METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION
49 KNOLLWOOD ROAD • ELMSFORD, NY 10523 • P (914) 347-4653 • F (914) 347-3437 • MGAGOLF.ORG

2019 MGA Rules of Golf Quiz

1. In match play, a player's tee shot comes to rest on the putting green; he asks his caddie to attend the flagstick and makes a stroke at his ball. The player's ball hits his opponent's ball at rest on the green, then accidentally hits the caddie's foot and is deflected into the hole. The caddie removes the ball from the hole and the player plays from the next teeing area. What is the player's score for the hole?

   A. 2

   B. 3

   C. 4

   D. The Player incurs a Loss of Hole penalty

2. In stroke play, a player has the flagstick removed for her third stroke: a 25 foot steep uphill putt from on the putting green. The ball runs well past the hole and it looks as though it will come to rest 5 feet past the hole. The player turns away to retrieve the flagstick and places it in the hole to aid her next stroke which is sharply downhill. At this point the players realize that the ball never came to a complete stop, but instead began rolling back downhill towards the hole. The ball in motion hits the flagstick and is holed. The player's score for the hole is:

   A. 3

   B. 4

   C. 5

   D. 6

3. Following her second shot, a player's ball lies in thick rough while also touching sand in a bunker. With Model Local Rule F-16 in effect, the entirety of the bunker has been declared ground under repair because of excessive temporary water. Her stance has interference from a sprinkler head in the general area. She finds simultaneous relief from both conditions, and drops a ball in a relief area outside the bunker. Her caddie suggests that such simultaneous relief is not allowed. The player notices the sand in the bunker is quite firm and makes a practice swing to test the sand in the same bunker. She realizes she would get a better lie dropping in the bunker. She lifts her dropped ball and finds nearest point of complete relief from the sprinkler. That point is in the bunker. She drops a ball in the relief area in the bunker and completes the hole with 4 more strokes. What is her score for the hole?

    A. 6

    B. 7

    C. 8

    D. 9

4. A player decides to take unplayable ball relief from under a bush using the back on the line option. He identifies the proper reference line without choosing a reference point. He drops a ball properly and it first touches the course six inches to the side of the reference line and then rolls forward three inches and comes to rest on the reference line itself. He then realizes that he still has line of play interference from the same bush. He therefore lifts the ball and moves 10 yards further back from the bush on the same reference line. He drops the ball properly and it comes to rest where it first touched the course, 12 inches to the side of the reference line. He plays the ball as it lies. How many penalty strokes has the player incurred?

    A. 0

    B. 1

    C. 2

    D. 3

5. A player's second shot embeds in a sloped portion of the general area near very thick rough. He decides to take free relief and uses his wedge to measure the one club length relief area. He drops the ball from knee height and the ball rolls just past the edge of the measured relief area and into the rough. He re-drops the same way with a similar result. He then places a ball where the re-dropped ball first touched the course and plays the ball into the hole with 3 more strokes. He then plays from the next teeing area. The player's score for the hole is:

    A. 5

    B. 6

    C. 7

    D. 8

6. The lie of the player's tee shot has been altered by another player. In restoring his altered lie in sand in the general area, a player properly replaces the original ball on the spot, recreating the embedded lie in the sand and the ball is at rest. He then realizes he did not recreate the exact lie in totality since the ball was originally also resting against a pine cone, which if removed from the original lie would have caused the ball to move. Thinking he was required to do so, goes back, replaces the pine cone, causing the ball to move. He replaces the ball, recreating the lie with the pine cone. He makes his second stroke and then takes 3 more strokes to hole the ball. His score for the hole is:

    A. 4

    B. 5

    C. 6

    D. 7

7. Player A and Player B are partners in four-ball stroke play. Player A makes a short putt for what both players believe is a four. Player B, who has a short putt for a 5, picks up his ball after player A makes the putt. They both proceed to the next teeing area. Player A makes a practice swing and knocks the ball off the tee. He then realizes that at some point during the previous hole he must have played a wrong ball. Players A and B then return to the previous green; Player B drops his ball on the spot from which it was lifted, and holes the putt. Their score for the hole is:

