

INTERCOLLEGIATE ADVANCED EXERCISE RULES OF GOLF 2023

There are two separate exercises in this series. One is BASIC with 50 questions and the other is ADVANCED with 100 questions. Each covers all the Rules of Golf except those dealing exclusively with match play or other forms of play. BASIC is an introduction to the Rules and is intended for the intercollegiate player who is not yet proficient in the Rules. It focuses on the fundamentals in a way that covers many of the infractions that commonly occur in intercollegiate tournament golf. ADVANCED is intended for those players (and coaches) who want more than a basic understanding of the Rules and covers more complex situations including numerous real ones that have recently occurred in stroke play intercollegiate events. Each of these exercises is designed more to be completed with references rather than as an exam to be taken and scored but each exercise should serve both purposes. The questions in both of these exercises suppose situations in stroke play with both individual and team competition, that is, the form of play commonly found in intercollegiate competition. The level of difficulty of the questions in BASIC is such that the answers may be quickly found in the USGA Rules of Golf booklet. ADVANCED questions are of moderate difficulty and most exercise takers will require reference to other sources on the Rules of Golf. Both exercises should provide motivation for the player to learn why there was a lack of understanding of the principles involved in those questions that were missed. The suggestion for preparation of these exercises originated in 1999 with Coach Frank Landrey of Liberty University, who saw the need to assist the intercollegiate player in search of a better game where knowledge of the Rules of Golf can be an important contributor to lower scores. Strong support for both these exercises and recent revisions also came from the late Coach Rod Myers of Duke University, a firm believer of playing by the Rules. The original exercise was completed in January 2000 and is now updated to the New Rules of Golf for 2023.

Exercise instructions: All questions consider stroke play only (no match play) as it normally occurs in intercollegiate competitions played under the USGA Rules of Golf. While there are three choices for the answer to each question, there is only one correct answer. Careful reading of both the question and the answer are essential to selecting that single correct answer. Every word means what it says; do not read into a question something that is not there. When the question says to select a FALSE answer, be sure to identify the two choices that are TRUE in to check your answer. If the question asks for the number of strokes taken or the player's score for the hole, make a sketch of the situation, counting actual strokes carefully and keeping a separate count of the penalties that the player gets. Be certain of the location of the ball, e.g., on the fringe of a putting green vs. on a putting green, or, in a fairway vs. in a bunker, or, in a penalty area (either red stakes or yellow stakes). The answers in bold print immediately follow the question.

1. In determining the nearest point of complete relief from interference by a cart path, a player is unable physically to determine the nearest point of complete relief because that point is within a thick bush. What is the proper procedure for the player to follow if they elect to take relief?

- A. The nearest point of complete relief that they can reach with a selected club that is nearest to the bush must be determined and they must drop the ball in the relief area within one club-length of that point not nearer the hole than the point.
- B. The nearest point of complete relief on the opposite side of the cart path must be estimated and they must drop the ball in the relief area within one club-length of that point not nearer the hole than the point.
- C. The nearest point of complete relief within the bush must be estimated and they must drop the ball in the relief area within one club-length of the estimated point not nearer the hole than the point.

C

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2. A gust of wind causes a player's ball to roll about six inches from the fringe onto the putting green. A referee incorrectly advises the player to replace the ball on the original spot. The player does so and puts the ball onto the putting green. A coach immediately advises a committee member of the mistake. What is the ruling?

- A. The stroke played after the incorrect ruling must stand.
- B. The Committee should require the player to correct the mistake. The stroke made after the wrong ruling does not count.
- C. The Committee should require the player to correct the mistake. The stroke made after the wrong ruling does not count if the player has not completed the hole.

A

3. A player's ball in motion after a stroke on the putting green is deflected by another player's ball played from a bunker. What is the ruling?

- A. The player's stroke does not count and the original ball or another ball must be placed on the original spot.
- B. The player's stroke counts and the ball must be played as it lies.
- C. In fairness, both strokes do not count and are replayed without penalty.

A

4. A player's ball lies covered by sand in a bunker. In searching, the player moves sand covering the ball before finding it and in the process moves the ball. Before playing the ball, the player replaces the ball on its original spot without replacing the sand. The player makes a stroke at the ball. Which is correct?

- A. There is no penalty; the player has not breached the Rules.
- B. There is a penalty of one stroke for moving the ball.
- C. The player gets the general penalty for playing the ball without having re-created the original lie.

C

5. A player strikes their tee shot into a group of trees in the general area. After a brief search, the player finds the ball. The player lifts the ball to see if it is cut or cracked, which it is not, following all the required procedures of the applicable Rule. Before replacing the ball, the player removes a small stone against which the ball was resting. If the stone was lifted when the ball was at rest, the stone would likely have caused the ball to move. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty.
- B. There is a penalty of one stroke.
- C. There is a penalty of two strokes.

B

6. In starting a hole, player moves a tee-marker and then makes their stroke from the teeing area. What is the ruling?

- A. If the player improved the conditions affecting the stroke by moving a tee-marker before playing from the teeing area, they get the general penalty
- B. There is no penalty regardless of the reason for moving the tee-marker.
- C. The player is disqualified.

A

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7. A player's ball at rest is moved while marking its position to lift it for identification. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty.
- B. There is no penalty if the movement is accidental.
- C. There is a penalty of one stroke.

B

8. Before playing a ball in a bunker, a player takes a firm stance in another part of the bunker away from where their ball lies and makes several practice swings with a club not touching the sand. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty unless their ball was to return to the area where the stance was taken for the practice swings.
- B. There is no penalty because the club did not touch sand.
- C. There is a penalty of two strokes for testing the condition of the hazard.

B

9. Which of the following is incorrect?

- A. Before the start of a round, as an exception to the Rules, a player may attach lead tape to a clubhead for the purpose of adjusting the weight of the club.
- B. Lead tape applied to a clubhead before a round that becomes damaged by throwing or abusing the club during the round may be replaced during the round.
- C. Lead tape applied to a clubhead before a round that becomes detached in making a stroke during the round may be replaced during the round.

