

**USGA**  
**SHORT COURSE**

The Front Nine: Dropping a Ball

1. As you are attempting to drop a ball correctly in the relief area, the ball accidentally hits the tee you placed in the ground to indicate the nearest point of complete relief. The ball strikes the tee before it hits the ground, but the dropped ball remains in the relief area. You play the ball as it lies. How many penalty strokes do you get, if any?
  - a. 0
  - b. 1
  - c. 2
  
2. In taking relief from a cart path (immovable obstruction), you pick up your ball and drop it within the relief area. The ball rolls and comes to rest outside of the relief area, so you pick it up to drop a second time and notice a scuff on the ball, which was probably caused when your shot hit the path. Although the ball is not cut or cracked, you decide to get another ball from your bag. You drop the new ball in the right way and it comes to rest in the relief area. Which one of the following is correct?
  - a. You are not allowed to use a substituted ball because the original ball was not cut or cracked. The second drop does not count and you must drop the original ball a second time to avoid penalty.
  - b. You are not allowed to use a substituted ball because the original ball was not cut or cracked. You must mark the location of the substituted ball, lift it, and place the original ball on that spot.
  - c. You have proceeded correctly and must continue with the substituted ball.
  - d. You would have been allowed to substitute a ball before dropping the first time, but once a ball is dropped, you must continue with that ball for any further drops. If you play the substituted ball, you get the general penalty.
  
3. True or False: If your caddie drops a ball for you in taking relief and drops the ball from knee height, the ball has been dropped in the “right way” according to Rule 14.3b.
  - a. True
  - b. False

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4. You are dropping your ball when taking embedded ball relief in the fairway. The dropped ball hits your club that you left on the ground in the relief area and the ball comes to rest in the relief area. Which one of the following is false?
  - a. If the ball accidentally hit your club before first hitting the ground in the relief area, you must drop again, and this drop does not count as one of the two drops required before a ball must be placed under Rule 14.3c(2).
  - b. If the ball hit the ground in the relief area and then accidentally hit your club, you must drop again, and this drop does not count as one of the two drops required before a ball must be placed under Rule 14.3c(2).
  - c. If the ball hit the ground in the relief area and then hit your club that you left in position to keep the ball from rolling into a divot hole within the relief area, you get the general penalty for deliberately deflecting the ball and this drop does not count as one of the two drops required before a ball must be placed under Rule 14.3c(2).
  
5. In stroke play, with no Local Rules in effect, your ball comes to rest in the general area close to a sprinkler head that interferes with your area of intended stance. The sprinkler head is in the fringe, two feet from the putting green. Which one of the following is true about taking free relief from the sprinkler head?
  - a. If part of your one club-length relief area includes the putting green, you may place a ball in the relief area on the putting green.
  - b. If part of your one club-length relief area includes the putting green, you may drop a ball in the relief area on the putting green.
  - c. If you drop a ball in the relief area that first hits the ground in the fringe and it rolls and comes to rest on the putting green in the relief area and within one club-length of and not nearer the hole than the nearest point of complete relief, you may play the ball from there without penalty.
  - d. If you drop a ball in the relief area that first hits the ground in the fringe and it rolls and comes to rest on the putting green in the relief area and within one club-length of and not nearer the hole than the nearest point of complete relief, you must drop a second time.
  
6. Which one of the following statements is true about dropping a ball in the “right way” according to Rule 14.3b?
  - a. You are not required to drop the ball from a standing position.
  - b. You may spin or roll the ball, so long as it hits the ground in the relief area and stays in the relief area.
  - c. You cannot stand inside the relief area when dropping the ball.

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7. You are taking relief from a red penalty area and want to use Rule 17.1d(3) – Lateral Relief. You drop a ball from knee height and it lands in the relief area, but rolls and comes to rest in the same penalty area. You drop a second time from knee height and the ball lands just outside the relief area and comes to rest inside it. Knowing you get one penalty stroke for taking relief from the penalty area, what must you do to avoid further penalty?
  - a. Play the ball from where it came to rest after the second drop.
  - b. Place a ball at the point it first touched the ground on the first drop.
  - c. Drop a ball again in the relief area. If it comes to rest in the relief area, play it from there, if not, place it where it first hit the ground on the third drop.
  - d. Drop a ball again, using any of the other options available under Rule 17.1d – Relief for Ball in Penalty Area.
  
8. True or False: When you are required or allowed to take stroke-and-distance relief, your relief area may include more than one area of the course.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
9. You find your ball in a bush left of the fairway near a bunker. You decide to take lateral relief under the unplayable ball Rule. To get as far away from the bush as possible, you try to drop on the grass near the bunker. When attempting to drop a ball in the grass, it first touches sand in the bunker and embeds. You measure and find that the ball in the bunker is within two club-lengths of and no closer to the hole than where the ball was in the bush. Which one of the following is correct?
  - a. The drop does not count and you must drop again. The bunker is not part of the relief area when taking lateral relief under the unplayable ball Rule for a ball in the general area.
  - b. Although part of the relief area was in the bunker, this drop does not count and you must drop again because your intent was to drop in the general area and not in the bunker.
  - c. You must continue with the ball dropped in the bunker.
  - d. You have the option of playing the ball as it lies in the bunker or taking embedded ball relief.