



2020 MGA Rules of Golf Quiz

1. A player's tee shot is headed towards heavy fescue where it may be lost. The player says, "I'll hit another just in case." The second ball lands in the middle of the fairway, 20 yards closer to the hole than where the original is likely to be. His caddie, stationed ahead, begins searching and player arrives one minute later. A ball is found two and a half minutes after the player arrived. Without announcement and without marking the ball, the player lifts, cleans, and identifies this ball as his original. He replaces the ball and plays it out to the fairway near where the second ball lies. He picks up the second ball and plays the original onto the green. At this point another player questions what has happened. Unsure how to proceed, the player says he'll play out the hole with both balls. He replaces the second ball and plays it onto the green. He 2 putts with the original ball and 3 putts with the provisional. He reports the facts to the Committee. What is his score for the hole?
 - A. 8
 - B. 9
 - C. 10
 - D. DQ

2. A player's tee shot comes to rest atop some fescue grass along a painted white boundary line. Half of the ball hovers over the white line on the course side and half hovers over the out of bounds side. As the player takes his backswing, a pinecone falls from a tree and causes the ball to move, and the whole ball comes to rest on the out of bounds side of the white line. The player completes his stroke and misses the ball. What is the result?
 - A. The stroke counts and he must replace the ball with no penalty.
 - B. The stroke counts and he must replace the ball and add a one penalty stroke.
 - C. The stroke counts and he must drop a ball in a relief area measured from where the ball was initially at rest on the boundary line, adding one penalty stroke.
 - D. The stroke counts and he must return to and play from the teeing area, adding one penalty stroke.

3. On a par 3 hole a player sees her ball land outside a yellow penalty area and roll into the penalty area. Thinking that the ball rolled deep into the water, she doesn't search for it. She correctly takes back-on-the-line relief. After dropping, but before playing, she sees her ball in the grass within the penalty area. Not sure if it will be playable, she leaves the dropped ball, takes a club, and crosses the bridge to her original ball. She then decides to play the original ball from the penalty area. She shanks the ball. It exits the penalty area but then rolls back in, about 10 yards to her right. She retrieves the ball and correctly drops back-on-the-line using the reference point where it re-entered the penalty area. She plays the dropped ball over the green and into a bunker. She plays the ball out of the bunker, but it rolls across the green and into the penalty area. It crosses at the same point where her original ball entered the penalty area. She crosses the bridge again, and since the ball she dropped earlier is in the same spot where she was about to drop, she plays the previously dropped ball onto the green and one putts. What is her score for the hole?
- A. 4
 - B. 6
 - C. 9
 - D. 11
4. A player's first stroke on a par 3 hole hits a tree and comes backward to rest in the teeing area. The player addresses the ball and causes it to move. He doesn't replace the ball and hits it onto the green. He then notices that he played from outside the teeing area on his initial stroke. He tees another ball within the teeing area and hits this ball onto the green and 2 putts. He picks up the first ball. What is the player's score for the hole?
- A. 5
 - B. 6
 - C. 7
 - D. 8

5. In a four-ball match, Side A-B vs. Side C-D, A lies 2 on the collar of the putting green and the other three players are all on the green; C lies 2 and B and D each lie 5. A chips and his ball strikes a squirrel scampering across the green and comes to rest in a nearby red penalty area. C then putts, and his ball strikes the same squirrel and comes to rest in the same penalty area. A and C retrieve their balls and replace them on the spots from which their respective preceding shots were played. A chips and holes his shot. C takes 3 putts. What is the status of the hole?
- A. Side A-B has won the hole.
 - B. Side C-D has won the hole.
 - C. The hole is tied.
 - D. The status of the hole cannot yet be determined.
6. In stroke play, a player, waiting to play her second shot to a par four, drops a second ball (Ball B) and plays a couple of practice chips from the fairway. She then plays her ball in play (Ball A) and it comes to rest in a green-side bunker. Frustrated, she plays two more practice chips with Ball B and then walks into a nearby fairway bunker where she makes two practice swings to test the condition of the sand. She then proceeds to the green-side bunker and plays Ball A onto the green where it comes to rest on a towel that had been left there by a previous group. She lifts the ball, removes the towel and then places Ball B on the spot immediately below where her original ball had come to rest on the towel. She then completes the hole with one putt. Her score for the hole is:
- A. 6
 - B. 8
 - C. 10
 - D. 12