B

10. A player's ball strikes a tree and embeds in its own pitch-mark in the light rough. The player lifts and drops the ball properly under the embedded ball Rule. Before the ball reaches the ground, it comes to rest in a small branch of the tree from which the ball is played. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty.
- B. There is a penalty of one stroke.
- C. There is a penalty of two strokes.

A

11. A player's ball lies in a penalty area. Before taking a stance to play the ball, the player makes a practice swing, touching the ground with a club that incidentally removes loose impediments near the ball. The player also breaks the branch of a small shrub with a hand, improving the area of the intended swing. What is the ruling?

- A. There is a total penalty of six strokes.
- B. There is a total penalty of four strokes.
- C. There is a total penalty of two strokes.

C

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12. A player's ball lies near a very large stone that intervenes on the line of play but does not interfere with the stance or the area of the intended swing. The player enlists the help of several other players, moves the stone and plays the ball as it lies. The stone was not solidly embedded. What is the ruling?

- A. There is a penalty of two strokes.
- B. There is a penalty of one stroke.
- C. There is no penalty.

C

13. A player removes the flagstick and places it on the putting green near the hole. After the player puts, another player sees that the player's ball in motion might strike the unattended flagstick. The other player picks up the flagstick before the ball reaches it, allowing the ball to roll beyond where the removed flagstick had been placed. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty.
- B. The other player gets a penalty of two strokes.
- C. The player gets a penalty of two strokes.

A

14. Uncertain whether their ball lies in a hole made by an animal, a player decides that they will play a second ball and chooses to score with that ball. The player plays the original ball as it lies onto the putting green; the second ball is played according to the abnormal ground conditions Rule but is struck into a penalty area. The player picks up the second ball after several strokes in the penalty area, scores six with the original ball, completes the round, and reports to the Committee. The Committee determines that the original ball lay in a hole made by an animal and that the player was allowed to take relief. What does the player score for the hole?

- A. 6.
- B. 8.
- C. The player is disqualified.

C

15. By mistake, A plays B's ball that lay in a grass part of the general area, altering the original lie. Neither the original lie nor the spot where the ball lay is known. B's original ball is not recoverable. What is the ruling?

- A. A ball must be dropped within one club-length from the original spot but not nearer the hole. The original spot must be estimated.
- B. A ball must be placed on the nearest spot in the general area with a lie most similar to the original lie that is within one club-length from its original spot but not nearer the hole. Both the original spot and the original lie must be estimated.
- C. Both the original spot and original lie must be known for the player to be allowed relief.

B

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16. Having struck their tee shot in the direction of some trees bordering a yellow penalty area, a player briefly searches for the ball in the penalty area but does not find it.

Without knowledge or virtual certainty that the ball lies in the penalty area, the player drops a ball behind the penalty area (about 55-yards forward of the teeing area) according to the yellow penalty area Rule and plays it. The original ball is then found inside the penalty area within three minutes of beginning search. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty; the original ball remains the ball in play.
- B. There is a penalty of one stroke according to the lost ball Rule and an additional penalty of two strokes for a breach of that Rule; the original ball is lost and the player must continue with the ball dropped under the penalty area Rule.
- C. There is a penalty of one stroke according to the lost ball Rule and an additional penalty of two strokes for a serious breach of that Rule. The player must abandon both balls previously played, return to the teeing area and put a ball into play.

C

17. In a 54-hole event, a player returns a scorecard for the third-round that is incorrect because they got a penalty that they were unaware of at the time on the 18th hole. The player's marker, another player, was aware of the penalty and knew the player's score for the 18th hole was incorrect, but nevertheless certified the scorecard. The Committee was notified of the player's mistake by the player when they discovered it after the competition has closed. What is the ruling?

- A. The player and marker are disqualified.
- B. A penalty must not be added after the competition has closed when the player did not know about it before the competition closed. Therefore, the player's score for the third-round stands. The marker is disqualified.
- C. The Committee must revise the player's score for the 18th hole without penalty to the player. The standing for the competition must also be revised as necessary.

B

18. Which of the following is allowed during a round provided that play is not unreasonably delayed?

- A. During the play of a hole, making a practice stroke at a plastic ball.
- B. Between the play of two holes, hitting a range ball out of a bunker, next to the putting green of the hole just played, back to the practice area.
- C. During the play of a hole, hitting a ball 50-yards back to another player, done solely as a courtesy.

C

19. A player plays their ball from a bunker and the ball comes to rest in another bunker on the other side of the putting green. Before leaving the first bunker, the player smoothes the footprints that they just made. After playing out of the second bunker, the player's ball came to rest in the first bunker. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty.
- B. There is a penalty of two strokes if the ball comes to rest in the smoothed area.
- C. There is a penalty of two strokes for testing the condition of the first bunker.

A

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20. A club-length in the Rules is defined as the length of the longest club of the 14 (or fewer) clubs the player has during the round, other than a putter. In the general area in taking free relief from temporary water according to the abnormal course conditions Rule (16.1b), a player borrows a club for measuring from another player. They measure the size of the relief area with the borrowed club, drops a ball in the relief area and plays it from the relief area. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty.
- B. The player gets the general penalty as they were not allowed to borrow a club.
- C. The player gets a penalty unless both the spot the ball was dropped on and the spot the ball was played from could have been reached by using one of the player's own clubs other than their putter.

C

21. Without the player's authority, another player removes the flagstick from the hole and the player's ball that was resting against the flagstick with part of the ball below the surface of the putting green moves away from the hole. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty to anyone; the ball must be played as it lies away from the hole.
- B. The ball was holed as it lay against the flagstick, the player scores with their last stroke and there is no penalty to anyone.
- C. The other player gets the general penalty and the ball must be replaced against the flagstick; the player may then move or remove the flagstick.

B

22. A player's ball is played into a red penalty area. Without searching for the original ball, the player uses reasonable judgment to determine the point where the ball last crossed the edge of the red penalty area. Using that point for reference, the player drops a ball under penalty of one stroke according to the red penalty area Rule. Before the dropped ball is played, the player's coach points out the location of the original ball, which crossed the edge nearly 25-yards forward of where the player estimated. The player abandons the dropped ball, drops the original ball in the correct place and plays it. What is the ruling?

