

**USGA**  
**SHORT COURSE**

Dealing with Movable Objects

1. In which one of the following situations do you not get a penalty?
  - a. You hit a putt too hard and while the ball is in motion you see there is a pinecone on the green beyond the hole. You are concerned you will get a penalty if your ball strikes the pinecone so you rush over and lift it just before the ball rolls over that spot.
  - b. You putt up a false front (a steep slope) just off the putting green about 40 feet from the hole and, believing that your ball will come to rest near the hole, you pick up a twig that you notice near where you were standing. Your putt does not reach the hole, stops briefly, and then rolls backward, right over the spot from which you had lifted the twig.
  - c. In taking lateral relief from a red penalty area you drop a ball in the relief area. Before the dropped ball comes to rest, you quickly lift a leaf from the ground inside the relief area so the ball won't come to rest on it. The ball comes to rest about a foot away from where the leaf was.
  
2. The course-side edge of chain-link fence posts define out of bounds. In the fence there is a gate. Which one of the following is true?
  - a. When the gate is closed, you are not allowed to move it to another position to improve the conditions affecting your stroke.
  - b. If the gate is closed and locked, you are not allowed to take free relief from it, even if part of the gate is on the course and that part interferes with the conditions affecting your stroke.
  - c. If the Committee defines the gate as an integral object, you are allowed to move it from the position in which you find it, even when doing so improves the conditions affecting your stroke.
  - d. The Committee can make the gate part of the boundary object, which means the gate may not be moved and free relief is not available.
  
3. Which one of the following is true?
  - a. If you think that Player A's ball, lying just off the putting green, might help Player B determine where to aim in playing the ball from a deep bunker, you may require Player A to lift his ball.
  - b. If you think that Player A's ball, lying on the putting green near the hole, might help Player B with his chip shot, you may require Player A to lift his ball.
  - c. In match play, if you and your opponent agree to leave your ball on the putting green near the hole to serve as a backstop for his ball, both of you are disqualified.
  - d. In Four-Ball stroke play, if you and your partner agree to leave your ball on the putting green near the hole to serve as a backstop because you both believe you are allowed to do so, both of you are disqualified.
  
4. After a brief search you find a ball that might be yours. The ball is resting against a pinecone that will make it difficult to play the shot and, if moved, could cause the ball to move. The pinecone obscures the spot on the ball where your identification mark would be. Rather than marking and lifting the ball to identify it, you see that lifting the pinecone will be to your advantage so you move the pinecone instead of lifting the ball. The ball moves and it turns out to be your ball. The ruling is:
  - a. You may identify your ball in this case only by marking its spot and lifting it to ensure that the pinecone remains a challenge in playing your next stroke, so you get one penalty stroke for causing your ball to move and the ball must be replaced, but you are not required to replace the pinecone.
  - b. You get no penalty so long as you replace the pinecone and the ball.
  - c. You get no penalty so long as you replace the ball but are not required to replace the pinecone.
  - d. You are disqualified under Rule 1.2 (serious misconduct) for circumventing the Rules.

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5. In stroke play, your ball in the general area comes to rest on a bundle of television cables (movable obstructions). You measure your one club-length relief area from the ball and drop a new ball just inside this, without moving the cables. The ball comes to rest in the relief area but in a position where your heels will be on the bundle of cables. Since standing on the cables gives you a level stance, you take a stance on the cables rather than moving them and you play the ball onto the green. How many penalty strokes do you get?
  - a. 0
  - b. 1
  - c. 2
  - d. 4
  
6. Your ball comes to rest in a lie in the general area where you are unable to identify it without lifting the ball, so you mark the spot of the ball and lift it. While the ball is lifted, a player in your group (Player A) asks you to move the ball-marker because it might interfere with the play of another player in the group (Player B) who is next to play. Which one of the following is true?
  - a. You may move your ball-marker out of the way only if the player who will play next (Player B) asks you to.
  - b. You may move your ball-marker out of the way anytime you think it might interfere with the player who will be playing next (Player B) even if he or she hasn't asked you to do so.
  - c. You may move your ball-marker out of the way only if you think it might help the other player (Player B).
  - d. Since your ball was in the general area, you are not allowed to move your ball-marker out of the way.
  
7. Your ball is near a bush and next to a large spider web, some of which is attached to your ball. A live spider is on part of the web directly on top of the ball. Which one of the following is true?
  - a. You may not remove any part of the web if doing so would improve conditions affecting the stroke.
  - b. You may remove only the part of the web that is not sticking to your ball.
  - c. You may take reasonable actions to cause the spider to move off your ball but will get a penalty if you touch the spider while it is on your ball.
  - d. You may remove any part or all of the web and may remove the spider.
  
8. Before your second shot in stroke play, you take lateral relief from a red penalty area. The relief area where the ball must be dropped is a sandy area covered with pine straw. You use your hand to remove pine straw from the relief area, being careful not to move sand in the process. Despite being cautious, you also move sand in the process. You then drop your ball in the right way and it comes to rest in the relief area where the sand was moved. You make three more strokes to complete the hole. What is your score for the hole?
  - a. 4
  - b. 5
  - c. 6
  - d. 7

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9. Your ball comes to rest in thick rough over the green where you are faced with a difficult chip down a steep slope toward a front hole location. You make a stroke and your ball comes to rest just on the green where you are left with a long putt down the slope toward the hole. There is a bunker rake just off the green where it could serve as a backstop and keep your ball from rolling into a bunker. Another player in your group has a short chip from just off the green and that rake is on his line of play. He begins to move it, but you ask that it be left in position until you putt. The other player leaves it there and you make your next stroke. Your putt misses the hole, rolls off the putting green and strikes the rake, which keeps the ball from rolling into the bunker. Which one of the following is correct?
- There is no penalty to either player.
  - You get the general penalty for asking that the rake be left in a position to affect your next stroke, but the other player gets no penalty for complying with your request.
  - Both players get the general penalty for leaving the rake in place as a backstop.
  - Both players are disqualified for agreeing to waive the Rules.