



Rule of the Month

August 1, 2016

A Day at the Beach

Parts of the Course: Bunkers

A warm sandy beach is a great place to spend the day. But not so much fun if the warm sand is a bunker on a golf course. Yet, often times we find that our ball seems to be seeking its own sandy beach as we find ourselves playing from bunkers way more often than we would like. Not only is a stroke from a bunker often problematic, but applying the Rules concerning bunkers can be every bit as difficult. Under the Rules, bunkers fall into the category of hazards, but the Rules treat a bunker much differently than they do a water hazard. This month, we are going to test your bunker knowledge. And as a good place to start, please note that the phrase “sand trap” does not appear anywhere in the Rules of Golf – “bunker” is the correct phrase.

Questions: True / False

1. The margin of bunkers extend both upwards and downwards.
2. A large bunker has several grass covered islands of ground within the margin of the bunker. A ball lying on one of these islands is deemed to lie in the bunker.
3. The two types of bunkers are sand and grass.
4. A ball must touch the sand to be considered in the bunker.
5. Only one option of Rule 28 (Ball Unplayable) may allow a player to drop outside the bunker when declaring his ball unplayable in a bunker.
6. Stones lying near the ball in a bunker must not be removed.
7. A player's ball comes to rest in a bunker against a rake. The rake may be moved and if the ball moves it must be replaced.
8. A player may place her clubs in a bunker prior to making a stroke.
9. After making a stroke in a bunker a player is prohibited from raking the bunker if his ball is still in the same bunker.
10. Sand in a bunker may be touched and moved with a club or hand if the player is searching for his ball.