- A. The player gets a penalty of one stroke under the red penalty area Rule.
- B. The player gets a total penalty of three strokes.
- C. The player is disqualified.

A

23. Before the Committee suspends play because of bad weather, a player searches for their ball for two minutes. Which of the following is correct?

- A. The player may not continue to search during the suspension.
- B. The player may continue to search during the suspension; the allowed total of three minutes to search for their ball does not apply during a suspension.
- C. The player may continue to search during the suspension, but they were still only allowed a total of three minutes to search for their ball.

C

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24. Another player purposely steps on a player's line of play on the putting green with the intention of damaging it. This action results in a deep footprint or spike mark. What is the ruling?

- A. The other player gets a penalty of two strokes; the player may restore the line to its previous condition.
- B. The other player gets a penalty of two strokes; only a Committee Member may restore the line to its previous condition; if a Committee member is not available within a reasonable time the player may do so.
- C. There is no penalty to anyone; the player may restore the line to its previous condition.

A

25. A player's ball lies in the general area in heavy grass outside an area marked as ground under repair (GUR) but their stance for a reasonable stroke with their wedge is in the GUR. The player takes relief and the ball comes to rest in a position where the GUR does not interfere with the stance when using the wedge. However, the lie of the ball is such that the player can reasonably use a 3-wood but their stance would be in the GUR. What is the ruling?

- A. The player has a new situation and is allowed relief according to the ground under repair Rule for the stroke with the 3-wood.
- B. The player must play the ball as it lies.
- C. The player must re-drop the ball without penalty as they continue to have interference.

A

26. Unaware that their ball was in a small area of ground under repair, the player chips it onto the putting green. Then, noticing the ground under repair marking, the player lifts the ball, drops it according to the ground under repair Rule and plays it. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty and the ball must be played as it lies.
- B. The player gets the general penalty of two strokes and the ball must be played as it lies.
- C. There is a penalty of two strokes and the ball must be replaced where it originally lay on the putting green before he lifted it to take ground under repair relief.

B

27. The ball of A lies near and to the side of the ball of B in the fairway. It is A's turn to play and A asks that the ball of B be lifted because it catches A's eye, constituting mental interference. What is the ruling?

- A. B may choose to lift the ball or leave it in place.
- B. The ball may not be lifted for mental interference.
- C. B must lift the ball or play first.

C

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28. As the tee shot was struck in the direction of trees and tall grass, a player plays a provisional ball. Walking toward the area where the original ball might be lost, the player meets their coach who tells the player that the area of trees and tall grass is marked as a penalty area and questions why the second ball was played from the teeing area. The player tells the coach that the penalty area markings were not visible from the teeing area and that the second ball was a provisional ball for a ball lost outside a penalty area. The original ball is not found. What is the ruling?

- A. The player is not allowed to play a provisional ball in this situation; thus, the second ball from the teeing area becomes the ball in play under penalty of stroke and distance.
- B. If there is knowledge or virtual certainty that the ball is lost in the penalty area, the player must abandon the provisional ball and may take relief under the penalty area Rule.
- C. If there is not knowledge or virtual certainty that the ball is lost in the penalty area, he must abandon the provisional ball, return to the teeing area and put a ball into play under the lost ball Rule.

B

29. A yellow penalty area lies between the player's ball and the putting green. The player plays the ball over both the penalty area and the putting green into a bunker. Then, the player plays the ball back over the putting green into the penalty area where it is not playable. Which of the following is not correct?

- A. The player may drop a ball according to the lateral relief option of the penalty area Rule.
- B. The player may drop a ball according to the back-on-the-line relief option of the penalty area Rule.
- C. The player may drop a ball in the bunker in a reference area using the point where the previous stroke was made as the reference point (See Rule 14.6).

A

30. A player's ball comes to rest in an area marked as ground under repair from which play is prohibited under penalty of two strokes. Uncertain of the proper procedure to follow, the player decides that they will play a second ball following the procedures of the ground under repair Rule and that they choose to count the original ball if the Rules permit. The player plays the original ball as it lies inside the area of ground under repair. The player then drops the second ball in the relief area as determined by the ground under repair Rule. The ball comes to rest less than one club-length outside the relief area but not nearer the hole and plays it from there. The player properly reports to the Committee following their round. What is the ruling?

- A. The score with the second ball counts; there is no penalty.
- B. The score with the original ball counts with a penalty of two strokes.
- C. The score with the second ball counts with a penalty of two strokes.

B

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31. A player's ball comes to rest inside a small penalty area near a live alligator that precludes playing the ball as it lies. There is no point inside the penalty area that is not dangerous and not nearer the hole than where the ball lies. What is the ruling?

- A. The player may take relief, without penalty, outside the penalty area, keeping the spot where the ball lies between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped.
- B. The player may drop a ball, without penalty, on the nearest spot within the penalty area that is not dangerous even if this is nearer the hole than where the original ball lies.
- C. The player must take relief under any of the available options of the penalty area Rule.

C

32. Because of heavy rain, a player refuses to start at the appointed time and is disqualified. A second player picks up because of the rain after completing nine holes of the scheduled first 18-hole round of a 54-hole event. The second player is also disqualified. Later in the day, the Committee cancels the first round because the course is unplayable and reschedules it for the next day along with the second round. Each of the players asks that they be allowed to play the next day without penalty. What is the ruling?

- A. All penalties in the first round are cancelled and both players may play the next day.
- B. The first player is disqualified; the second player may play the next day.
- C. The second player is disqualified; the first player may play the next day.

A

33. In which of the following does the player not get a penalty?

- A. Holing a short putt by using a motion similar to that of a shot in billiards using the bottom of the clubhead.
- B. Playing a right-handed stroke with the back of a left-handed club.
- C. Holing a short putt using the handle end of a putter.

B

34. Before making their first putt, a player notices that the hole is damaged by natural wear of the hole. What is the ruling?

- A. If the player believes that their play will be affected, they may repair any damage to the hole without penalty.
- B. Damage to the putting green other than ball-marks may only be repaired by a Committee member. The player should stop play and request assistance from a Committee member.
- C. The player must continue play without repairing the hole.