    A. 5

    B. 6

    C. 7

    D. The player is disqualified.

8. Players A, B, C are playing a three-ball match and all three matches are tied through 17 holes. They play in proper order from the 18th teeing area: Player A puts a ball into play, pulling his shot in the direction of out of bounds. Player B plays properly from the teeing area to the fairway. Player C then points out that Player A had played from outside the teeing area; Player B agrees with Player C, and they both recall Player A's shot. Player A puts a second ball in play from within the teeing area as both a provisional ball for his first ball and his ball in play for his match with Player C. Player C then plays from the teeing area. Player A's first ball is found out of bounds. Player A holes out in 2 more strokes with his second ball, Player B in 4 more strokes, and Player C in 5 more strokes. The result of the match is:

    A. A defeats B, B defeats C.

    B. A ties B, A defeats C.

    C. A ties B, C defeats A.

    D. B defeats A, A defeats C.

9. In stroke play, a player finds his ball up against a gate in a boundary fence. The gate is held closed by a spring. The player can get a free swing at the ball if the gate is open, so he asks another player to hold the gate open for him while he makes a stroke. The other player does so and the player plays his ball back to the fairway. The player:

    A. Has proceeded correctly and incurs no penalty.

    B. Incurs a 1-stroke penalty.

    C. Incurs 2-stroke penalty; the other player incurs no penalty.

    D. Incurs 2-stroke penalty; the other player also incurs a 2-stroke penalty.

10. A player hits his ball up against a billboard that is defined as an immovable obstruction near the putting green. The ball lies on short grass to the side of the green and the player elects to play a low bump-and-run chip shot along the ground. Before the player can address his ball, the wind blows the billboard down, moving his ball and damaging the turf in front of his ball, making a chip along the ground almost impossible. The player must:

    A. Replace his ball and may repair the damage caused by the sign.

    B. Replace his ball but must not repair the damage caused by the sign.

    C. Replace his ball and re-install the sign. The player may either play his ball as it lies or take relief from the immovable obstruction. The player may repair the damage caused by the sign.

    D. Replace his ball and re-install the sign. The player may either play his ball as it lies or take relief from the immovable obstruction. The player must not repair the damage caused by the sign.

11. A player's original ball and his provisional ball lie on the green in stroke play. He putts his original ball and it strikes his provisional ball. The correct result is:

    A. The stroke does not count and the original ball or another ball must be replaced on its original spot. The player incurs a two stroke penalty.

    B. The stroke does not count and the original ball or another ball must be replaced on its original spot. The player incurs no penalty.

    C. The stroke counts and the ball must be played as it lies. The player incurs a two stroke penalty.

    D. The stroke counts and the ball must be played as it lies. The player incurs no penalty.

12. A player places a ball on a tee in the teeing area of a par 3 hole and makes a stroke. The ball is grazed, falls off the tee, but remains in the teeing area inches behind a tee-marker. The player moves the interfering tee-marker out of the way and substitutes another ball in place of the original. Thinking he may have violated a rule, the player replaces the tee-marker and re-tees the substituted ball elsewhere in the teeing area. The player hits the ball onto the green and one putts. The player's score for the hole is:

    A. 3

    B. 4

    C. 5

    D. 6

13. In stroke play, a player's ball embeds at the very edge of the lip of a bunker, in the general area. He lifts his ball out of the ground in which it was embedded and then realizes that both his reference point for an embedded ball drop and all of the associated relief area are exclusively in the bunker behind his ball. He realizes that his ball must be dropped in the general area, and that since no general area exists where he is required to drop, he instead decides to take unplayable ball relief. He chooses the stroke and distance option for an unplayable ball. He drops his ball in the correct relief area and hits his next shot on the green. How many penalty strokes has he incurred?

