

AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF GOLF

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2016

*ALL RED TRACKED CHANGES ARE AGAINST THE 2012 RULES OF GOLF. BLACK
UNDERLINED TEXT IS NEWLY ADDED TEXT*

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

The following language will appear as part of the R&A and USGA statement to appear between the title page and the contents page of the Rule Book:

“The R&A and the USGA reserve the right to amend both the Rules and their interpretation at any time.”

BALL IN PLAY

Definition

A new second paragraph in the Definition of “Ball in Play” as follows:

*A ball is “in play” as soon as the player has made a **stroke** on the **teeing ground**. It remains **in play** until it is **holed**, except when it is **lost**, **out of bounds** or lifted, or another ball has been **substituted**, whether or not the substitution is permitted; a ball so **substituted** becomes the **ball in play**.*

A ball in play that has been marked but not lifted remains in play. A ball that has been marked, lifted and replaced is back in play whether or not the ball-marker has been removed.

If a ball is played from outside the *teeing ground* when the player is starting play of a hole, or when attempting to correct this mistake, the ball is not *in play* and Rule 11-4 or 11-5 applies. Otherwise, *ball in play* includes a ball played from outside the *teeing ground* when the player elects or is required to play his next *stroke* from the *teeing ground*.

Exception in match play: *Ball in play* includes a ball played by the player from outside the *teeing ground* when starting play of a hole if the *opponent* does not require the *stroke* to be canceled in accordance with Rule 11-4a.

EQUIPMENT

Definition

It was resolved to amend the Definition of “Equipment” to read as follows:

Equipment

“*Equipment*” is anything used, worn, held or carried by the player or ~~anything carried for the player by his partner or either of their caddies~~ the player’s caddie, except:

- any ball ~~he that the player~~ has played at the hole being played, and
- any small object, such as a coin or a tee, when used to mark the position of the ball or the extent of an area in which a ball is to be dropped. ~~Equipment includes a golf cart, whether or not motorized.~~

Note 1: A ball played at the hole being played is *equipment* when it has been lifted and not put back into play.

Note 2: Equipment includes objects placed on the course for the care of the course, such as rakes, while they are being held or carried.

Note 3: When ~~a golf cart~~ equipment is shared by two or more players, the ~~cart and everything in it are shared equipment is~~ deemed to be the *equipment* of only one of the players sharing ~~the cart, it.~~

If ~~the a shared golf~~ cart is being moved by one of the players ~~(or the partner of one of the players)~~ sharing it, (or his partner or either of their caddies), the cart and everything in it are deemed to be that player’s *equipment*. Otherwise, the cart and everything in it are deemed to be the *equipment* of the player sharing the cart whose ball (or whose *partner’s* ball) is involved.

Other shared equipment is deemed to be the equipment of the player who last used, wore, held or carried it. It remains that player’s equipment until it is used, worn, held or carried by the other player (or his partner or either of their caddies).

SUBSTITUTED BALL

Definition

The Definition of “Substituted Ball” will read as follows:

Substituted Ball

A “*substituted ball*” is a ball put into play for the original ball that was either *in play*, *lost*, *out of bounds* or *lifted*—, whether or not the substitution was permitted. A substituted ball becomes the ball in play when it has been dropped or placed (see Rule 20-4).

WRONG BALL

Definition

The Definition of “Wrong Ball” will read as follows:

Wrong Ball

A “*wrong ball*” is any ball other than the player’s:

- *ball in play*;
- *provisional ball*; or
- second ball played under Rule 3-3 or Rule 20-7c in stroke play;

~~and includes:~~

- ~~• another player’s ball;~~
- ~~• an abandoned ball; and~~
- ~~• the player’s original ball when it is no longer in play.~~

~~Note:~~ *Ball in play* includes a ball *substituted* for the *ball in play*, whether or not the substitution is permitted. A substituted ball becomes the ball in play when it has been dropped or placed (see Rule 20-4).

DOUBT AS TO PROCEDURE

Rule 3-3

It was resolved to amend Rule 3-3 to read as follows:

3-3. Doubt as to Procedure

a. Procedure for Competitor

In stroke play only, if a *competitor* is doubtful of his rights or the correct procedure during the play of a hole, he may, without penalty, complete the hole with two balls. To proceed under this Rule, he must decide to play two balls after the doubtful situation has arisen and before taking further action (e.g. making a stroke at the original ball).

~~After the doubtful situation has arisen and before taking further action,~~ The *competitor* ~~must~~ should announce to his *marker* or a fellow-competitor:

- that he intends to play two balls; and
- which ball he wishes to count if the Rules permit; ~~the procedure used for that ball.~~

Before returning his score card, the *competitor* must report the facts of the situation to the *Committee* ~~before returning his score card.~~ If he fails to do so, he is disqualified.

~~Note:~~ If the *competitor* ~~takes~~ has taken further action before ~~dealing with the doubtful situation,~~ deciding to play two balls, he has not proceeded under Rule 3-3 ~~is not applicable.~~ and the score with the original ball counts ~~or, if the original ball is not one of the balls being played, the score with the first ball put into play counts, even if the Rules do not allow the procedure adopted for that ball. However,~~ The *competitor* incurs no penalty for having played a playing the second ball, ~~and any penalty strokes incurred solely by playing that ball do not count in his score.~~

b. Committee Determination of Score for Hole

~~(i) If the ball that the competitor selected in advance to count has been played in accordance with the Rules, the score with that ball is the competitor's score for the hole. Otherwise, the score with the other ball counts if the Rules allow the procedure adopted for that ball.~~

~~(ii) If~~ When the competitor has proceeded under this Rule, the Committee will determine his score as follows:

~~(i) If, before taking further action, the competitor fails to announce in advance his decision to complete the hole with two balls, or has announced which ball he wishes to count, the score with the original ball counts, and provided the Rules permit the procedure used for the selected ball, the score with that ball counts. If the Rules do not permit the procedure used for the selected ball, the score with the other ball counts provided the Rules permit the procedure used for that ball.~~

~~(ii) If, before taking further action, the competitor has failed to announce which ball he wishes to count, the score with the original ball counts provided the Rules permit the procedure used for that ball. Otherwise, the score with the other ball counts provided the Rules permit the procedure used for that ball.~~

~~(iii) If the Rules do not permit the procedures used for both balls, the score with the original ball counts unless the competitor has committed a serious breach with that ball by playing from a wrong place. If the competitor commits a serious breach in the play of one ball, the score with the other ball counts despite the fact that the Rules do not permit the procedure used for that ball. If the competitor commits a serious breach with both balls, he is disqualified.~~

Note 1: "Rules permit the procedure used for a ball" means that, after Rule 3-3 is invoked, either: (a) the original ball is played from where it had come to rest and play is permitted from that location, or (b) the Rules permit the procedure adopted for the ball and the ball is put into play in the proper manner and in the correct place as provided in the Rules.