C

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35. A player's ball lies in some bushes and they fairly take their stance. With the intention of making a stroke, the player starts a backswing. Before reaching the top of the backswing, the club strikes and breaks a small branch that results in an improvement to the area of the intended swing, whereupon the player discontinues the backswing. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty because the player fairly took their stance.
- B. There is no penalty because the branch was broken during backswing for the stroke.
- C. The player gets the general penalty.

C

36. A player plays a provisional ball, searches for the original ball for about two minutes and walks forward to the hole to play the provisional ball that is in a poor lie. The player deems it unplayable and drops it according to the unplayable ball Rule. Before the player plays the dropped ball and within the three-minute search period, another player finds the original ball and lifts it without the player's authority believing that the player was intent on playing the provisional ball. What is the ruling?

- A. When the provisional ball was deemed unplayable and dropped closer to the hole than where the original ball was found, it became the ball in play.
- B. When the provisional ball was deemed unplayable and dropped closer to the hole than where the original ball was estimated to be, it became the ball in play.
- C. Since the original ball was found within three minutes of search and the player had not played the provisional ball from a spot nearer the hole than where the original ball was estimated to be, the original ball remained the ball in play and must be replaced without penalty to anyone; the provisional ball must be abandoned.

C

37. After searching for their tee shot for nearly two minutes, a player returns to the teeing area and tees another ball preparing to play under the lost ball Rule. Before the player can play the ball, a coach finds a ball within the three-minute search period that is believed to be the player's ball. Neither the coach nor the player is able to identify it before the search period has elapsed. What is the ruling?

- A. The player is allowed a reasonable time to get to the ball and to identify it; if the player identifies the ball as theirs, it is not a "lost ball" even though the identification takes place after the three-minute search period has elapsed.
- B. Since the player has teed another ball under the lost ball Rule, the original ball is lost under penalty of stroke and distance; the original ball must be abandoned and the teed ball played.
- C. If the player is unable to identify the ball before the three-minute search period has elapsed, the original ball is lost and the player must continue play under the lost ball Rule.

A

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38. In the general area, a gust of wind blows a small branch of a tree into the player's ball at rest, causing the ball to move a small distance from where it lay in the fairway into the rough. What is the ruling?

- A. The ball must be played as it lies in the rough as wind is a natural force.
- B. The ball must be replaced on its original spot without penalty to the player.
- C. The ball must be dropped as near as possible to the original spot in the fairway.

B

39. During the 3rd hole of the first round of a 72-hole competition, a player's ball embeds in the general area after a stroke. The player lifts and drops the ball according to the embedded ball Rule. After it strikes the ground in the required relief area, it rolls into and comes to rest in a penalty area. Not knowing that they are required to re-drop the ball, the player plays it as it lies in the penalty area and completes the round.

During the second round of the competition, another player questions the procedure that the player followed during the first round and the Committee is consulted. What is the ruling?

- A. The Committee will revise the player's score for the 3rd hole of the first round by adding a two-stroke penalty that should have been included in the score for that hole under the Rules for playing from a wrong place.
- B. There is no penalty; although the player took relief incorrectly during the first round of the competition, a penalty may not be assessed during the second round unless the player knew that they were in violation of the Rules.
- C. The player is disqualified for an incorrect scorecard for the first round.

A

40. Thinking they have found their original ball buried in deep rough, a player by mistake lifts the ball, which is a stray ball, and drops it within two club-lengths of where it lay according to the unplayable ball Rule. The player plays the stray ball and then discovers the original ball nearby within the three-minute search period. The player's coach tells the player that they must play the original ball since it was found within the three-minute search period. What is the ruling?

- A. The player gets a penalty of two strokes for playing a wrong ball; the stray ball must be abandoned and the original ball remains the ball in play because it was found with the three-minute search period.
- B. The stray ball is a ball substituted without authority for the original ball and becomes the ball in play with a penalty of two strokes; the original ball must be abandoned.
- C. The player gets a penalty of one stroke under the lost ball Rule and an additional penalty of two strokes under that Rule for playing from a wrong place; if the breach was a serious one, the player must correct the mistake or be disqualified.

C

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41. A player blades a short chip shot from the front fringe of the putting green and, after a three-minute search period, the ball (ball A) is lost in a soft, mushy area just over the putting green. The player returns to the front fringe and drops a ball (ball B) under the lost ball Rule with a penalty of one stroke. After the player plays it onto the putting green, a team member points out that the original ball (ball A) was lost in an area that is marked as ground under repair. The player lifts ball B from the putting green, returns to the soft, mushy area, drops another ball (ball C) according to the ball lost in ground under repair Rule and plays it onto the putting green. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty.
- B. Ball C was incorrectly substituted and played from a wrong place but remains in play on the putting green; there is a total penalty of three strokes, including the penalty for lost ball.
- C. Ball C was incorrectly substituted and played from a wrong place; the player must correct their mistake by replacing ball B on the spot from which it was lifted, getting only the penalty for lost ball.

B

42. A player's ball lies in a bunker. The player makes a stroke and the ball is deflected by the bunker lip coming to rest on their golf bag outside the bunker. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty; the ball may be played as it lies on the golf bag or the player may take free relief under the movable obstruction Rule (15.2a(2)).
- B. There is no penalty; the player must not play the ball as it lies on the golf bag. The player must take free relief under the movable obstruction Rule (15.2a(2)).
- C. There is penalty of one stroke; the player must not play the ball as it lies on the golf bag. The player must take free relief under the movable obstruction Rule (15.2a(2)).

A

43. A player is searching for their ball that is thought to lie in a penalty area. The player probes for it in water with a club and accidentally moves it with their foot from where it lay in long grass. As the player is picking the ball up to identify it, they move it again. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty for moving the ball while searching in the penalty area.
- B. There is a penalty of one stroke for moving the ball while searching in the penalty area.
- C. There is a total penalty of two strokes for moving the ball twice.

A

44. A club is damaged during a round by making a practice swing; which is not correct?

- A. It may be repaired without unreasonably delaying play.
- B. It may not be replaced with any club unless the club is not conforming to the Rules
- C. It may be used in its damaged state for the remainder of the round.