    A. 1-stroke penalty

    B. 2-stroke penalty

    C. Two 1-stroke penalties

    D. No penalty

14. A player's ball is on the putting green where she has a steep downhill putt for birdie on a par four. She notices that the flagstick was left in the hole on slant, not centered in the cup by the previous group. She leaves the flagstick where it is and makes a stroke. Her ball comes to rest on the edge of the hole against the leaning flagstick. She removes the flagstick and picks up her ball. The other players hole out but before going to the next tee, she says she wants to practice the putt she had without the flagstick. She places the ball on the spot from where her stroke was made and holes the putt. She tees off from the next hole. What is her score for the hole?

    a. 3

    b. 4

    c. 5

    d. The player is disqualified.

15. On the par-3 18th hole, a player's tee shot comes to rest against a green-side boundary stake. Before making his next stroke, the player repairs his pitch mark a couple of feet away from his ball, not on his line of play, as well as a divot in the same area. He also removes the boundary stake and sets it aside. His caddie then sets a water bottle down on the putting green and walks behind the ball, joining the player in discussion. "Hit it right at the water bottle," the caddie says. The player nods in agreement. The caddie removes the water bottle and the player addresses the ball. Just then, another player advises that he may not remove a boundary stake in order to make a stroke and that he must replace it to avoid penalty. The player does so but his intended swing is now obstructed by the stake. After some discussion, he decides to take unplayable ball relief. He correctly establishes his relief area, and drops his ball. It comes to rest within the relief area but directly behind his repaired pitch mark. He elects to putt his next stroke. The ball rolls over the repaired pitch mark, up onto the green over the spot where the water bottle was set, and into the hole. The player has made what score for the hole?

    A. 3

    B. 4

    C. 5

    D. 6

16. A player's ball embeds in the general area after a stroke. He properly establishes his reference point directly behind the ball and measures the correct relief area in which to drop, using tees to mark the relief area. He then fixes the pitch mark created by his ball. Without announcing to his fellow players, he drops a substituted ball; it strikes his tee before hitting the ground and comes to rest within the relief area, two feet to the side of the repaired pitch mark. How many penalty strokes has he incurred?

    A. 1

    B. 2

    C. 3

    D. 4

17. A player hits his tee shot into a red penalty area and elects to take lateral relief under the rule, which creates a relief area in a bunker. Before dropping the ball, the player goes to the far end of the bunker, behind the area where he intends to drop, and takes two practice swings to test the condition of the bunker. The player's caddie then restores the bunker to its original condition. The player walks forward and drops the ball correctly within the relief area. He plays the ball out of the bunker and takes 2 additional strokes to finish the hole. The player tees off on the next hole. What is the player's score for the hole?

    A. 5

    B. 6

    C. 7

    D. 8

18. Side A-B is competing against Side C-D in four-ball match play. Players A and B are sharing a caddie. All four players are in the fairway on a par 4. Player A plays first and holes her shot from the fairway. Thinking B doesn't need to play out the hole, the caddie goes over to pick up her golf ball. She picks up a ball but realizes it is actually Player C's golf ball. She replaces C's ball and C plays onto the green. Unsure what the penalty is, Player B also plays to the green. Player C makes her birdie putt. Player B two-putts for par. What is the result of the hole?

    A. Side A-B wins the hole.

    B. Side C-D wins the hole.

    C. The hole is halved.

    D. Player B is disqualified from the hole and Player A must replay her shot in order to avoid a disqualification penalty for Side A-B.

19. A new golfer, who is a 20 handicap and still learning the game, is taking a lesson from a professional and they are playing a 9-hole handicapped match. On a par three hole, measuring 150 yards, the professional plays first, hitting a high 9 iron that lands softly on the green a few feet from the hole. In awe of such a great shot, the new golfer says: "Wow, beautiful shot! What did you hit there?" The professional responds: "9-iron." The new golfer then tees up his ball and plays a 3-wood to the front of the green. The new golfer, who is receiving a handicap stroke on the hole, takes 2 more strokes to hole out and the professional makes his birdie putt. What is the result of the hole?