~~**Note 2:** it has been played in accordance with the Rules. If the score with the original ball is to count, but the original ball is not one of the balls being played, the first ball put into play counts, provided it has been played in accordance with the Rules. Otherwise, the score with the other ball counts if the Rules allow the procedure adopted for that ball. is deemed to be the original ball.~~

Note 3: ~~1- If a competitor plays a second ball under Rule 3-3, the~~ After this Rule 3-3, ~~the~~ has been invoked, strokes made after this Rule has been invoked with the ball ruled not to count, and penalty strokes incurred solely by playing that ball, are disregarded.

~~**Note 2:**~~ A second ball played under Rule 3-3 is not a *provisional ball* under Rule 27-2.

(Ball played from a wrong place – see Rule 20-7c)

CLUBS

Rule 4 (Preamble)

The preamble to Rule 4 will read as follows:

Rule 4. Clubs

~~A player in doubt as to the conformity of a club should consult the R&A [USGA].~~

~~A manufacturer should submit to the USGA a sample of a club to be manufactured for a ruling as to whether the club conforms with the Rules. The sample becomes the property of the USGA for reference purposes. If a manufacturer fails to submit a sample or, having submitted a sample, fails to await a ruling before manufacturing and/or marketing the club, the manufacturer assumes the risk of a ruling that the club does not conform with the Rules.~~

For detailed specifications and interpretations on the conformity of clubs under Rule 4 and the process for consultation and submission regarding clubs, see Appendix II.

Definitions

All defined terms are in italics and are listed alphabetically in the Definitions section– see pages xyz.

THE BALL

Rule 5 (Preamble)

The preamble to Rule 5 will read as follows:

Rule 5. The Ball

~~A player in doubt as to the conformity of a ball should consult the R&A [USGA].~~

~~A manufacturer should submit to the USGA samples of a ball to be manufactured for a ruling as to whether the ball conforms with the Rules. The samples become the property of the USGA for reference purposes. If a manufacturer fails to submit samples or, having submitted samples, fails to await a ruling before manufacturing and/or marketing the ball, the manufacturer assumes the risk of a ruling that the ball does not conform with the Rules.~~

For detailed specifications and interpretations on the conformity of balls under Rule 5 and the process for consultation and submission regarding balls, see Appendix III.

Definitions

All defined terms are in italics and are listed alphabetically in the Definitions section– see pages xyz.

Rule 5-3

The Rule has been revised for consistency with the approved revision to Rule 15-2:

Rule 5. The Ball

“...If a player substitutes a ball when not permitted and makes a stroke at the ~~wrongly~~ incorrectly substituted ball, he incurs the general penalty for a breach of Rule 5-3.”

WRONG SCORE FOR HOLE

Rule 6-6d

It was resolved that the new Exception to Rule 6-6d will read as follows:

Exception: If a competitor returns a score for any hole lower than actually taken due to failure to include one or more penalty strokes that, before returning his score card, he did not know he had incurred, he is not disqualified. In such circumstances, the competitor incurs the penalty prescribed by the applicable Rule and an additional penalty of two strokes for each hole at which the competitor has committed a breach of Rule 6-6d. This Exception does not apply when the applicable penalty is disqualification from the competition.

INDICATING LINE OF PLAY OTHER THAN ON PUTTING GREEN

Rule 8-2a

The resolution was approved, and Rule 8-2a will read as follows:

8-2. Indicating Line of Play

a. Other Than on Putting Green

Except on the *putting green*, a player may have the *line of play* indicated to him by anyone, but no one may be positioned by the player for that purpose on or close to the line or an extension of the line beyond the *hole* while the *stroke* is being made. Any mark placed by the player or with his knowledge ~~to indicate, for the purpose of indicating~~ the *line of play*, must be removed before the *stroke* is made.

~~Exception: Flagstick attended or held up—see Rule 17-1.~~

INDICATING LINE OF PLAY; ON THE PUTTING GREEN

Rule 8-2b

The resolution was approved, and Rule 8-2b will read as follows:

b. On the Putting Green

When the player's ball is on the *putting green*, the line of putt may be indicated before, but not during, the stroke by the player, his *partner* or either of their *caddies* ~~may, before but not during the stroke, point out a line for putting, but;~~ in so doing so the *putting green* must not be touched. A mark must not be placed anywhere ~~to indicate for the purpose of indicating a line for putting, of putt.~~

(Touching line of putt – see Rule 16-1a)

SEARCHING FOR BALL; SEEING BALL

Rule 12-1

The resolution was approved, and Rule 12-1a will read as follows:

a. Searching for or Identifying Ball Covered by Sand

If the player's ball lying anywhere on the *course* is believed to be covered by sand, to the extent that he cannot find or identify it, he may, without penalty, touch or move the sand in order to find or identify the ball. If the ball is found, and identified as his, the player must re-create the lie as nearly as possible by replacing the sand. If the ball is *moved* during the touching or moving of sand while searching for or identifying the ball or during the re-creation of the lie, there is no penalty; the ball must be replaced and the lie re-created.

In re-creating a lie under this Rule, the player is permitted to leave a small part of the ball visible.

BALL TO BE FAIRLY STRUCK AT

Rule 14-1a

The resolution was approved and it was resolved that the title of Rule 14-1a will read as follows:

14-1a. Fairly Striking the Ball ~~Ball to be Fairly Struck At~~

ANCHORING THE CLUB

Rule 14-1b

The resolution was approved, and Rule 14-1b will read as follows:

14-1b. Anchoring the Club

In making a *stroke*, the player must not anchor the club, either "directly" or by use of an "anchor point."

Note 1: The club is anchored "directly" when the player intentionally holds the club or a gripping hand in contact with any part of his body, except that the player may hold the club or a gripping hand against a hand or forearm.

Note 2: An "anchor point" exists when the player intentionally holds a forearm in contact with any part of his body to establish a gripping hand as a stable point around which the other hand may swing the club.

ARTIFICIAL DEVICES, UNUSUAL EQUIPMENT AND UNUSUAL USE OF EQUIPMENT

Rule 14-3 (Proposal #1)

It was resolved to amend Rule 14-3 as follows:

14-3. Artificial Devices, and Unusual Equipment ~~and; Unusual Abnormal~~ Use of Equipment

~~The USGA reserves the right, at any time, to change the *Rules* relating to artificial devices, unusual equipment and the unusual use of equipment, and to make or change the interpretations~~

~~relating to these Rules.~~

~~A player in doubt as to whether use of an item would constitute a breach of Rule 14-3 should consult the USGA.~~

~~A manufacturer should submit to the USGA a sample of an item to be manufactured for a ruling as to whether its use during a stipulated round would cause a player to be in breach of Rule 14-3. The sample becomes the property of the USGA for reference purposes. If a manufacturer fails to submit a sample or, having submitted a sample, fails to await a ruling before manufacturing and/or marketing the item, the manufacturer assumes the risk of a ruling that use of the item would be contrary to the Rules.~~

Rule 14-3 governs the use of equipment and devices (including electronic devices) that might assist a player in making a specific stroke or generally in his play.