B

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45. In a Local Rule for a team event, the Committee has authorized each team to appoint the team captain as an advice giver who may give advice to members of that team. During a round, a player on the team is in a group playing with the team captain. Before playing a tee shot on a par-3 hole, a player asks the team captain what club others have been using from the teeing area. The team captain responds, identifying the club other have been using. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty.
- B. The team captain gets the general penalty but there is no penalty to the player who asked for advice.
- C. Both the player who asked for advice and the team captain get the general penalty.

C

46. Immediately before a suspension of play, a player strikes a tee shot onto the fringe of the putting green of a par-3 hole. The ball was at rest and visible to all the players in the group. After resumption of play, the ball was found in a bunker to the rear of the putting green. What is the ruling?

- A. The original ball must be played as it lies in the bunker.
- B. The original ball must be lifted and dropped, without penalty, as near as possible to the spot from which it was moved but not in a penalty area or on the putting green.
- C. The spot where the original ball lay must be estimated and either the original ball or a substituted ball must be placed, without penalty, on the estimated spot.

C

47. A group of players find that one tee-marker is missing from the teeing area of a hole. They estimate the dimensions of the teeing area based on the remaining marker, play from the estimated teeing area, complete the round, and return their scorecards. What is the ruling?

- A. If the Committee is satisfied that the players used reasonable judgment in making an accurate estimation of the location of the teeing area edges, the players' reasonable judgment will be accepted by the Committee, even if later shown to be wrong.
- B. Each player gets a penalty of two strokes for not stopping play and getting help from the Committee.
- C. The players are disqualified.

A

48. In the general area, after accidentally stepping on and embedding their ball in the ground (not sand) during search, the player replaced the ball by placing it on the nearest spot with a lie most similar to the original lie (which was estimated) that is within one club-length from its original spot (which was estimated), not nearer the hole and in the general area and plays it. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty.
- B. There is a penalty of one stroke.
- C. There is a penalty of two strokes.

A

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49. A lifts their ball on the putting green and sets it aside on the putting green. B makes a stroke from the putting green and their ball strikes and is deflected by A's ball. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty to either player. A must replace their ball on the spot from which it was lifted. B's stroke does not count and B's original ball or another ball must be replaced on its original spot.
- B. B gets a penalty of two strokes. A must replace their ball on the spot from which it was lifted and B must play their ball as it lies.
- C. There is no penalty to either player. A must replace their ball on the spot from which it was lifted and B's ball is played as it lies.

A

Q49 is a difficult one and here is how to get to the correct answer.

First, we consider if there is a penalty.

- The Definition of In Play that says when the Rules refer to a ball at rest or in motion, this means a ball that is in play. We interpret that as meaning if ball A is not in play, the Rule governing a ball at rest doesn't apply to ball A.
- Rule 11.1a says if a player's ball in motion accidentally hits any outside influence, there is no penalty to any player. (In the question above, ball A is an outside influence)
- So we start out saying that there is no penalty but we have to consider Rule 11.1b(2).
- The Rule 11.1b(2) applies to a movable obstruction (A's ball). Since A's ball has been lifted and not replaced it is not "in Play". The definition of "in Play" says that when the Rules refer to a "ball at rest" it means a ball "in Play" so the statement that the Rule does not apply to a "ball at rest" does not apply.

Now we consider what to do about the two balls involved.

- The question above says B's ball played from the putting green accidentally hit A's ball (a movable obstruction) on the putting green. Therefore Rule 11.2b(2) applies and accordingly, B's stroke does not count and B must replay the stroke. Since A's ball was not in play, A must replace their ball.

50. Which of the following is incorrect?

- A. Spider webs are loose impediments even though they are attached to another object.
- B. Dew, frost and water are not loose impediments.
- C. Sand and loose soil are loose impediments on the putting green.

C

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51. A player removes a boundary object that improves conditions affecting their stroke but replaces the object before making the stroke. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty.
- B. The player gets the general penalty.
- C. The player is disqualified.

A

52. A player's ball lies in a bunker in temporary water. The player takes relief from the abnormal course conditions and drops a ball in the bunker in the relief area associated with the reference point of the nearest point of complete relief (Rule 16.1c(1)). Before playing the dropped ball, the player decides that they would have been better off to take relief under the penalty option (Rule 16.1c(2)) that requires dropping the ball under penalty of one stroke outside the bunker (back-on-the-line). What is the ruling?

- A. The player may take relief under the penalty relief option of the abnormal course conditions Rule (back-on-the-line).
- B. The player's only option is to take stroke-and-distance relief (Rule 18.1).
- C. The player may not take relief under the penalty relief option of the abnormal course conditions Rule (back-on-the-line).

C

53. At the 3rd hole of the first round of a 54-hole event, a player plays a wrong ball from a bunker and discovers their mistake after playing it again outside the bunker. The player corrects their error by playing the original ball, reports the facts to a Committee member and is told by mistake that there is no penalty because the wrong ball was initially played from a bunker. The player returns the scorecard without a penalty on the 3rd hole. During the second round, the Committee retrospectively adds two penalty strokes to the first-round score. At the request of the team coach, the Committee reviews its decision. What is the ruling?

- A. There should be no penalty; the decision is reversed and the score returned by the player on the scorecard stands.
- B. The decision to add the two penalty strokes is sustained.
- C. The player is disqualified for a scorecard violation.

B

54. A 54-hole event was scheduled for 18-holes on each of Thursday, Friday and Saturday on the same course. After completion of Thursday's round, severe weather set in and the second round was cancelled on Friday morning. On Friday afternoon, conditions improved and several players played a few holes on the course that day. What is the ruling?

- A. Each of the players is disqualified for practising on the competition course between rounds.
- B. Each player gets a penalty of two strokes for practising on the competition course between rounds.
- C. The prohibition on practising on the course before a round only applies to the day of a competition. There is no penalty

C

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55. A player tops their approach shot to a putting green. When reaching the ball on the putting green, the player marks its position, lifts it and sees that it is cut. The player then tosses it into a deep-water penalty area, telling the marker that it was cut and substitutes a new ball. The marker was not given an opportunity to examine the damaged ball. The player completes the round with the new ball. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty.
- B. There is a penalty of one stroke.
- C. There is a penalty of two strokes

A

56. A series of telephone poles, all of which lie on the course, are supported by guy wires, all of which are out of bounds. One of the guy wires interferes with a player's swing at their ball in play. The player lifts the ball, determines the nearest point of complete relief from interference by the guy wire and drops it according to the obstruction Rule in a relief area that results in relief from the guy wire. The player plays the ball. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty.
- B. There is a penalty of two strokes.
- C. He is disqualified.

