; or (iii) gives incorrect information regarding the number of *strokes* taken to complete a hole and this affects the opponent's understanding of the result of the hole, unless he corrects the mistake before any player makes a *stroke* from the next *teeing ground* or, in the case of the last hole of the match, before all players leave the *putting green*.

A player has given wrong information even if it is due to the failure to include a penalty that he did not know he had incurred. **It is the player's responsibility to know the Rules.**

Rule 10-1: Order of Play

a. When Starting Play of Hole--The *side* that has the *honor* at the first *teeing ground* is determined by the order of the draw. In the absence of a draw, the *honor* should be decided by lot. The *side* that wins a hole takes the *honor* at the next *teeing ground*. If a hole has been halved, the *side* that had the *honor* at the previous *teeing ground* retains it.

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Rule 10-1: Order of Play (continued)

b. During Play of Hole--After both players have started play of the hole, the ball farther from the *hole* is played first. If the balls are equidistant from the *hole* or their positions relative to the *hole* are not determinable, the ball to be played first should be decided by lot.

Rule 18-1: Ball at Rest Moved

a. During Search--If, during search for a player's ball, an opponent, his *caddie* or his *equipment* moves the ball, touches it or causes it to *move*, there is no penalty. If the ball is *moved*, it must be replaced.

b. Other Than During Search--If, other than during search for a player's ball, an opponent, his *caddie* or his *equipment* moves the ball, touches it purposely or causes it to *move*, except as otherwise provided in the *Rules*, the opponent incurs a penalty of one stroke. If the ball is *moved*, it must be replaced.

Rule 19-3: Ball in Motion Deflected or Stopped By Opponent, Caddie or Equipment

If a player's ball is accidentally deflected or stopped by an opponent, his *caddie* or his *equipment*, there is no penalty. The player may, before another *stroke* is made by either *side*, cancel the *stroke* and play a ball without penalty, as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played (see Rule 20-5) or he may play the ball as it lies. However, if the player elects not to cancel the *stroke* and the ball has come to rest in or on the opponent's or his *caddie's* clothes or *equipment*, the ball **must** *through the green* or in a *hazard* be dropped, or on the *putting green* be placed, as near as possible to the spot directly under the place where the ball came to rest in or on the article, but not nearer the *hole*.

Exception: Ball striking person attending or holding up *flagstick* or anything carried by him--see Rule 17-3b.

ONE-STROKE PENALTIES: MATCH OR STROKE PLAY

- 5-3 Ball Unfit for Play (Procedure)
- 6-8c Lifting Ball When Play Discontinued (Procedure)
- 12-2 Identifying Ball (Procedure Unnecessary Cleaning)
- 14-4 Striking the Ball More Than Once
- 16-2 Ball Overhanging Hole
- 18-2a Ball at Rest Moved by Player, Caddie, or Equipment
- 18-2b Ball Accidentally Deflected by Player, Caddie or Equipment
- 19-2 Lifting and Marking (Procedure)
- 20-1 Dropping (Procedure - By Whom and How)
- 20-2a Ball Placed or Replace (Procedure-By Any Other Person)
- 20-3a Cleaning Ball (When Not Permitted)
- 24-2 Interference by Immovable Obstructions (Relief Outside Bunker)
- 25-1 Ball in Abnormal Ground Condition (Relief Outside Bunker)
- 26 Ball in Water Hazard (Relief Outside Water Hazard)
- 27 Ball Lost or Out of Bounds, Provisional Ball
- 28 Ball Unplayable (unplayable lie)

ONE-STROKE PENALTY: MATCH PLAY ONLY

- 18-3B Ball at Rest Moved By Opponent (Other Than During Search)

AGREEING TO PLAY READY GOLF IN MATCH PLAY

If the players agree to play ready golf, they are agreeing to waive the rules. Agreeing to waive the rules carries the penalty of **disqualification**.