7. While searching for her tee shot, a player accidentally breaks a tree branch. In a surprised reaction to having broken the branch, she accidentally steps on what may be her ball. Without notifying anyone, she marks, lifts and identifies the ball as hers. She notices the ball has become embedded in the soft ground by her stepping on it, so she lays her driver on the ground to measure a relief area within one club-length of the embedded position and no closer to the hole. She drops the ball. The ball hits the ground within the relief area, then bounces off the driver which she left on the ground. The driver prevents the ball from rolling out of the relief area. She plays the ball onto the putting green with her next stroke and takes two putts to finish the hole. What is her score for the hole?
- A. 4
 - B. 5
 - C. 6
 - D. 7
8. Players A, B, and C are playing together in a stroke play event. On the seventh hole, A's ball is on the apron of the putting green on a direct extension beyond the hole for B's chip. C believes that A's ball could help B and requests that A mark and lift his ball. A refuses. C then tells him that he (A) is permitted to play first rather than lift. B objects, as it is his turn, and he wants the ball left in position. B goes ahead and his chip strikes A's ball and stops on the apron.
- A. Both A and B are penalized 2 strokes.
 - B. Only A is penalized 2 strokes
 - C. Only B is penalized 2 strokes
 - D. There are no penalty strokes incurred by any of the players.

9. A player's tee shot comes to rest in the general area near a no play zone marked as abnormal ground condition. The player's lie of ball and stance are free from interference. During his backswing, he breaks one of the overhanging branches within the no play zone and misses the ball as he completes his stroke. He addresses the ball again, makes a stroke without touching any branches, and hits the ball onto the green. He two putts. His score for the hole is:
- A. 5
 - B. 7
 - C. 9
 - D. The player has committed a serious breach and must correct before teeing off the next tee.
10. A player's tee shot heads toward an area of dense woods and high fescue grass. The player, unaware that part of the area is marked as a penalty area, plays a provisional ball into the fairway. When the player begins to the search for his original ball, he is informed by a spectator that his original ball came to rest within the penalty area but was moved by an outside influence. The player does not want to drop under the penalty area relief procedure, so he decides to play his provisional ball. He plays onto the green with his next stroke and two putts. His score for the hole is:
- A. 6
 - B. 7
 - C. 8
 - D. The player has committed a serious breach and must correct before teeing off from the next tee.

11. A player hits her tee shot on a par 4 into an area of thick fescue. Upon reaching the area to begin searching for her ball, she grabs a rake from a nearby bunker to lightly comb through the fescue. Her caddie uses one of her clubs to carefully separate knotted chunks of fescue. After 2 minutes, the player causes a ball to move with the rake. Without marking, she lifts the ball and identifies it as hers. She identifies it as hers and replaces it on the spot from which it moved. She takes 4 more strokes to complete the hole. What is the player's score?
- A. 5
 - B. 6
 - C. 7
 - D. 8
12. On a par 4, a player misses the fairway with his tee shot and his ball comes to rest behind a dune. A spectator is standing on top of the dune and has offered to let the player know when the green is clear. The player and his caddie analyze the shot and use the spectator as an alignment. Standing directly behind the player, the caddie lines up the player with the spectator and confirms his line of play as the player addresses the ball and rehearses the shot. The spectator waves to the player indicating that the green is clear, but before he can move out of the way, the player shouts to the spectator to stay in position because the spectator is on the player's line of play. The player takes a step behind the ball where the caddie previously was to line himself up one more time. The spectator stays in place and the player plays directly over the spectator's head. The ball lands on the green. The player takes two putts. What is his score for the hole?
- A. 4
 - B. 6
 - C. 8
 - D. 10

13. A player finds a ball in heavy rough. Without marking, he lifts the ball to identify it. He claims it to be his ball and replaces it. He then notices some mud on the ball, so again without marking, he lifts the ball and substitutes a ball on the spot. As he takes a practice swing a few yards away from the ball, he watches as a gust of wind moves the ball, sinking it deeper into the rough. He uses his club to prop the ball back up onto its original spot. He plays onto the green and finishes the hole. How many penalty strokes has he incurred?