Golf is a challenging game in which success should depend on the judgment, skills and abilities of the player. This principle guides The R&A and the USGA in determining whether the use of any item is in breach of Rule 14-3.

For detailed specifications and interpretations on the conformity of equipment and devices under Rule 14-3 and the process for consultation and submission regarding equipment and devices, see Appendix IV.

Except as provided in the Rules, during a *stipulated round* the player must not use any artificial device or unusual *equipment* ~~(see Appendix IV for detailed specifications and interpretations),~~ or use any *equipment* in an ~~unusual~~abnormal manner:

- a. That might assist him in making a *stroke* or in his play; or
- b. For the purpose of gauging or measuring distance or conditions that might affect his play; or
- c. That might assist him in gripping the club, except that:
 - (i) gloves may be worn provided that they are plain gloves;
 - (ii) resin, powder and drying or moisturizing agents may be used; and
 - (iii) a towel or handkerchief may be wrapped around the grip.

Exceptions:

1. A player is not in breach of this Rule if (a) the *equipment* or device is designed for or has the effect of alleviating a medical condition, (b) the player has a legitimate medical reason to use the *equipment* or device, and (c) the *Committee* is satisfied that its use does not give the player any undue advantage over other players.

2. A player is not in breach of this Rule if he uses *equipment* in a traditionally accepted manner.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 14-3:

Disqualification

Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.

For subsequent offence – Disqualification.

In the event of a breach between the play of two holes, the penalty applies to the next hole.

Note: The *Committee* may make a Local Rule allowing players to use ~~devices that measure or gauge~~ distance ~~only.~~ measuring device.

PLAYING MOVING BALL

Rule 14-5

It was agreed that the Exceptions to Rule 14-5 should be revised as follows:

Exceptions:

- Ball falling off tee – Rule 11-3
- Striking the ball more than once – Rule 14-4
- Ball moving in water – Rule 14-6

When the ball begins to move only after the player has begun the *stroke* or the backward movement of his club for the *stroke*, he incurs no penalty under this Rule for playing a moving ball, but he is not exempt from any penalty under ~~the following Rules:~~ Rule 18-2 (Ball at rest moved by player).

~~• Ball at rest moved by player – Rule 18-2a~~

~~• Ball at rest moving after address – Rule 18-2b~~

(Ball purposely deflected or stopped by player, partner or caddie – see Rule 1-2)

SUBSTITUTED BALL

Rule 15-2

The resolution was approved, and the second paragraph in Rule 15-2 will read as follows:

15-2. Substituted Ball

A player may *substitute* a ball when proceeding under a *Rule* that permits the player to play, drop or place another ball in completing the play of a hole. The *substituted ball* becomes the *ball in play*.

If a player *substitutes* a ball when not permitted to do so under the *Rules*; (including an unintentional substitution when a wrong ball is dropped or placed by the player), that *substituted ball* is not a *wrong ball*; it becomes the *ball in play*. If the mistake is not corrected as provided in Rule 20-6 and the player makes a *stroke* at ~~a wrongly an incorrectly~~ *substituted ball*, he loses the hole in match play or incurs a penalty of two strokes in stroke play under the applicable *Rule* and, in stroke play, must play out the hole with the *substituted ball*.

Exception: If a player incurs a penalty for making a *stroke* from a wrong place, there is no additional penalty for substituting a ball when not permitted.

(Playing from wrong place – see Rule 20-7)

TOUCHING LINE OF PUTT

Rule 16-1a

The resolution was approved, and the cross reference under Rule 16-1a will read as follows:

(Indicating ~~line for putting~~ line of putt on putting green – see Rule 8-2b)

BALL AT REST MOVED BY PLAYER PARTNER CADDIE OR EQUIPMENT

Rule 18-2

It was agreed to withdraw Rule 18-2b.

~~b. Ball Moving After Address~~

~~If a player's *ball in play* moves after he has *addressed* it (other than as a result of a *stroke*), the player is deemed to have *moved* the ball and incurs a penalty of one stroke.~~

~~The ball must be replaced, unless the movement of the ball occurs after the player has begun the *stroke* or the backward movement of the club for the *stroke* and the *stroke* is made.~~

~~Exception: If it is known or virtually certain that the player did not cause his ball to *move*, Rule 18-2b does not apply.~~

BALL AT REST MOVED

BY PLAYER, PARTNER, CADDIE OR EQUIPMENT

Rule 18-2a (Exceptions)

The first bullet point in the list of Exceptions will read as follows:

- In searching for a ball covered by sand or in re-creating the lie of a ball that has been altered during such a process, in the replacement of *loose impediments* moved in a *hazard* while finding or identifying a ball, in probing for a ball lying in water in a *water hazard* or in searching for a ball in an *obstruction* or an *abnormal ground condition* – Rule 12-1

WHEN BALL DROPPED OR PLACED IS IN PLAY

Rule 20-4

It was resolved to amend Rule 20-4 to read as follows:

20-4. When Ball Dropped or Placed is in Play

If the player's *ball in play* has been lifted, it is again *in play* when dropped or placed. A ball that has been replaced is *in play* whether or not the ball-marker has been removed.

A *substituted ball* becomes the *ball in play* when it has been dropped or placed.

(Ball incorrectly substituted – see Rule 15-2)

(Lifting ball incorrectly substituted, dropped or placed – see Rule 20-6)

LOOSE IMPEDIMENTS

RELIEF

Rule 23-1 (Proposal #2)

The resolution was approved, and the third paragraph of Rule 23-1 will read as follows:

23-1. Relief

Except when both the *loose impediment* and the ball lie in or touch the same *hazard*, any *loose impediment* may be removed without penalty.

If the ball lies anywhere other than on the *putting green* and the removal of a *loose impediment* by the player causes the ball to *move*, Rule 18-2a applies.

On the *putting green*, if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally *moved* in the process of the player removing a *loose impediment*, the ball or ball-marker must be replaced. There is no penalty, provided the movement of the ball or ball-marker is directly attributable to the removal of the *loose impediment*. Otherwise, ~~if the player causes the ball to move, he~~ incurs a penalty of one stroke under Rule 18-2a.

When a ball is in motion, a *loose impediment* that might influence the movement of the ball must not be removed.

Note: If the ball lies in a *hazard*, the player must not touch or move any *loose impediment* lying in or touching the same *hazard* – see Rule 13-4c.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE: Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.

(Searching for ball in hazard – see Rule 12-1) (Touching line of putt – see Rule 16-1a)

EMBEDDED BALL

Rule 25-2

It was resolved to revise Rule 25-2 to read as follows:

Rule 25-2. Embedded Ball

~~A~~ If a player's ball is embedded in ~~its own pitch-mark in the ground in~~ any closely-mown area *through the green*, it may be lifted, cleaned and dropped, without penalty, as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the *hole*. The ball when dropped must first strike a part of the *course through the green*.

Note 1: A ball is “embedded” when it is in its own pitch-mark and part of the ball is below the level of the ground. A ball does not necessarily have to touch the soil to be embedded (e.g. grass, *loose impediments* and the like may intervene between the ball and the soil).