B

57. During play of a hole, a player's ball lies on the fringe of a wrong green where they find that their stance for the stroke is on the wrong green. The player determines the proper relief area where there is complete relief from all interference by the wrong green. The player lifts the ball and drops it within the relief area where it comes to rest. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty.
- B. There is a penalty of two strokes.
- C. The player is disqualified

A

58. Which of the following damage to the putting green may the player not repair?

- A. Old hole plugs, turf plugs, and indentations from maintenance vehicles.
- B. Aeration holes and grooves from vertical mowing.
- C. Animal tracks, hoof indentations and embedded objects (stones or acorns).

B

59. A player returns a scorecard with a score for a hole higher than actually taken. The player discovers this mistake much later when reading the results of the event in a school publication and notifies their coach. The coach contacts the competition Committee and the facts are reviewed. What is the ruling?

- A. No adjustment to a scorecard is allowed once the scorecard is returned.
- B. When the score for a hole is higher than the actual score, the score stands.
- C. The player is disqualified for returning a wrong scorecard.

B

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60. Unaware that their ball lies in a penalty area, a player takes relief within the penalty area by lifting the original ball and dropping it in the penalty area according to the abnormal course conditions Rule because the player's stance is in a salamander hole. Before playing the dropped ball, another player advises the player that the Rules do not permit relief from an animal hole when the ball lies in a penalty area. The player abandons the dropped ball, takes relief with a new ball under the penalty area Rule and completes the hole. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty.
- B. There is a penalty of one stroke.
- C. There is a penalty of two strokes.

B

61. The ball of A lies in a bunker. B makes a stroke at their ball in the same bunker that worsened the conditions affecting the stroke of A. What is the ruling?

- A. A may mark the spot of their ball and lift, clean and replace the ball on its original spot, if it is reasonable to do so to restore the original conditions or if material ended up on the ball when conditions were worsened.
- B. B gets the general penalty for causing the worsened conditions for A's stroke; A must accept those worsened conditions.
- C. There is no penalty; A must accept those worsened conditions.

A

62. After a search of three minutes in an area of ground under repair, the player's group decides that there is not knowledge or virtual certainty that the player's tee shot is lost in the area. As they start walking back to play from where the previous stroke was made nearly 250-yards away, the original ball is found in the ground under repair. Their group agree that the player may put a ball into play without penalty using the ball lost in ground under repair Rule rather than with penalty of stroke and distance under the lost ball Rule. The player drops a ball according to the ball lost in ground under repair Rule, plays the ball, completes the hole and plays from the next teeing area. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty.
- B. There is a penalty of two strokes.
- C. The player is disqualified.

C

63. An obstruction that interferes with a player's stance also intervenes on their line of play. The player properly determines the nearest point of complete relief from interference and drops the ball in the proper relief area. It comes to rest in a position that avoids both interference and intervention by the obstruction. The player plays the ball. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty. The player is not required to maintain the intervention.
- B. The player is required to drop the ball in such a position that intervention on the line of play is maintained; there is a penalty of two strokes.
- C. The player is disqualified for a serious breach of the Rules.

A

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64. During play of the 15th hole, a player breaks the shaft of their wedge in playing their ball near a tree. The player borrows a new wedge from their coach and finishes the hole. The player discovers at the 18th tee that the wedge was a club selected for play by a teammate playing on the course and discards the wedge. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty in these circumstances.
- B. The player gets the general penalty at each of the last four holes.
- C. The player gets the general penalty at each of the 15th and 16th holes.

C

65. In obtaining relief from ground under repair, a player drops the ball at shoulder level into the relief area but it comes to rest outside the relief area. The player plays the ball. What is the ruling?

- A. The player gets a penalty of one stroke.
- B. The player gets the general penalty.
- C. There is a total penalty of three strokes.

B

66. A player makes a stroke at a ball that strikes a group of trees and is deflected out of bounds. The player replaces their divot and presses it down in addition to several others nearby. Then without any announcement, the player drops a ball on the spot from where the previous stroke was made and plays it. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty.
- B. There is a penalty of two strokes.
- C. There is a penalty of three strokes.

C

67. When are worsened conditions affecting the stroke of a player not allowed to be restored?

- A. When the conditions are worsened by any person other than the player.
- B. When the conditions are worsened by an artificial object or by an animal.
- C. When the conditions are worsened by a natural object or by natural forces.

C

68. By mistake, a player marks the position of their ball on the fringe of the putting green, lifts it, cleans it and replaces it on the spot from which it was lifted. The player then plays the ball onto the putting green. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty.
- B. There is a penalty of one stroke.
- C. The player gets the general penalty.

B

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69. Which of the following is correct regarding obstructions?

- A. A set of steps in bounds but attached to a boundary fence is not an obstruction.
- B. Part of a boundary fence bowed towards the course that is inside the boundary line formed by the fence posts is an obstruction.
- C. A stone broken away from a retaining wall in a penalty area is a movable obstruction.

C

70. A group is playing a hole on the front nine when the Committee suspends play because there is an excess of water on the back nine putting greens. The group takes refuge in a rain shelter for five minutes and then completes the hole before the Committee orders resumption of play. What is the ruling?

- A. The penalty is disqualification but the Committee would be justified in waiving the penalty entirely in these circumstances.
- B. The penalty is disqualification but the Committee would be justified in modifying the penalty to two strokes in these circumstances.
- C. The players are disqualified.

C

71. After a good shot from the teeing area, a player's ball came to rest in the front of a divot hole in the fairway. Enraged, the player kicks the ball into some nearby bushes from which it cannot be immediately recovered. The player substitutes a new ball on the spot where the original ball lay and completes the hole with the new ball. What is the ruling?