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. 5

14. Players A and B are partners in a four-ball stroke play event. A is carrying an alignment rod; B has a weighted donut. With play backed up on the third hole, A takes out his alignment rod and places it over his shoulders and uses it to stretch. B uses his weighted donut to swing a club. With another wait on the fourth hole, A puts his alignment rod over his shoulders to stretch again and then places it on the ground facing the green of the fourth hole, and takes a few practice swings aimed at the fourth green. Player C questions the actions of A and B. A Rules Official arrives on the scene. Which statement is true?

- A. A and B are each penalized 2 PS on the third hole.
- B. A is penalized 4 PS on the fourth hole.
- C. B is penalized 2 strokes on the third hole and A is penalized 2 strokes on the fourth hole.
- D. Side A-B is disqualified.

15. A right-handed player's drive comes to rest on the right edge of a wide paved cart path on the right side of the fairway. The nearest point of complete relief is off the right side of the path, but directly abutting the right edge of the path is a Ground Under Repair/No Play Zone. Aware that she may not play her next shot from the No Play Zone, she drops in a relief area she establishes on the fairway side of the path using the nearest point of complete relief from the position of her ball on the path as a guide. The relief area for the drop is soft, and the ball embeds, so the player lifts and cleans it, and drops it again within one club length of the embedded location and no nearer the hole. This time the lie is pristine, and the player plays onto the green and two putts. What is her score?
- A. 5
 - B. 6
 - C. 7
 - D. 8
16. A player uses Gary Player's "step-through" method, where the rear foot follows through and steps toward the hole at the end of the swing. The player attempts to play his ball which lies in the general area and he misses the ball but kicks it with his foot. What is the result?
- A. The stroke does not count; the player incurs a one stroke penalty and must replace his ball.
 - B. The stroke counts and with no penalty the player must replace his ball
 - C. The stroke counts; the player incurs a one stroke penalty and must replace his ball.
 - D. The stroke counts; the player incurs a one stroke penalty and must play the ball as it lies.

17. In a stroke play competition with Local Rule G-4 (One Ball Rule) in effect, it is getting late in the day and it is becoming more difficult to see the golf ball. A player's tee shot embeds in the fairway. As she is taking relief, her caddie advises her to use an orange ball that is the same brand and model as the white ball she has been playing. She places the orange ball next to the spot where her drive embedded, making sure not to repair the pitch mark. She hits her next shot short of the bunker in front of the green and then chunks her next shot into the bunker. Since she is not a good bunker player, her caddie advises her to take unplayable ball relief and play from outside the bunker. She does so properly, noticing that her reference point happens to be on the spot where she hit her previous shot, and pitches onto the green. How many penalty strokes has she incurred?

- A. 4
- B. 5
- C. 6
- D. 7

18. A player chooses to take lateral unplayable relief for his ball in a bunker. He drops the ball. It lands in the bunker, but it rolls and comes to rest outside the bunker within two club-lengths of and no closer to the hole than the ball's original location. The ball has also landed and come to rest within one club-length of a reference point on a line going straight back from the hole through the spot of the original ball. Additionally, the ball lies at a spot that would satisfy Rule 14.6b (Making Next Stroke from Where Previous Stroke Made). Which of the following is true?

- A. He will incur only one penalty stroke under Rule 18.1 if he plays the ball.
- B. He will incur only one penalty stroke under Rule 19.2 if he plays the ball.
- C. He will incur two penalty strokes if he plays the ball.
- D. He will incur three penalty strokes if he plays the ball.

19. Players A and B are partners in a stroke play foursome event in which Local Rule G-4 (One Ball Rule) is in effect. Player A begins play on the odd numbered holes while Player B begins play on the even numbered holes. On Hole #6, Player A swaps Ball A, which the side has used for the first 5 holes, for Ball B (a different brand and model than Ball A) and makes a stroke from the teeing area. Player B then realizes it was his turn to begin the hole and tees off with Ball A towards a heavily wooded area. The side elects to play a provisional ball which Player A does by playing Ball B. They find Player B's tee shot against a sprinkler box from which they elect to take relief. Player A drops Ball B correctly in the relief area and plays it onto the green. The side takes 2 putts to complete the hole and Player A tees off of Hole #7 with Ball A. What is the side's score for Hole #6?