Note 2: “Closely-mown area” means any area of the *course*, including paths through the rough, cut to fairway height or less.

Note 3: The *Committee* may adopt the Local Rule as provided for in Appendix I allowing a player relief, without penalty, for a ball embedded anywhere *through the green*.

BALL PLAYED WITHIN WATER HAZARD

Rule 26-2

Rule 26-2 will read as follows:

26-2. Ball Played Within Water Hazard

a. Ball Comes to Rest in Same or Another Water Hazard

If a ball played from within a *water hazard* comes to rest in the same or another *water hazard* after the *stroke*, the player may:

- (i) ~~under penalty of one stroke, proceed under Rule 26-1a. If, after dropping in the hazard, the player elects not to play the dropped ball, he may:~~
 - ~~(a) proceed under Rule 26-1b, or if applicable Rule 26-1c, adding the additional penalty of one stroke prescribed by the Rule and using as the reference point the point where the original ball last crossed the margin of this hazard before it came to rest in this hazard; or~~
 - ~~(b) add an additional penalty of one stroke and, play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the last stroke from outside a water hazard was made (see Rule 20-5); or~~
- (ii) proceed under Rule 26-~~1a, 26-1b~~, or, if applicable ~~Rule, 26-1c~~; ~~or~~
- ~~(iii) under, incurring the penalty of one stroke, play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the last stroke from outside a water hazard was made (see Rule 20-5), under that Rule. For purposes of applying Rule 26-1b or 26-1c, the reference point is the point where the original ball last crossed the margin of the hazard in which it lies.~~

Note: If the player proceeds under Rule 26-1a by dropping a ball in the hazard as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played, but elects not to play the dropped ball, he may then proceed under Clause (i) above, Rule 26-1b or, if applicable, Rule 26-1c. If he does so, he incurs a total of two penalty strokes: the penalty of one stroke for proceeding under Rule 26-1a, and an additional penalty of one stroke for then proceeding under Clause (i) above, Rule 26-1b or Rule 26-1c.

b. Ball Lost or Unplayable Outside Hazard or Out of Bounds

If a ball played from within a *water hazard* is *lost* or deemed unplayable outside the *hazard* or is *out of bounds*, the player may, after taking a penalty of one stroke under Rule 27-1 or 28a:

- ~~(+)~~ play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot in the *hazard* from which the original ball was last played (see Rule 20-5); ~~or~~

If the player elects not to play a ball from that spot, he may:

- (i) add an additional penalty of one stroke (making a total of two penalty strokes) and play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the last stroke from outside a water hazard was made (see Rule 20-5); or
- (ii) proceed under Rule 26-1b; or, if applicable, Rule 26-1c, adding the additional penalty of one stroke prescribed by the Rule (making a total of two penalty strokes) and using as the reference point the point where the original ball last crossed the margin of the *hazard* before it came to rest in the *hazard*; ~~or~~

~~(iii) add an additional penalty of one stroke and play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the last stroke from outside a water hazard was made (see Rule 20-5).~~

Note 1: When proceeding under Rule 26-2b, the player is not required to drop a ball under Rule 27-1 or 28a. If he does drop a ball, he is not required to play it. He may alternatively proceed under Clause (i) or (ii) above. If he does so, he incurs a total of two penalty strokes: the penalty of one stroke under Rule 26-2b(ii) or (iii), 27-1 or 28a, and an additional penalty of one stroke for then proceeding under Clause (i) or (ii) above.

Note 2: If a ball played from within a *water hazard* is deemed unplayable outside the *hazard*, nothing in Rule 26-2b precludes the player from proceeding under Rule 28b or c.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE:

Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play Two strokes.

PROVISIONAL BALL

PROCEDURE

Rule 27-2a

Rule 27-2 will read as follows:

27-2. Provisional Ball

a. Procedure

If a ball may be lost outside a *water hazard* or may be *out of bounds*, to save time the player may play another ball provisionally in accordance with Rule 27-1. The player must ~~inform~~:

- (i) announce to his *opponent* in match play or his *marker* or a *fellow-competitor* in stroke play that he intends to play a *provisional ball*, ~~and he must play it before he or his partner goes forward to search for the original ball;~~ and
- (ii) play the provisional ball before he or his partner goes forward to search for the original ball.

If ~~he a player~~ fails to ~~do so and plays~~ meet the above requirements prior to playing another ball, that ball is not a *provisional ball* and becomes the *ball in play* under penalty of stroke and distance (Rule 27-1); the original ball is *lost*.

(Order of play from teeing ground – see Rule 10-3)

Note: If a *provisional ball* played under Rule 27-2a might be *lost* outside a *water hazard* or *out of bounds*, the player may play another *provisional ball*. If another *provisional ball* is played, it bears the same relationship to the previous *provisional ball* as the first *provisional ball* bears to the original ball.

BOGEY, PAR AND STABLEFORD COMPETITIONS;

BOGEY AND PAR COMPETITIONS

Rule 32-1a (Note)

It was resolved to introduce a new Note 3 under Rule 32-1a, which will read as follows:

Note 3: If the *competitor* incurs the additional two-stroke penalty provided in the Exception to Rule 6-6d, that additional penalty is applied by deducting one hole from the aggregate of holes scored for the round. The penalty the *competitor* failed to include in his score is applied to the hole where the breach occurred. However, neither penalty applies when a breach of Rule 6-6d does not affect the result of the hole.

BOGEY, PAR AND STABLEFORD COMPETITIONS;

STABLEFORD COMPETITIONS

Rule 32-1b (Note)

It was resolved to introduce a new Note 3 under Rule 32-1b (with current Note 3 becoming Note 4), which will read as follows:

Note 3: If the *competitor* incurs the additional two-stroke penalty provided in the Exception to Rule 6-6d, that additional penalty is applied by deducting two points from the total points scored for the round. The penalty the *competitor* failed to include in his score is applied to the hole where the breach occurred. However, neither penalty applies when a breach of Rule 6-6d does not affect the points scored on the hole.

DISQUALIFICATION PENALTIES FROM THE COMPETITION

Rule 32-2a

It was resolved to include reference to Rule 10-2c in the list of disqualification penalties in Rule 32-2a for bogey, par and Stableford competitions. The reference will read as follows:

- Rule 10-2c Playing Out of Turn

CONDITIONS; WAIVING RULE

Rule 33-1

It was resolved to amend Rule 33-1 to include a new third paragraph which will read as follows:

33-1. Conditions; Waiving Rule

The *Committee* must establish the conditions under which a competition is to be played.

The *Committee* has no power to waive a Rule of Golf.

The number of holes of a *stipulated round* must not be reduced once play has commenced for that round.

Certain specific *Rules* governing stroke play are so substantially different from those governing match play that combining the two forms of play is not practicable and is not permitted. The result of a match played in these circumstances is null and void and, in the

stroke play competition, the *competitors* are disqualified.

