



## Rule of the Month

July 1, 2016

### Over the River and Through the Green...

#### Parts of the Course: Through the Green

This month's focus is an area of the course defined as "through the green". The definition of through the green can be found on page 44 of the 2016 Rules of Golf book and will be helpful in answering this month's questions. The definition section, starting on page 30, is used more than any other part of the Rules when answering questions received at the USGA. Every golfer who spends time reading the definitions will be a step ahead when applying the Rules on the course.

#### Questions: True/False

1. During play of the first hole, all the other putting greens on the course are through the green.
2. Only hazards located on the hole being played are excluded from the definition of through the green.
3. A player declares his ball unplayable in the rough and drops a ball within two club-lengths of where it lay. However, he drops in the fairway. The player incurs only the one stroke penalty for declaring his ball unplayable.
4. A ball that rolls off the back of the green on an approach shot is deemed to have run "through the green".
5. If a ball lies through the green and the player declares it unplayable she may drop a ball in a bunker or water hazard when proceeding under any option of Rule 28 (Ball Unplayable).
6. A player's ball lies on a cart path through the green. He determines the nearest point of relief and drops a ball within one club-length of that spot. However, the drop is within the margin of a lateral water hazard. The ball must be dropped again outside the hazard.
7. Relief for an embedded ball is always available provided the ball lies through the green.
8. If part of the ball lies through the green but also touches a water hazard line it is deemed to lie through the green.
9. Sandy areas of the course, such as sand dunes, are not considered through the green.
10. A player's ball lies a few yards off the putting green and casual water on the putting green intervenes on her line of play. Because her ball lies through the green she is not allowed relief without penalty.