

Rule Tip of the Week January Rules Quiz 2017

This True/False quiz presumes that the new Local Rule concerning the accidental movement of one's ball or ball-marker on the putting green is in effect. The objective of this quiz is to highlight some of the ramifications of this Local Rule and point out that certain Decisions may not apply when the Committee has adopted this Local Rule.



1. In a match, your opponent, who has already marked and lifted his ball from the putting green, accidentally drops his ball and it strikes and moves your ball in play on the putting green. Your opponent is penalized one stroke.
2. Without your permission, but to help pace of play, your opponent marks and lifts your ball on the putting green after you have successfully played your ball from a greenside bunker. Your opponent is penalized one stroke.
3. As you approach your ball on the putting green to lift it, you accidentally drop your putter or your ball-marker which lands on your ball and causes your ball to move. You are penalized one stroke.
4. You have been asked to mark and lift your ball on the putting green by a fellow-competitor or an opponent. As you approach your ball, you briefly lose your balance and accidentally kick your ball. You are penalized one stroke.
5. While carelessly making a practice swing too close to your ball on the putting green, your putter contacts your ball causing it to move. You are penalized one stroke.

Answers:

1. **False** *The new Local Rule eliminates the penalty for ANY accidental movement of a ball or ball-marker on the putting green. If your ball is accidentally moved by you, your partner, your opponent, or any caddies or equipment, there is no penalty and the ball is to be replaced and played from its original location. Therefore, Rule 18-3b [Ball at Rest Moved by Opponent ... Other Than During Search] does not apply. Likewise, Decision 18/7.5 [Player's Ball Moved by Ball Accidentally Dropped by Opponent or Fellow-Competitor] does not apply when an opponent accidentally causes your ball to move on the putting green.*
2. **True** *In this case, your opponent intentionally moved your ball, i.e., the movement was not accidental, so he is penalized one stroke under Rule 18-3b. See Decision 20-1/2 [Player's Ball Lifted by Opponent Without Authority].*
3. **False** *Again, there is no penalty for the accidental movement of one's ball on the putting green when the new Local Rule is in effect. Thus, Decision 20-1/14 [Ball Moved by Putter Dropped by Player Approaching Ball to Lift It] is not applicable whenever this new Local Rule has been adopted.*
4. **False** *Once more, there is no penalty under Rule 18-2 [Ball at Rest Moved by Player ...] for the accidental movement of one's ball on the putting green when the new Local Rule is in effect. Thus, Decision 20-1/3 [Ball Accidentally Kicked by Player Asked to Lift It Due to Interference] is not applicable when the new Local Rule has been adopted.*
5. **False** *Per the USGA, accidental movement can involve a variety of actions in which you unintentionally move your ball or ball-marker. Examples include dropping a ball-marker on your ball, accidentally making contact with the ball when taking a practice swing near the ball, and accidentally making contact when addressing the ball. With the new Local Rule in effect, Decision 18-2/20 [Ball in Play Moved Accidentally by Practice Swing] would not be applicable since your ball was on the putting green. Please visit www.usga.org to find out more information about this new Local Rule!*