In stroke play, the *Committee* may limit a *referee's* duties.

CLAIMS AND PENALTIES

STROKE PLAY

Rule 34-1b

It was agreed that part (iii) in the Exception to Rule 34-1b should be revised as follows:

Exceptions: A penalty of disqualification must be imposed after the competition has closed if a *competitor*:

- (i) was in breach of Rule 1-3 (Agreement to Waive Rules); or
- (ii) returned a score card on which he had recorded a handicap that, before the competition closed, he knew was higher than that to which he was entitled, and this affected the number of strokes received (Rule 6-2b); or
- (iii) returned a score for any hole lower than actually taken (Rule 6-6d) for any reason other than failure to include ~~one or more~~ *penalty strokes* that, before the competition closed, he did not know he had incurred; or
- (iv) knew, before the competition closed, that he had been in breach of any other *Rule* for which the penalty is disqualification.

APPENDIX I

PART A

Local Rules

It was agreed to amalgamate Parts A and B in Appendix I. On this basis, it was resolved to amend Appendix I to read as follows (which includes the finalised language for the Local Rules for Cleaning Ball, Preferred Lies and Distance- Measuring Devices):

Appendix I – Local Rules; Conditions of Competition

Part A Local Rules

Definitions

All defined terms are in *italics* and are listed alphabetically in the Definitions section – see pages

_____ .

General

As provided in Rule 33-8a, the *Committee* may make and publish Local Rules for local abnormal conditions if they are consistent with the policies established in this Appendix. In addition, detailed information regarding acceptable and prohibited Local Rules is provided in “Decisions on the Rules of Golf” under Rule 33-8 and in [“How to Conduct a Competition/Guidance on Running a Competition.”]

If local abnormal conditions interfere with the proper playing of the game and the *Committee* considers it necessary to modify a Rule of Golf, authorization from [the United States Golf Association/The R&A] must be obtained.

Within the policies established in Appendix I, the *Committee* may adopt Specimen Local Rules by referring, on a score card or notice board, to the examples given below. However, Specimen Local Rules of a temporary nature should not be printed on a score card.

1. Course – Defining Boundaries, Margins and Status of Objects

The *Committee* may adopt Local Rules:

- Specifying means used to define *out of bounds*, *water hazards*, *lateral water hazards*, *ground under repair*, *obstructions* and integral parts of the *course* (Rule 33-2a).
- Clarifying the status of *water hazards* that may be *lateral water hazards* (Rule 26).
- Clarifying the status of objects that may be *obstructions* (Rule 24).
- Declaring any construction to be an integral part of the *course* and, accordingly, not an *obstruction*, e.g., built-up sides of *teeing grounds*, *putting greens* and *bunkers* (Rules 24 and 33-2a).
- Declaring artificial surfaces and sides of roads to be integral parts of the *course*.
- Providing relief of the type afforded under Rule 24-2b from roads and paths not having artificial surfaces and sides, if they could unfairly affect play.
- Defining temporary obstructions installed on or adjoining the *course* as movable, immovable or temporary immovable obstructions.

2. Course Protection

a. Ground Under Repair; Play Prohibited

If the *Committee* wishes to protect any area of the *course*, including turf nurseries, young plantations and other parts of the *course* under cultivation, it should declare it to be *ground under repair* and prohibit play from within that area. The following Local Rule is recommended:

“The _____ (defined by _____) is *ground under repair* from which play is prohibited. If a player’s ball lies in the area, or if it interferes with the player’s *stance* or the area of his intended swing, the player must take relief under Rule 25-1.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE:

Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.”

b. Protection of Young Trees

When it is desired to prevent damage to young trees, the following Local Rule is recommended:

“Protection of young trees identified by _____. If such a tree interferes with a player’s *stance* or area of his intended swing, the ball must be lifted, without penalty, and dropped in accordance with the procedure prescribed in Rule 24-2b (Immovable Obstruction). If the ball lies in a *water hazard*, the player must lift and drop the ball in accordance with Rule 24-2b(i), except that the *nearest point of*

relief must be in the *water hazard* and the ball must be dropped in the *water hazard*, or the player may proceed under Rule 26. The ball may be cleaned when lifted under this Local Rule.

Exception: A player may not obtain relief under this Local Rule if (a) interference by anything other than such a tree makes the *stroke* clearly impracticable or (b) interference by such a tree would occur only through the use of a clearly unreasonable *stroke* or an unnecessarily abnormal *stance*, swing or direction of play.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE:

Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.”

c. Environmentally-Sensitive Areas

If an appropriate authority (i.e., a Government Agency or the like) prohibits entry into and/or play from an area on or adjoining the *course* for environmental reasons, the *Committee* should make a Local Rule clarifying the relief procedure. The *Committee* may not declare an area to be environmentally-sensitive.

The *Committee* has some discretion in terms of whether the area is defined as *ground under repair*, a *water hazard* or *out of bounds*. However, it may not simply define an area to be a *water hazard* if it does not meet the Definition of a “*Water Hazard*” and it should attempt to preserve the character of the hole.

The following Local Rule is recommended:

“1. Definition

An environmentally-sensitive area (ESA) is an area so declared by an appropriate authority, entry into and/or play from which is prohibited for environmental reasons.

The _____ (defined by _____) are ‘environmentally-sensitive areas’ (ESAs). These areas are to be played as (*ground under repair* – *water hazards* – *out of bounds*).

2. Ball in Environmentally-Sensitive Area

Ground Under Repair:

If a ball is in an ESA defined as *ground under repair*, a ball must be dropped in accordance with Rule 25-1b.

If it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found is in an ESA defined as *ground under repair*, the player may take relief, without penalty, as prescribed in Rule 25-1c.

Water Hazards and Lateral Water Hazards:

If the ball is found in or if it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found is in an ESA defined as a *water hazard* or *lateral water hazard*, the player must, under penalty of one stroke, proceed under Rule 26-1.

Note: If a ball dropped in accordance with Rule 26 rolls into a position where the ESA interferes with the player’s *stance* or the area of his intended swing, the player must take relief as provided in Clause 3 of this Local Rule.

Out of Bounds:

If a ball is in an ESA defined as *out of bounds*, the player must play a ball, under penalty of one stroke, as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played (see Rule 20-5).

3. Interference with Stance or Area of Intended Swing

Interference by an ESA occurs when the ESA interferes with the player's *stance* or the area of his intended swing. If interference exists, the player must take relief as follows:

(a) Through the Green: If the ball lies *through the green*, the point on the *course* nearest to where the ball lies must be determined that (a) is not nearer the *hole*, (b) avoids interference by the ESA and (c) is not in a *hazard* or on a *putting green*. The player must lift the ball and drop it, without penalty, within one club-length of the point so determined on a part of the *course* that fulfils (a), (b) and (c) above.

