

Rule Tip of the Week

The Eagles Play/Golf



See if you can identify the issues and make the correct rulings for members of The Eagles in the following stroke play scenarios which incorporate some of their song and album titles (*in italics*):

1. On the 1st hole, a blinding *Tequila Sunrise* causes Glenn Frey to shank his drive, and he shouts at the ball, "*Please Come Home for Christmas.*" The ball ricochets off a nearby tree and whistles past the group, coming to rest in casual water about 30 yards behind the teeing ground. Instead of taking relief from the casual water, Frey deems the ball unplayable and plays his next stroke from the teeing ground, i.e., a point closer to the hole than where his ball came to rest.
2. At the 1st putting green, Don Henley remarks, "*I Can't Tell You Why*, but someone has just accidentally made spike marks on my line of putt. He asks, "*Who is the New Kid in Town?*" No one confesses to the breach of etiquette and, to Henley, it seems that everyone is looking at him with *Lyin' Eyes*. Somehow, Henley determines that Joe Walsh is the culprit and asks him, "*How Long* have you been wearing *Those Shoes?*" Joe Walsh sarcastically replies, "I've given you the *Best of My Love*. Look, those spike marks are *Already Gone.*"
3. On the 3rd hole, Timothy B. Schmit finds his ball plugged in the face of a greenside bunker. He remarks, "*One of These Nights*" I'm gonna learn how to get out of a bunker. Bernie Leadon tells him, "*Get Over It!* You have to *Take It Easy* and maintain a *Peaceful Easy Feeling* when playing a shot out of a bunker.
4. Later, Glenn Frey exclaims, "I'm gonna *Take It to the Limit*" just before launching a massive drive. Unfortunately, his ball hooks towards the *Hotel California* property bordering the golf course. Acting like a *Desperado*, Frey frantically searches for his ball in an area of tall grass adjacent to the hotel. After a while, Don Felder tells Frey, "this is *Wasted Time*, and since you didn't play a provisional, you have *The Long Run* back to the tee!"
5. After leaving the 16th green, the group decides to cross the nearby *Seven Bridges Road*, and saunters into *The Sad Café* for an extended lunch. After being served cowboy steaks cooked to perfection by a *Witchy Woman*, Glenn Frey remarks, "This is *Life in the Fast Lane!*" After finishing dessert, Randy Meisner comments, "*I Can't Tell You Why*, but I don't think we should have left the course."

Answers:

1. *Frey may play from the teeing ground incurring a one-stroke penalty. Even though Frey may take relief without penalty from the casual water per Rule 25-1 [Abnormal Ground Conditions], Rule 28 [Ball Unplayable] states, "The player may deem his ball unplayable at any place on the course, except when the ball is in a water hazard." One of the options available to Frey in Rule 28 is to proceed under the stroke and distance provision of Rule 27-1.*
2. *Rule 16-1c [Putting Green - Repair of Hole Plugs, Ball Marks and Other Damage] does not authorize the repairing of spike marks on a putting green. However, Decision 16-1a/13 [Line of Putt Damaged Accidentally by Opponent, Fellow-Competitor or Their Caddies] points out that the player is entitled to the lie and line of putt he had when his ball came to rest, and the line of putt may be restored by anyone. Thus, it is permissible for Walsh to tamp down his spike marks without penalty.*
3. *Leadon incurs a two-stroke penalty for breaching Rule 8-1 [Advice] by giving advice to Schmit. By Definition, "advice" is any counsel or suggestion that could influence a player in the method of making a stroke.*
4. *According to Rule 27-1c [Ball Not Found Within Five Minutes], a ball is lost if it has not been found or identified by the player within five minutes after the player, his side or his or their caddies have begun to search for it.*
5. *The Eagles are disqualified for discontinuing play without authorization by the Committee. Rule 6-8 [Discontinuance of Play; Resumption of Play] states, "If the player discontinues play without specific permission from the Committee, he must report to the Committee as soon as practicable. If he does so and the Committee considers his reason satisfactory, there is no penalty. Otherwise, the player is disqualified. Decision 6-8a/2.5 [Discontinuing Play for Refreshment] points out that the Committee may not permit players to discontinue play for refreshment for an extended period, e.g., more than five minutes, during a stipulated round.*