

## Rules of Play

- The ball may be placed on the wooden or plastic tee between the tee markers, at the beginning of each hole.
- All strokes and attempted strokes count.
- All penalty strokes must be added to the score for the hole on which you received them.
- If you lose a ball and cannot find it after five minutes of searching, or if you hit it out of bounds, you must hit another ball from right where you are, not from where the ball was lost or where it went out of bounds. You must count both of these hits. You must also add a penalty stroke for losing the ball or hitting it out of bounds.
- If your ball is against a tree or under some bushes or anywhere else you cannot play it, you may move it. Add one penalty stroke for moving it. You cannot move it closer to the hole, but you can take it back to where you last hit it.
- You are given free lifts from some places on the course. You can lift your ball and move it—without penalty—one club length to a place where you can swing freely. The places where you can get a free lift are benches or buildings, those that are marked by the golf course as being “ground under repair,” those that have puddles on them, and those that have holes made by animals.
- If your ball lands in a water hazard, you must add an extra stroke penalty, unless you can play the ball out of the water.
- When your ball goes into a bunker, you must hold your golf club above the sand when you are in your address position. If you touch the sand when you are addressing the ball, you have to add two strokes as a penalty. The same rule is true if you are hitting a ball out of a water hazard.
- Make sure you can always identify your ball. There is a two-stroke penalty for hitting someone else’s ball instead of yours.
- When you are putting on the putting green, make sure that you ask other players to mark their balls with a small coin or marker so that your ball will not hit theirs.
- Any time you move a ball, whether it is with penalties or without, you must follow rules for dropping it. The rule for dropping a ball legally is to stand erect, extend your arm fully at shoulder height, and let the ball drop. When you drop the ball, it must not roll any closer to the hole, nor can it touch you or your equipment. You will have to drop it again if any of these things happen, but there is no penalty.

### Resources

Besides checking your local library for books about golf, contact your local high school or college or university to find out whether they have a golf program and information. Also, a professional at your local golf club can be a valuable resource.

#### National Golf Foundation

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Web site: <http://www.ngf.org>

The complete, official rules of golf are available via the World Wide Web at <http://www.usga.org/rules/index.html>.