(b) In a Hazard: If the ball is in a *hazard*, the player must lift the ball and drop it either:

(i) Without penalty, in the *hazard*, as near as possible to the spot where the ball lay, but not nearer the *hole*, on a part of the *course* that provides complete relief from the ESA; or

(ii) Under penalty of one stroke, outside the *hazard*, keeping the point where the ball lay directly between the *hole* and the spot on which the ball is dropped, with no limit to how far behind the *hazard* the ball may be dropped. Additionally, the player may proceed under Rule 26 or 28 if applicable.

(c) On the Putting Green: If the ball lies on the *putting green*, the player must lift the ball and place it, without penalty, in the nearest position to where it lay that affords complete relief from the ESA, but not nearer the *hole* or in a *hazard*.

The ball may be cleaned when lifted under Clause 3 of this Local Rule.

Exception: A player must not take relief under Clause 3 of this Local Rule if (a) interference by anything other than an ESA makes the *stroke* clearly impracticable or (b) interference by an ESA would occur only through the use of a clearly unreasonable *stroke* or an unnecessarily abnormal *stance*, swing or direction of play.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE:

Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.

Note: In the case of a serious breach of this Local Rule, the *Committee* may impose a penalty of disqualification.”

3. Course Conditions

a. Embedded Ball

Course conditions, including mud and extreme wetness, may interfere with proper playing of the game and warrant relief for an embedded ball anywhere *through the green*.

Rule 25-2 provides relief, without penalty, for a ball embedded in its own pitch-mark in any closely-mown area *through the green*. On the *putting green*, a ball may be lifted and damage caused by the impact of a ball may be repaired (Rules 16-1b and c). When permission to take relief for an embedded ball anywhere *through the green* would be warranted, the following Local Rule is recommended:

“*Through the green*, a ball that is embedded may be lifted, cleaned and dropped, without penalty, as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the *hole*. The ball when dropped must first strike a part of the *course through the green*.

Note: A ball is “embedded” when it is in its own pitch-mark and part of the ball is below the level of the ground. A ball does not necessarily have to touch the soil to be embedded (e.g. grass, *loose impediments* and the like may intervene between the ball and the soil).

Exceptions:

1. A player may not take relief under this Local Rule if the ball is embedded in sand in an area that is not closely-mown.
2. A player may not take relief under this Local Rule if interference by anything other than the condition covered by this Local Rule makes the *stroke* clearly impracticable.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE:

Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.”

b. “Preferred Lies” and “Winter Rules”

Ground under repair is provided for in Rule 25, and occasional local abnormal conditions that might interfere with fair play and are not widespread should be defined as *ground under repair*.

However, adverse conditions, such as heavy snows, spring thaws, prolonged rains or extreme heat can make fairways unsatisfactory and sometimes prevent use of heavy mowing equipment. When these conditions are so general throughout a *course* that the *Committee* believes “preferred lies” or “winter rules” would promote fair play or help protect the *course*, the following Local Rule (which should be withdrawn as soon as conditions warrant) is recommended:

“A ball lying on a closely-mown area *through the green* (or specify a more restricted area, e.g., at the 6th hole) may be lifted without penalty and cleaned. Before lifting the ball, the player must mark its position. Having lifted the ball, he must place it on a spot within (specify area, e.g., six inches, one club-length, etc.) of and not nearer the *hole* than where it originally lay, that is not in a *hazard* and not on a *putting green*.

A player may place his ball only once, and it is *in play* when it has been placed (Rule 20-4). If the ball fails to come to rest on the spot on which it was placed, Rule 20-3d applies. If the ball when placed comes to rest on the spot on which it is placed and it subsequently *moves*, there is no penalty and the ball must be played as it lies, unless the provisions of any other *Rule* apply.

If the player fails to mark the position of the ball before lifting it, moves the ball-marker prior to putting the ball back into play or moves the ball in any other manner, such as rolling it with a club, he incurs a penalty of one stroke.

Note: “Closely-mown area” means any area of the *course*, including paths through the rough, cut to fairway height or less.

*PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE:

Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.

*If a player incurs the general penalty for a breach of this Local Rule, no additional penalty under the Local Rule is applied.”

c. Cleaning Ball

Conditions, such as extreme wetness causing significant amounts of mud to adhere to the ball, may be such that permission to lift, clean and replace the ball would be appropriate. In these circumstances, the following Local Rule is recommended:

“(Specify area, e.g. at the 6th hole, on a closely-mown area, anywhere *through the green*, etc) a ball may be lifted and cleaned without penalty. The ball must be replaced.

Note: The position of the ball must be marked before it is lifted under this Local Rule – see Rule 20-1.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE:

Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.”

d. Aeration Holes

When a *course* has been aerated, a Local Rule permitting relief, without penalty, from an aeration hole may be warranted. The following Local Rule is recommended:

“*Through the green*, a ball that comes to rest in or on an aeration hole may be lifted without penalty, cleaned and dropped as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the *hole*. The ball when dropped must first strike a part of the *course through the green*.

On the *putting green*, a ball that comes to rest in or on an aeration hole may be placed at the nearest spot not nearer the *hole* that avoids the situation.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE:

Match play– Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.”

e. Seams of Cut Turf

If a *Committee* wishes to allow relief from seams of cut turf, but not from the turf itself, the following Local Rule is recommended:

“*Through the green*, seams of cut turf (not the turf itself) are deemed to be *ground under repair*. However, interference by a seam with the player’s *stance* is deemed not to be, of itself, interference under Rule 25-1. If the ball lies in or touches the seam or the seam interferes with the area of intended swing, relief is available under Rule 25-1. All seams within the cut turf area are considered the same seam.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE:

Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.”

f. Stones in Bunkers

Stones are, by definition, *loose impediments* and, when a player’s ball is in a *hazard*, a stone lying in or touching the *hazard* may not be touched or moved (Rule 13-4). However, stones in *bunkers* may represent a danger to players (a player could be injured by a stone struck by the player’s club in an attempt to play the ball) and they may interfere with the proper playing of the game.

When permission to lift a stone in a *bunker* is warranted, the following Local Rule is recommended:

“Stones in *bunkers* are movable *obstructions* (Rule 24-1 applies).”

4. Obstructions

a. Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Green (e.g. Sprinkler Heads)

Rule 24-2 provides relief, without penalty, from interference by an immovable *obstruction*, but it also provides that, except on the *putting green*, intervention on the *line of play* is not, of itself, interference under this Rule.

However, on some courses, the aprons of the *putting green* are so closely mown that players may wish to putt from just off the green. In such conditions, immovable *obstructions* on the apron may interfere with the proper playing of the game and the introduction of the following Local Rule providing

additional relief, without penalty, from intervention by an immovable *obstruction* would be warranted:

“Relief from interference by an immovable *obstruction* may be taken under Rule 24-2.

In addition, if a ball lies *through the green* and an immovable *obstruction* on or within two club-lengths of the *putting green* and within two club-lengths of the ball intervenes on the *line of play* between the ball and the *hole*, the player may take relief as follows:

The ball must be lifted and dropped at the nearest point to where the ball lay that (a) is not nearer the *hole*, (b) avoids intervention and (c) is not in a *hazard* or on a *putting green*.