    A. The hole is halved.

    B. The pro wins the hole.

    C. The new golfer wins the hole.

    D. The new golfer is disqualified from the match.

20. A player hits her second shot into a yellow penalty area on a par 4. She elects to take back on the line relief. The player determines a reference point on the line, correctly measures the relief area, and drops a ball. The ball lands inside the relief area but rolls and comes to rest outside the relief area. Instead of dropping again, the player decides that she would rather have a longer shot into the green. She walks about 25 yards back from her original reference point, correctly measures another relief area and drops a different ball than she used for the first drop. The ball lands inside the relief area but rolls and comes to rest outside the relief area. She places the ball inside the relief area, where it struck the course on the second drop and plays onto the green. The player is putting for:

    A. 4

    B. 5

    C. 6

    D. 7

21. A player's tee shot comes to rest on a sloped portion of a putting green. The player marks his ball with a nearby twig, lifts and cleans it. He then replaces the ball and the wind blows the ball 2 feet further away from the hole. The player makes a stroke from the new position and as the ball is headed towards the hole, a blowing leaf redirects the ball a few inches from the hole. The player cancels the stroke and replaces the ball on the spot he made the previous stroke. The player holes his next putt. What is the player's score for the hole?

    A. 4

    B. 5

    C. 6

    D. 7

22. In a three-ball match, all three players' tee shots end up on a cart path. Player A drops from knee-height and his ball strikes the ground in the relief area and comes to rest in the relief area. Player B drops from shoulder height and his ball strikes the ground in the relief area and comes to rest in the relief area. Player C drops from knee-height and his ball strikes the ground in the relief area but comes to rest outside the relief area. All three players play to the putting green. Player A holes out with 3 putts; Player B holes out with 2 putts; Player C holes out with 1 putt. The result of the hole is:

    A. A defeats B. A defeats C. B and C halve the hole.

    B. A and B halve the hole. A defeats C. B defeats C.

    C. B defeats A. A and C halve the hole. B defeats C.

    D. Each player halves the hole with both of his opponents.

23. In a stroke play competition with no local rules in effect, a player hits his ball toward a creek running up the right side of the hole. The ball hits the bank on a parallel hole, bounces on the far side of the creek, crossing the edge of penalty on the far side of the hole he is playing, and coming to rest in the penalty area. The player finds the point on the opposite side of the penalty area, equidistant from the hole, which is on the hole he is currently playing, measures two club lengths from the edge and drops his ball within the relief area. As he addresses the ball, he accidentally bumps the ball with his club head, moving the ball forward about an inch. As he replaces the ball, another player yells from across the fairway that he's on the wrong side of the penalty area. The two players discuss and the player whose ball is in question realizes that the opposite side relief option is no longer available except by local rule. The player lifts the ball he has dropped, goes to the correct side of the penalty area and drops a ball in the correct relief area and plays the ball. How many total penalty strokes has the player incurred?

    A. 0

    B. 1

    C. 2

    D. 3

24. A player has chosen 14 clubs to include in his golf bag for a stroke play competition, one of which is a 54-inch driver that he uses in long drive competitions. He does not use this club during the competition, however, on the sixth hole, he hits his tee shot into a lateral penalty area. In determining his relief area, he uses the 54-inch driver to measure two club lengths, which extends from the edge of the penalty area, about 12 inches into the nearest fairway, no closer to the hole. He drops his ball within the relief area, in the small portion of fairway. The ball first strikes and comes to rest in the measured relief area and the player plays his third shot onto the green. He two-putts and tees off on the next hole. What is his score for the hole?

    A. 5

    B. 6

    C. 7

    D. The player is disqualified.

25. In stroke play, a player slices his tee shot on a par four into a red-staked desert area on the right. The area extends to the green. The player finds his ball in a pool of water caused by an early morning downpour. He takes relief from the water, but remains in the penalty area, and hits his next shot into a sage bush within the same penalty area. He gets on his knees with a club and realizes that he can strike the ball but it would only go 3 yards. He therefore decides to declare his ball unplayable. He drops the ball within 2 club-lengths within the penalty area and hits his next shot on the green and 2 putts. What is the player's score on the hole?

    A. 6

    B. 7

    C. 9

    D. 10