



Rule of the Month, September 2015

## Loco Locals: 33-8 Local Rules

OGA Senior Rules Officials: Pete Scholz and Terry McEvilly

### True or False

### The Answers:

1. **False.** Rule 13-1 states that the ball must be played as it lies, except as otherwise provided in the Rules. Such a Local Rule would modify this basic premise of the Rules. See Decision 33-8/34.
2. **False.** Local Rules may be established for abnormal conditions not often encountered while playing. In this case, extreme rough is not unusual and a Committee may not declare an area to be a water or lateral water hazard unless it meets the definition of such a hazard. See Decision 33-8/35.
3. **False.** Rule 14-3 prohibits the use of any equipment for the purpose of gauging or measuring distance or conditions that might affect play. However, a note in the same Rule permits a Committee to enact a Local Rule permitting use of devices that measure or gauge distance only. This is the question we referred to in our introduction above. Distance Measuring Devices are almost always intended to be permitted at almost all tournaments, but are rarely mentioned on the Notice.
4. **True.** Decision 33-8/33 suggest the following wording: "For the purpose of Rule 25-3, the putting green of the XX hole includes the apron surrounding the green."
5. **True.** Many courses have small stones mixed in with their sand and may be hazardous to the players. Appendix I provides the specimen Local Rule allowing the removal of such stones prior to making a stroke from the bunker.
6. **False.** See Decision 33-8/1 and Rule 1-1 which states "The Game of Golf consists in playing a ball with a club from the teeing ground into the hole by a stroke or successive strokes in accordance with the Rules." A Local Rule permitting players to pick up and not hole out waives this most basic Rule of the game.
7. **False.** Any Local Rule allowing a player to put another ball into play prior to holing out on the previous hole waives Rule 3-2 and is not allowed. See Decision 1-1/1.
8. **True.** Most Committees will have this Local Rule in place to prevent further damage to a repaired area. However, many times they will exclude a player's stance from the definition of interference for this particular Local Rule. See Appendix I.
9. **False.** Such a Local Rule allowing a player to cancel a stroke at his discretion is not allowed. However, a Local Rule requiring the player to cancel the stroke deflected by a power line is authorized. See Decision 33-8/13.
10. **True.** Decision 27/20 says in part, that because it is unfair that a ball on the road is out of bounds and a ball beyond it is in bounds, it is suggested that a Local Rule be established that deems any ball that crossed a public road defined as out of bounds and comes to rest on another part of the course is out of bounds.