If the player’s ball lies on the *putting green* and an immovable *obstruction* within two club-lengths of the *putting green* intervenes on his *line of putt*, the player may take relief as follows:

The ball must be lifted and placed at the nearest point to where the ball lay that (a) is not nearer the *hole*, (b) avoids intervention and (c) is not in a *hazard*.

The ball may be cleaned when lifted.

Exception: A player may not take relief under this Local Rule if interference by anything other than the immovable *obstruction* makes the *stroke* clearly impracticable.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE:

Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.”

Note: The *Committee* may restrict this Local Rule to specific holes, to balls lying only in closely mown areas, to specific *obstructions*, or, in the case of *obstructions* that are not on the *putting green*, to *obstructions* in closely mown areas if so desired. “Closely-mown area” means any area of the *course*, including paths through the rough, cut to fairway height or less.

b. Temporary Immovable Obstructions

When temporary obstructions are installed on or adjoining the *course*, the *Committee* should define the status of such obstructions as movable, immovable or temporary immovable obstructions.

If the *Committee* defines such obstructions as temporary immovable obstructions, the following Local Rule is recommended:

“1. Definition

A temporary immovable obstruction (TIO) is a non-permanent artificial object that is often erected in conjunction with a competition and is fixed or not readily movable. Examples of TIOs include, but are not limited to, tents, scoreboards, grandstands, television towers and lavatories.

Supporting guy wires are part of the TIO, unless the *Committee* declares that they are to be treated as elevated power lines or cables.

2. Interference

Interference by a TIO occurs when (a) the ball lies in front of and so close to the TIO that the TIO interferes with the player’s *stance* or the area of his intended swing, or (b) the ball lies in, on, under or behind the TIO so that any part of the TIO intervenes directly between the player’s ball and the *hole* and is on his *line of play*; interference also exists if the ball lies within one club-length of a spot equidistant from the *hole* where such intervention would exist.

Note: A ball is under a TIO when it is below the outermost edges of the TIO, even if these edges do not extend downwards to the ground.

3. Relief

A player may obtain relief from interference by a TIO, including a TIO that is *out of bounds*, as follows:

(a) Through the Green: If the ball lies *through the green*, the point on the *course* nearest to where the ball lies must be determined that (a) is not nearer the *hole*, (b) avoids interference as defined in Clause 2 and (c) is not in a *hazard* or on a *putting green*. The player must lift the ball and drop it, without penalty, within one club-length of the point so determined on a part of the *course* that fulfills (a), (b) and (c) above.

(b) In a Hazard: If the ball is in a *hazard*, the player must lift and drop the ball either:

(i) Without penalty, in accordance with Clause 3(a) above, except that the nearest part of the *course* affording complete relief must be in the *hazard* and the ball must be dropped in the *hazard*, or, if complete relief is impossible, on a part of the *course* within the *hazard* that affords maximum available relief; or

(ii) Under penalty of one stroke, outside the *hazard* as follows: the point on the *course* nearest to where the ball lies must be determined that (a) is not nearer the *hole*, (b) avoids interference as defined in Clause 2 and (c) is not in a *hazard*. The player must drop the ball within one club-length of the point so determined on a part of the *course* that fulfils (a), (b) and (c) above.

The ball may be cleaned when lifted under Clause 3.

Note 1: If the ball lies in a *hazard*, nothing in this Local Rule precludes the player from proceeding under Rule 26 or Rule 28, if applicable.

Note 2: If a ball to be dropped under this Local Rule is not immediately recoverable, another ball may be *substituted*.

Note 3: A *Committee* may make a Local Rule (a) permitting or requiring a player to use a dropping zone when taking relief from a TIO or (b) permitting a player, as an additional relief option, to drop the ball on the opposite side of the TIO from the point established under Clause 3, but otherwise in accordance with Clause 3.

Exceptions: If a player's ball lies in front of or behind the TIO (not in, on or under the TIO), he may not obtain relief under Clause 3 if:

1. Interference by anything other than the TIO makes it clearly impracticable for him to make a *stroke* or, in the case of intervention, to make a *stroke* such that the ball could finish on a direct line to the *hole*;
2. Interference by the TIO would occur only through use of a clearly unreasonable *stroke* or an unnecessarily abnormal *stance*, swing or direction of play; or
3. In the case of intervention, it would be clearly impracticable to expect the player to be able to strike the ball far enough towards the *hole* to reach the TIO.

A player who is not entitled to relief due to these exceptions may, if the ball lies *through the green* or in a *bunker*, obtain relief as provided in Rule 24-2b, if applicable. If the ball lies in a *water hazard*, the player may lift and drop the ball in accordance with Rule 24-2b(i), except that the *nearest point of relief* must be in the *water hazard* and the ball must be dropped in the *water hazard*, or the player may proceed under Rule 26-1.

4. Ball in TIO Not Found

If it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found is in, on or under a TIO, a ball may be dropped under the provisions of Clause 3 or Clause 5, if applicable. For the purpose of applying Clauses 3 and 5, the ball is deemed to lie at the spot where it last crossed the outermost limits of the TIO (Rule 24-3).

5. Dropping Zones

If the player has interference from a TIO, the *Committee* may permit or require the use of a dropping zone. If the player uses a dropping zone in taking relief, he must drop the ball in the dropping zone nearest to where his ball originally lay or is deemed to lie under Clause 4 (even though the nearest dropping zone may be nearer the *hole*).

Note: A *Committee* may make a Local Rule prohibiting the use of a dropping zone that is nearer the *hole*.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE:

Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.”

c. Temporary Power Lines and Cables

When temporary power lines, cables or telephone lines are installed on the *course*, the following Local Rule is recommended:

“Temporary power lines, cables, telephone lines and mats covering or stanchions supporting them are *obstructions*:

1. If they are readily movable, Rule 24-1 applies.
2. If they are fixed or not readily movable, the player may, if the ball lies *through the green* or in a *bunker*, obtain relief as provided in Rule 24-2b. If the ball lies in a *water hazard*, the player may lift and drop the ball in accordance with Rule 24-2b(i), except that the *nearest point of relief* must be in the *water hazard* and the ball must be dropped in the *water hazard* or the player may proceed under Rule 26.
3. If a ball strikes an elevated power line or cable, the *stroke* is cancelled and the player must play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was played in accordance with Rule 20-5 (Making Next Stroke from Where Previous Stroke Made).

Note: Guy wires supporting a temporary immovable obstruction are part of the temporary immovable obstruction, unless the *Committee*, by Local Rule, declares that they are to be treated as elevated power lines or cables.

Exception: A *stroke* that results in a ball striking an elevated junction section of cable rising from the ground must not be replayed.

4. Grass-covered cable trenches are *ground under repair*, even if not marked, and Rule 25-1b applies.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE:

Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.”