- A. There is a penalty of one stroke.
- B. There is a penalty of two strokes.
- C. There is a total penalty of three strokes.

A

72. Three players were scheduled to start at 9:00 a.m. at the 1st hole. Two players were present at that time. The third player, who was scheduled to play last in the group, arrived at 9:01 a.m. just in time to play after the second player played but without exceptional circumstances preventing him being present at 9:00 a.m. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty.
- B. The third player gets the general penalty applied to the 1st hole.
- C. The third player is disqualified since there were no exceptional circumstances preventing him or her being present at 10:00 a.m.

B

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73. A player's ball lies near a tree. The player normally plays right-handed but the ball is unplayable for a right-handed stroke. If the player plays the ball left-handed, which would be reasonable in the circumstances, the player would be standing on a cart path. The player takes relief for the left-handed stroke under the obstruction Rule. The ball rolls and comes to rest in a position where there is no interference for the left-handed stroke but where it would be reasonable to play right-handed. The cart path interferes with the right-handed stroke. The player takes relief under the obstruction Rule for the right-handed stroke and plays the ball right-handed. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty.
- B. The player gets the general penalty.
- C. The player is disqualified.

A

74. After holing out with a wrong ball at the 1st hole but before starting play on the 2nd hole, a player asks a referee about the proper procedure to follow. The referee tells him to continue with their round and consult the Committee upon completion of the round instead of rectifying the mistake. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty and the score with the wrong ball counts at the 1st hole.
- B. There is a penalty of two strokes and the score with the wrong ball counts at the 1st hole; the penalty of disqualification is waived.
- C. The player is disqualified for not rectifying a serious breach of the Rules.

B

75. In which of the following situations may a player not be disqualified when discovery of the situation was made after the competition has closed?

- A. A player deliberately agreed with another player to ignore any Rule or penalty they knew applied.
- B. A player is found to have engaged in serious misconduct for acting contrary to the spirit of the game.
- C. The player was unaware of their breach of a Rule with a penalty of disqualification that happened during the competition.

C

76. Which of the following actions may a player take and there is no penalty even if doing so improves the conditions affecting the stroke?

- A. Move a natural object to see if it is loose with the condition that if the object is found to be growing or attached, it must stay attached and be returned as nearly as possible to its original position.
- B. Firmly press the club on the ground right in front or right behind the ball.
- C. Take a firm stance through an intrusive course of action to deal with the particular situation.

A

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77. The Terms of the Competition specify that caddies are allowed. In which of the following situations will a player get the general penalty for play of a wrong ball?

- A. A player plays their original ball from a spot in the general area where a spectator had thrown it from out of bounds. The player's caddie observed the action of the spectator but said nothing before the stroke.
- B. A player makes a stroke at another player's ball in play moving in temporary water.
- C. A player makes a stroke at another player's ball in play moving in water in a penalty area.

A

78. Playing from the teeing area of a par-3 hole, a player strikes their ball onto bare ground in a penalty area. The player plays the ball from the bare ground over the putting green into some bushes and the ball is not found. The player drops a ball in the penalty area on the bare ground where the player made the last stroke. Deciding not to play again from the penalty area, the player abandons the dropped ball and returns to the teeing area where they play another ball onto the putting green. The player holes the ball after two putts. What is the player score for the hole?

- A. 6.
- B. 7.
- C. The player is disqualified.

B

79. A player's ball lies on a cart path. The player determines the nearest point of complete relief and drops a ball in the proper relief area. The ball strikes ground in the relief area but rolls less than one club-length to a spot outside the relief area not nearer the hole. What is the ruling?

- A. A ball must be re-dropped.
- B. A ball may be re-dropped.
- C. A ball must not be re-dropped.

A

80. A marker records a score of 6 for the 18th hole (the correct score is 5), signs the card, hands it to the player and leaves the scoring area. Upon review of the card by the player, the player notices the mistake. The marker cannot be located so the player corrects the score without mentioning this to the Committee and returns the card. Before the event concludes, the Committee discovers what has happened and ascertains that the player indeed scored 5 for the 18th hole. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty as the scorecard is correct as returned.
- B. The Committee is justified in waiving the penalty of disqualification.
- C. The player is disqualified.

C

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81. A player's ball lies outside an area of ground under repair and the player's stance does not have interference by the area; however, a branch of a tree rooted in the area interferes with their swing. The player takes proper relief according to the ground under repair Rule and the ball comes to rest in the relief area. Another player mentions that the margin of ground under repair does not extend vertically upward and thinks the player did not have interference from the area. The player lifts the ball, replaces it where it lay before taking relief, and plays it. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty.
- B. There is a penalty of one stroke.
- C. The player gets the general penalty.

C

82. After deciding that their ball is unplayable, a player lifts it. Then the player finds that it was in ground under repair. Before dropping a ball, the player asks for a ruling. What is the ruling?

- A. The decision of the player commits him or her to take relief under the unplayable ball Rule.
- B. The lifting commits him or her to take relief under the unplayable ball Rule.
- C. The declaration and the lifting do not commit him or her to take relief under the unplayable ball Rule. The player may take relief under the ground under repair Rule.

C

83. Which of the following results in a penalty to the player?

- A. A player's ball in motion after a stroke on the putting green is deliberately deflected by the player's caddie who was attending the flagstick.
- B. A player's ball accidentally strikes the foot of another player who was attending the flagstick with the player's authority.
- C. A player's ball in motion after a stroke on the putting green is accidentally deflected by the player's caddie who was attending the flagstick.

A

84. A player's ball comes to rest on an old cart path in a poor lie. The player lifts the ball and drops it in the proper relief area but it comes to rest outside the relief area. After playing the ball, the player is told that the ball was dropped in a wrong place. Uncertain about the right procedure, the player decides to play a second ball under the Rules and chooses the second ball to count. The player properly drops a second ball according to the obstruction Rule and it comes to rest in the relief area from which it is played. The player reports the facts to the Committee. What is the ruling?

- A. The score with the original ball counts with a penalty of two strokes added.
- B. The score with the second ball counts; there is no penalty.
- C. The score with the original ball counts; there is no penalty.

