





















## Situations & Penalties

	<b>Penalty Strokes</b>
○ Player lifts, moves, or cleans ball when not permitted	1
 Cause ball to move by removing a loose impediment	1
 Move the ball out of a divot ( <i>unplayable</i> )	1
 Unreasonable delay by a player	1
 Wrong ball, playing from the wrong place or incorrectly substituted ball	2
 Play another player's ball	2
○ Improving lie, stance or line of play	2
 Grounding the club in the bunker	2
 Remove the dew on the putting green	2
 Intentionally interfere with a moving ball	2
 In <i>stroke play</i> , putted ball strikes another player's ball on the putting green	2
 Giving advice or asking for advice	2
○ Teeing Area Infractions	2

## Situations & Penalties

	<b>Penalty Strokes</b>
○ Player lifts, moves, or cleans ball when not permitted	1
 Cause ball to move by removing a loose impediment	1
 Move the ball out of a divot ( <i>unplayable</i> )	1
 Unreasonable delay by a player	1
 Wrong ball, playing from the wrong place or incorrectly substituted ball	2
 Play another player's ball	2
○ Improving lie, stance or line of play	2
 Grounding the club in the bunker	2
 Remove the dew on the putting green	2
 Intentionally interfere with a moving ball	2
 In <i>stroke play</i> , putted ball strikes another player's ball on the putting green	2
 Giving advice or asking for advice	2
○ Teeing Area Infractions	2

## Free Options

### Ok to Move Object USGA Rule 15 - No Penalty

#### Loose Impediment

Stones, Loose Grass  
Leaves, Branches and Sticks  
Animals, Insects, Poop  
Aeration Plugs  
Clumps of compacted soil  
Snow & Natural Ice  
Sand on the green

#### Movable Obstruction

Water bottles  
Player equipment  
Wrappers, etc.  
Another player's ball  
or ball marker  
Scorecard  
Broken Tee

### Ok to Move Ball USGA Rule 16 - No Penalty

#### Abnormal Course Conditions

Animal holes, track or trail  
Dangerous Animal  
Condition (bees, etc.)  
Temporary Water  
Ground Under Repair  
including Staked Trees  
Embedded ball in the General Area

#### Immovable Obstructions

Paved cart path  
Sprinkler heads  
Irrigation controllers  
Fences within the course  
Buildings

#### Free Relief Does Not Apply To:

Trees & tree roots	Aeration Holes	Mud
Sand and loose soil	Fairway Divot Holes	Dew
Wet Ground	Boundary Fences	Frost

## Free Options

### Ok to Move Object USGA Rule 15 - No Penalty

#### Loose Impediment

Stones, Loose Grass  
Leaves, Branches and Sticks  
Animals, Insects, Poop  
Aeration Plugs  
Clumps of compacted soil  
Snow & Natural Ice  
Sand on the green

#### Movable Obstruction

Water bottles  
Player equipment  
Wrappers, etc.  
Another player's ball  
or ball marker  
Scorecard  
Broken Tee

### Ok to Move Ball USGA Rule 16 - No Penalty

#### Abnormal Course Conditions

Animal holes, track or trail  
Dangerous Animal  
Condition (bees, etc.)  
Temporary Water  
Ground Under Repair  
including Staked Trees  
Embedded ball in the General Area

#### Immovable Obstructions

Paved cart path  
Sprinkler heads  
Irrigation controllers  
Fences within the course  
Buildings

#### Free Relief Does Not Apply To:

Trees & tree roots	Aeration Holes	Mud
Sand and loose soil	Fairway Divot Holes	Dew
Wet Ground	Boundary Fences	Frost



## Situations

### Yellow Stakes



Yellow penalty areas are a body of water or a ditch that requires a player to hit across

**1, 2** or **3**

### Unplayable

Can be declared anywhere except red and yellow penalty areas

**2, 3** or **4**

### Lost Ball

After 3 minute search

**2**



### Red Stakes



Red penalty areas are marked by red lines or red stakes. Indicates play that is lateral to a body of water

**1, 2, 3** or **6**

### White Stakes



Out of Bounds

**2**

### Unplayable

#### in the Bunker

**2, 3** in the bunker,

**4** in the bunker or

**5** out of the bunker

## 2023 USGA Options

- 1 Hit the ball as it lies **no penalty**
- 2 Go back to where the previous stroke was made and hit again  
**1 penalty stroke**
- 3 Drop the ball as far back on the line as you wish from where the ball lies  
**1 penalty stroke**
- 4 Drop ball (no nearer to the hole) within 2 club lengths from where the ball lies  
**1 penalty stroke**
- 5 Bunker - The ball can be dropped **outside** the bunker. From where the ball lies, go as far back on the line as you wish to pick a relief point. Dropped ball can roll up to one club length in any direction  
**2 penalty strokes**
- 6 Drop the ball within two club lengths from red stakes or red line at the point where ball last crossed the penalty area, no nearer the hole  
**1 penalty stroke**

## Situations

### Yellow Stakes



Yellow penalty areas are a body of water or a ditch that requires a player to hit across

**1, 2** or **3**

### Unplayable

Can be declared anywhere except red and yellow penalty areas

**2, 3** or **4**

### Lost Ball

After 3 minute search

**2**



### Red Stakes



Red penalty areas are marked by red lines or red stakes. Indicates play that is lateral to a body of water

**1, 2, 3** or **6**

### White Stakes



Out of Bounds

**2**

### Unplayable

#### in the Bunker

**2, 3** in the bunker,

**4** in the bunker or

**5** out of the bunker

## 2023 USGA Options

- 1 Hit the ball as it lies **no penalty**
- 2 Go back to where the previous stroke was made and hit again  
**1 penalty stroke**
- 3 Drop the ball as far back on the line as you wish from where the ball lies  
**1 penalty stroke**
- 4 Drop ball (no nearer to the hole) within 2 club lengths from where the ball lies  
**1 penalty stroke**
- 5 Bunker - The ball can be dropped **outside** the bunker. From where the ball lies, go as far back on the line as you wish to pick a relief point. Dropped ball can roll up to one club length in any direction  
**2 penalty strokes**
- 6 Drop the ball within two club lengths from red stakes or red line at the point where ball last crossed the penalty area, no nearer the hole  
**1 penalty stroke**