- A. 4
- B. 6
- C. 8
- D. Disqualification

20. A player hits his tee shot onto a parallel hole, which is marked by a natural boundary as internal out of bounds. Unaware of this, the player proceeds to try and punch the ball back into the fairway of the hole he is playing, but the ball carries too much speed and comes to rest out of bounds on the other side of the fairway, which is marked with white stakes. The player returns to where his previous stroke was made, on the parallel hole, and proceeds under stroke and distance. He takes 4 more strokes to complete the hole. Before teeing off the following hole, he reads on his Notice to Players that the parallel hole is internal out of bounds. Unsure how to proceed he tells his fellow players that he is just going to play that hole over again. He returns to the previous tee and plays the hole in 5 strokes. After holing out, he tells a member of the Rules Committee what happened. What is his score for the hole?

- A. 5
- B. 7
- C. 9
- D. 11

21. A player's drive comes to rest in a yellow penalty area, and he appropriately defines a relief area for a back-on-the-line drop using a tee to identify the specific reference point on the reference line for the drop. The ball is dropped within the relief area, landing directly on the tee and bounces outside the relief area, so the player begins to drop it again. But when lifting the previously dropped ball, he notices that there is a rough patch on the surface of this ball and decides to substitute a new ball. This time the dropped ball lands near the tee, rolls into the tee and again comes to rest outside the relief area. The player then places the ball within the relief area on the spot within the area it last hit when dropped, strikes it on to the green and two putts. What is the player's score?

- A. 5
- B. 6
- C. 7
- D. 8

22. A player's drive comes to rest in a fairway bunker and against a rake near the furthest point in the bunker from the hole. The player lifts the rake, and the ball rolls forward. The player attempts to replace the ball at its original location, and when it doesn't stay after two attempts tries to place the ball in the limited area in the bunker which is also no closer to the hole, but the ball fails to come to rest anywhere in that location either. Accordingly, the player places his ball in a relief area in the general area behind the bunker, back-on-the-line. The player then strikes his ball which lands on the green, and one-putts. What is his score?

- A. 4
- B. 5
- C. 6
- D. 7

23. In match play, Players A and B are on the first green. Both have birdie putts. Player A putts first and leaves himself about 3 feet for par. Player B's caddie concedes Player A's par putt and picks up Player A's ball. Player B questions his caddie's actions and states that he did not intend to concede that putt. Unsure how to proceed, Player A replaces his ball and marks it. Player B putts and makes it. Player B then says to Player A, "Now that's good," and Player A picks up his ball marker. What is the outcome of the hole?
- A. The hole is tied.
 - B. The outcome cannot yet be determined.
 - C. Player A wins the hole.
 - D. Player B wins the hole.
24. A player hits a ball which may be lost outside a penalty area. He properly announces and hits a provisional ball into the same area. Both balls have identical markings and cannot be distinguished from each other. Both balls are found in the penalty area. Which of the following is correct?
- A. The player must choose one of the balls to be treated as his provisional.
 - B. The player may play either ball as his original or take relief from the penalty area.
 - C. Both balls are lost, and the player must play another ball under stroke and distance.
 - D. The player may play either ball as his provisional or take relief from the penalty area with his original.
25. Before beginning play of hole, a player places his club on the ground in the teeing area pointing toward the hole. Prior to taking his stance for the stroke, the player lifts the club. The player then takes his stance for the stroke, and because of the dew on the ground, there is a line left that helps the player to align his feet for the stroke. The stroke is made. How many, if any, penalty strokes has he incurred?
- A. The player can only avoid penalty if he eliminates the dew line before playing the stroke.
 - B. The player may leave the dew line in place but is prohibited from using it for alignment.
 - C. The player is penalized two strokes for a violation of Rule 4.3.
 - D. The player is not penalized regardless of the dew line.