A

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85. A player's ball is at rest in the general area in grass on the fairway side of a stake defining a penalty area, close to the stake but not touching it. The player removes the stake and subsequently the ball falls into the hole where the stake was previously located. The movement of the ball was not attributable to the removal of the stake nor did anyone cause the ball to move. The ball is not visible nor can it be recovered from the hole. What is the ruling?

- A. The ball is lost in the penalty area and the player must take relief under the penalty area Rule.
- B. The hole left by the penalty area stake is ground under repair and the player is allowed relief inside the penalty area according to the ball lost in ground under repair Rule.
- C. The hole left by the penalty area stake is ground under repair and the player is allowed relief outside the penalty area according to the ball lost in ground under repair Rule.

A

86. A player fails to hole out after missing a short putt and then completes the round. Other players in the group were unaware of the mistake; however, it is observed by the coach of an opposing team and reported to the Committee. What is the ruling?

- A. The Committee may waive the penalty of disqualification since the opposing coach was unsportsmanlike in not calling the error to the player's attention when it occurred.
- B. The Committee may waive the penalty of disqualification in view of the fact that neither the player nor anyone in their group was aware of the Rule's violation.
- C. The player is disqualified.

C

87. In removing loose impediments near their ball in a penalty area, a player accidentally touches the ball and causes it to oscillate before coming to rest on the spot where it originally lay. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty.
- B. There is a penalty of one stroke.
- C. There is a penalty of two strokes.

A

88. A player's ball lies in a penalty area. The player is distracted by a flying insect that they swat away. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty.
- B. There is a penalty of one stroke.
- C. There is a penalty of two strokes.

A

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89. A Committee may in exceptional circumstances waive the penalty of disqualification under the Rules for the failure of a player to start on time. Which of the following would not generally constitute exceptional circumstances that might justify waiving the disqualification penalty when they otherwise would not have failed to start on time?

- A. The player was present at the scene of an accident and provided medical assistance.
- B. Before leaving for the course, there is a fire alarm at the hotel and the player must evacuate. By the time the player can return to their room to dress or retrieve their equipment, the player is unable to make their starting time.
- C. A major accident results in the journey to the course taking longer than expected.

C

90. Which of the following is not a wrong green?

- A. The putting green for all other holes that the player is not playing at the time.
- B. The normal putting green for a hole where a temporary green is not being used.
- C. All practice greens for putting, chipping or pitching, unless the Committee excludes them by Local Rule.

B

91. Unknown to the player, their ball at rest on the putting green 30-feet from the hole is moved to a nearby spot farther from the hole by another player's ball played from a bunker. After the player plays their ball from its new position into the hole, they become aware of the facts. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty and the ball is holed.
- B. The player gets the general penalty. There is not a serious breach of the Rules and the ball is holed.
- C. There is no penalty as the player was unaware of the movement. There is a serious breach of playing from the wrong place, the ball must be replaced and the stroke does not count.

A

92. Which one of the following is a player not allowed to use during a round?

- A. A smart phone to get any type of weather information (including wind speed) that is available from weather forecasts.
- B. Adhesive tape to bind their fingers together solely to aid in gripping the club.
- C. Standard eyeglasses and binoculars that have no range-finder attachments.

B

93. Which of the following is not allowed regarding advice?

- A. A player asks a team member in another group for advice on club selection.
- B. A player asks another player to inform him or her as to the distance from the player's ball to the putting green.
- C. Players exchange distance information concerning the distance of their respective balls from the hole for the purpose of determining the proper order of play.

A

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94. The Committee suspends play for bad weather. When play is ordered resumed, a player discovers that their ball is some distance away from its original position and the lie at the original position is naturally altered. What is the ruling?

- A. The original ball must be played from its new position.
- B. A ball must be placed in the nearest lie most similar to the original lie that is not more than one club-length from the original lie, not nearer the hole.
- C. A ball must be placed on the spot from which the original ball was moved.

C

95. Which of the following is an example of "fairly taking a stance" by a player?

- A. Bending a branch of a tree with the hands to get under a tree to play a ball if that is the only way to take a stance to play the ball.
- B. Bending with a hand a branch obscuring a ball after the stance has been taken.
- C. Standing on a branch to prevent it interfering with the backswing.

A

96. After reaching the putting green, a player notices that they are playing the same brand of ball as another player in their group. In order to avoid possible later confusion, before putting, the player marks the position of their ball, lifts it and substitutes a new ball with different markings. The player completes the hole with the new ball. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty.
- B. The player gets a penalty of one stroke.
- C. The player gets the general penalty.

B

97. In which of the following is there a penalty for making a stroke at a moving ball?

- A. Ball moving in water in a penalty area where the player unreasonably delays play to allow the water to move the ball to a better place.
- B. Ball begins to move only after the player begins the backswing for the stroke.
- C. Ball not in play falling off a tee when the stroke is made.

A

98. With their ball on the fringe of the putting green, a player wishes to leave the flagstick in the hole for their next shot. Another player tells the player that the flagstick is not centred in the hole but resting at an angle tilting towards the player. Which is correct?

- A. The player is allowed to gain an advantage by deliberately moving the flagstick to a position other than centred in the hole.
- B. If the player deliberately moves the flagstick to a position other than centred in the hole, they get the general penalty.
- C. The flagstick may be left as it is or centred in the hole.

C

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99. The Terms of the Competition specify that caddies are allowed. In which of the following does the player not get a penalty for the actions of the caddie?

- A. The caddie sets the player's bag down off the putting green to show the line of play when their player's ball lies on the putting green.
- B. The caddie holds back an interfering tree limb to assist the player in making a stroke at a ball lying under the tree.
- C. The caddie marks and lifts the player's ball on the putting green without authorization.

C

100. A player by mistake replaces their ball on the putting green ahead of a nearby ball-marker (23-feet from the hole) that was not theirs. The player puts the ball and then discovers the mistake. The player lifts the ball (3-feet from the hole), replaces it ahead of their ball-marker (22-feet from the hole) and plays from there. What is the ruling?

- A. There is no penalty.
- B. There is a penalty of two strokes.
- C. There is a total penalty of four strokes.

C