



Rule of the Month

October 1, 2016

It's Not Easy Being (on the) Green.

Parts of the Course: The Putting Green

Answers:

1. False. According to the definition of "putting green", if any part of the ball touches the putting green, the ball is on the putting green.
2. True. If the player's ball lies on the putting green, relief under Rule 25-1 is available for intervention on the line of putt. Otherwise, (i.e., ball is not on the green) there is no relief without penalty for the line of play.
3. False. Only old hole plugs and damage caused by the impact of the ball may be repaired on the line of putt (Rule 16-1c). However, as a courtesy to following players and to practice good course etiquette, spike marks and any other damage to the putting green should be repaired after completing the hole.
4. False. Rule 16-1b states that when another ball is in motion, a ball that might influence the movement of the ball in motion must not be lifted. In other words, if another ball is rolling towards your ball at rest on the green, quickly marking and lifting your ball will result in a penalty.
5. True. When a ball lies on any putting green, other than the putting green of the hole being played, it must not be played as it lies. Under Rule 25-3 (Wrong Putting Green) relief is mandatory.
6. False. When a ball is on the green and the player accidentally moves the ball when lifting a loose impediment there is no penalty provided the movement of the ball is directly attributable to the removal of the loose impediment. See Rule 23-1.
7. False. Under Rule 25-1, the player is allowed relief without penalty, but she may not remove the water. Doing so would breach Rule 16-1a (Touching Line of Putt) or Rule 13-2 for removing water on her line of play.
8. False. Damage caused by the impact of a golf ball may be repaired as many times as necessary. However, the damage must still be clearly identifiable as a ball mark. See Rule 16-1c and Decision 16-1c/1.
9. False. Between the play of two holes, a player may make practice putts on any practice putting green and the putting green of the hole last played, unless prohibited by a Local Rule. Practice on putting greens of other holes previously played, i.e., other than the last hole, is prohibited. Additionally, the practice must not delay play of any other player. See Rule 7-2.
10. True. This applies to a stroke from anywhere on the course. If the ball falls prior to the ten seconds elapsing, the player has holed out with his last stroke with no penalty. However, if the player reaches the hole and after ten seconds the ball falls, he is deemed to have holed out with his last stroke but must add a penalty stroke. See Rule 16-2.