

**WNHGA BAG TAG: The most common USGA rules at your fingertips**

<b>SITUATION/Rule</b>		<b>PENALTY and/or PROCEDURE</b>
1	<b>Out of bounds</b> Must Correct (18.2) Ball is out of bounds when <u>entire</u> ball is out	<b>One stroke penalty plus distance:</b> play another ball within one club length from point of previous hit (may tee up again if in tee box) <u>or Two-Stroke Penalty (if Model Local Rule (MLR) E-5 applies)</u>
2	<b>Lost ball</b> (NOT in penalty area) Must Correct (18.2) [a ball is lost if not found in three minutes]	Same procedure/penalty as #1 above
3	<b>Provisional ball</b> (18.3)	Use if the ball may be lost or out of bounds. <b>Must announce</b> or that ball becomes ball in play
4	<b>Ball in water</b> <b>Penalty area (yellow stakes)</b> (17.1) and definitions. Ball is considered in penalty area when any part of ball touches the penalty area: Choices: <b>A=AGAIN</b> <b>B=BEHIND</b>	<u>No Penalty.</u> Play ball, as it lies, in penalty area. May ground club and move loose impediments <u>or One Stroke Penalty with these options:</u> a) Drop and play a ball (within one club length) from point of previous hit <b>[AGAIN]</b> b) Drop a ball <b>on</b> the imaginary line from the hole to where the ball crossed the penalty area as far back as desired (relief area is one club length in any direction from where you drop) <b>[BEHIND]</b>

<b>SITUATION/Rule</b>		<b>PENALTY and/or PROCEDURE</b>
5	Ball in <b>penalty area (red stakes)</b> (17.1) and definitions. Ball is considered in penalty area when any part of ball touches the penalty area. Choices: <b>A, B (from above) or..... C (2 CLUB lengths)</b>	Player has all <u>No/One stroke Penalty</u> options from #4 (yellow stakes) above <b>plus</b> additional <u>one stroke penalty option</u> of: c) Drop a ball <u>within two club lengths</u> of where the ball <u>last crossed the boundary of the penalty area</u> , no closer to the hole <b>[CLUB]</b>
6	<b>Dropping ball</b> (14.3)	Hold ball knee high and drop. If dropped incorrectly, may re-drop with No Penalty. Have two attempts to drop within relief area. 3 <sup>rd</sup> time, place ball where it first touched ground on 2 <sup>nd</sup> attempt. (14.3)
7	<b>Hitting incorrectly dropped ball</b> (14.3)	One Stroke Penalty
8	<b>Unplayable lie including unplayable lie in bunker</b> (19). Choices: <b>A=AGAIN</b> <b>B=BEHIND</b> <b>C=CLUB (2 club lengths)</b>  <b>Note: You decide if unplayable</b>	<u>One Stroke Penalty and choice of options:</u> a) <u>Drop and play ball (within 1 club length)</u> from point of previous hit. <b>[AGAIN]</b> b) Drop a ball <b>on</b> the imaginary line from the hole thru the ball as far back as desired (relief area is 1 club length in any direction from where you drop) <b>[BEHIND]</b> . <u>If in bunker, must stay in bunker.</u> c) <u>Drop and play a ball (within 2 club lengths)</u> of the spot where the ball lay, not closer to the hole. <b>[CLUB]</b> . <u>If in bunker, must stay in bunker.... or.....</u>  <u>2 Stroke Penalty option if in bunker: BEHIND</u> (same as b) above except ball can be removed from bunker)

<b>SITUATION/Rule</b>		<b>PENALTY and/or PROCEDURE</b>
9	<b>Cleaning Ball</b> (14.1c)	May <b>NOT</b> clean ball when: a) Lifting to identify; b) Lifting because ball is interfering with another player's ball; c) Lifting to see if ball unfit for play. <b>One Stroke Penalty</b> . May clean ball on putting green.
10	Must not have more than 14 clubs (4.1b)	<b>Two Stroke Penalty</b> for each hole breached. Maximum 4 strokes penalty. Must indicate clubs removing or may face disqualification (4.1c)
11	<b>Hitting another player's ball while putting</b> (11.1a-Exception)	<b>Two Stroke Penalty</b>
12	Hitting <b>wrong ball</b> Must Correct ( <b>6.3</b> )	<b>Two Stroke Penalty</b>
13	Hitting ball from <b>wrong place</b> (7.3)	<b>Two Stroke Penalty</b> . <b>Must correct if player gains significant advantage</b>
14	<b>Grounding club in bunker</b> (12.2b)	<b>Two Stroke Penalty</b>
15	Giving or asking for advice (public course information OK) (10.2a)	<b>Two Stroke Penalty</b>
16	<b>Playing Two Balls</b> (20.1c)	If <u>uncertain of rule</u> , may complete hole with two balls without penalty. Must report to committee for decision.
17	<b>Failure to mark ball before picking it up</b> (14.1a)	<b>One Stroke Penalty</b>

<b>SITUATION/Rule</b>		<b>PENALTY and/or PROCEDURE</b>
18	<b>Identifying ball</b> (7.3)	No penalty. Do not need to announce, <b>MUST mark, lift, place BUT must NOT clean</b> . If rule not followed – <b>One Stroke Penalty</b>
19	Relief Without Penalty (16) [Note: see Nearest Point of Relief in #21 below]	Relief from movable/immovable obstructions, abnormal ground conditions, wrong putting green.
20	<b>Abnormal course conditions</b> (16) interfere with stance or swing... <b>cart path, sprinklers, ground under repair, drainage rocks, electrical boxes, barber poles, immovable signs, etc.</b> ( <i>out of bounds markers are not obstructions and may not be moved</i> ).	<b>No Penalty</b> . Nearest point of relief (see below). Must take <b>complete</b> relief.
21	<b>Nearest Point of Relief</b> (Definitions)	<p><b>No Penalty</b>. There is only one nearest point of relief. Must take <b>complete relief so do not pick up the ball until certain you will take relief</b>.</p> <p>a) Player should use the club, address position, direction of play, and swing she would have used had the obstruction not been there.</p> <p>b) Find the closest spot from where the ball lies, no closer to the hole, where you can take a stance without the condition interfering with the ball, feet, and swing. Mark that spot and then drop within one club length (longest club not including putter) of that spot, no closer to the hole.</p> <p>c) Ball may roll and stop within relief area from where it first strikes the course, no closer to the hole.</p> <p>d) If player hits dropped ball <b>outside</b> of the relief area <b>or</b> has not taken complete relief, she is hitting from wrong place, incurs <b>two stroke penalty</b> (see #13 above ).</p>