5. Water Hazards - Playing Ball Provisionally Under Rule 26-1

If a *water hazard* (including a *lateral water hazard*) is of such size and shape and/or located in such a position that:

- (i) it would be impracticable to determine whether the ball is in the *hazard* or to do so would unduly delay play, and
- (ii) if the original ball is not found, it is known or virtually certain that it is in the *water hazard*,

the *Committee* may introduce a Local Rule permitting the play of a ball provisionally under Rule 26-1. The ball is played provisionally under any of the applicable options under Rule 26-1 or any applicable Local Rule. In such a case, if a ball is played provisionally and the original ball is in a *water hazard*, the player may play the original ball as it lies or continue with the ball played provisionally, but he may not proceed under Rule 26-1 with regard to the original ball.

In these circumstances, the following Local Rule is recommended:

“If there is doubt whether a ball is in or is *lost* in the *water hazard* (specify location), the player may play another ball provisionally under any of the applicable options in Rule 26-1.

If the original ball is found outside the *water hazard*, the player must continue play with it.

If the original ball is found in the *water hazard*, the player may either play the original ball as it lies or continue with the ball played provisionally under Rule 26-1.

If the original ball is not found or identified within the five-minute search period, the player must continue with the ball played provisionally.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE:

Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.”

6. Dropping Zones

The *Committee* may establish dropping zones on which balls may or must be dropped when the *Committee* considers that it is not feasible or practicable to proceed exactly in conformity with Rule 24-2b or Rule 24-3 (Ball in Obstruction Not Found), Rule 25-1b or 25-1c (Abnormal Ground Conditions), 25-3 (Wrong Putting Green), Rule 26-1 (Water Hazards and Lateral Water Hazards) or Rule 28 (Ball Unplayable).

Generally, such dropping zones should be provided as an additional relief option to those available under the Rule itself, rather than being mandatory.

Using the example of a dropping zone for a *water hazard*, when such a dropping zone is established, the following Local Rule is recommended:

“If a ball is in or it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found is in the *water hazard* (specify location), the player may:

- (i) proceed under Rule 26-1; or
- (ii) as an additional option, drop a ball, under penalty of one stroke, in the dropping zone.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE:

Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.”

Note: When using a dropping zone the following provisions apply regarding the dropping and re-dropping of the ball:

- (a) The player does not have to stand within the dropping zone when dropping the ball.
- (b) The dropped ball must first strike a part of the *course* within the dropping zone.
- (c) If the dropping zone is defined by a line, the line is within the dropping zone.

- (d) The dropped ball does not have to come to rest within the dropping zone.
- (e) The dropped ball must be re-dropped if it rolls and comes to rest in a position covered by Rule 20-2c(i-vi).
- (f) The dropped ball may roll nearer the *hole* than the spot where it first struck a part of the *course*, provided it comes to rest within two club-lengths of that spot and not into any of the positions covered by (e).
- (g) Subject to the provisions of (e) and (f), the dropped ball may roll and come to rest nearer the *hole* than:
 - its original position or estimated position (see Rule 20-2b);
 - the *nearest point of relief* or maximum available relief (Rule 24-2, 25-1 or 25-3); or
 - the point where the original ball last crossed the margin of the *water hazard* or *lateral water hazard* (Rule 26-1).

7. Distance-Measuring Devices

If the *Committee* wishes to act in accordance with the Note under Rule 14-3, the following Local Rule is recommended:

“(Specify as appropriate, e.g. In this competition, or For all play at this *course*, etc.), a player may obtain distance information by use of a distance-measuring device. If, during a *stipulated round*, a player uses a distance-measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g. elevation changes, wind speed, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3.”

APPENDIX I

PART C

Conditions of Competition

In view of the amalgamation of Part A and Part B of Appendix I, it was agreed that current Part C would become Part B.

In addition, it was resolved to include a reference to the Definitions at the start of new Part B (as occurs in new Part A) and to include a heading of “General” after the Definitions text in order to separate the Preamble from the Definitions related text.

The introduction to new Part B will read as follows:

Part B Conditions of the Competition

Definitions

All defined terms are in *italics* and are listed alphabetically in the Definitions section – see pages _____

General

Rule 33-1 provides, “The *Committee* must establish the conditions under which a competition is to be played.” The conditions should include many matters such as method of entry, eligibility, number of rounds to be played, etc. which it is not appropriate to deal with in the Rules of Golf or this Appendix. Detailed information regarding these conditions is provided in “Decisions on

the Rules of Golf” under Rule 33-1 and in [“How to Conduct a Competition/Guidance on Running a Competition.”]

However, there are a number of matters that might be covered in the Conditions of the Competition to which the *Committee’s* attention is specifically drawn. These are:

APPENDIX III

The Ball

The preamble to Appendix III should read as follows:

Appendix III – The Ball

A player in doubt as to the conformity of a ball should consult the R&A [USGA].

A manufacturer should submit to the R&A [USGA] samples of a ball to be manufactured for a ruling as to whether the ball conforms with the Rules. The samples become the property of the R&A [USGA] for reference purposes. If a manufacturer fails to submit samples or, having submitted samples, fails to await a ruling before manufacturing and/or marketing the ball, the manufacturer assumes the risk of a ruling that the ball does not conform with the Rules.

The following paragraphs prescribe general regulations for the design of the ball, together with specifications and interpretations. Further information relating to these regulations and their proper interpretation is provided in “A Guide to the Rules on Clubs and Balls.”

Where a ball is required to meet a specification within the Rules, it must be designed and manufactured with the intention of meeting that specification.

1. General

APPENDIX IV

Distance-Measuring Devices

It was resolved to amend Part 5 of Appendix IV to read as follows:

5. Distance-Measuring Devices (Rule 14-3)

During a *stipulated round*, the use of any distance-measuring device is not permitted unless the *Committee* has introduced a Local Rule to that effect (see Note to Rule 14-3 and Appendix I; Part ~~BA~~; Section ~~9~~-~~7~~).

Even when the Local Rule is in effect, the device must ~~be limited to measuring distance only. Features not be used for any purposes that would render use of the device contrary to the Local~~ are prohibited by Rule ~~include~~ 14-3, including but ~~are~~ not limited to:

- the gauging or measuring of slope;
- the gauging or measuring of other conditions that might affect play (e.g., wind speed or direction, ~~or other climate-based information such as temperature, humidity, etc.~~);
- recommendations that might assist the player in making a *stroke* or in his play (e.g., club selection, type of shot to be played, green reading or any other advice related matter); or

- calculating the effective distance between two points based on slope/elevation changes or other conditions affecting shot distance.

~~Such non-conforming features render use of the device contrary to the *Rules*, irrespective of whether or not:~~

- ~~• the features can be switched off or disengaged; and~~
- ~~• the features are switched off or disengaged.~~

A multi-functional device, such as a smartphone or PDA, may be used as a distance-measuring device ~~provided it contains a distance measuring application that meets all of the above limitations (i.e., but it must not be used to gauge or measure distance only). In addition, when the distance measuring application is being used, there must be no other features or applications installed on the device that, if used, conditions where doing so would be in a breach of the *Rules*, whether or not they are actually used~~Rule 14-3.