

RE-NUMBERED DECISIONS

- 1-2/9 Player Presses Ball into Surface of Putting Green (Formerly 18-2a/6)
- 1-2/10 Player Wraps Towel Around Self or Places Towel on Cactus Before Taking Stance (Formerly 1-4/11.5)
- 10-1a/3 Players Agree Not to Tee Off in Prescribed Order to Save Time (Formerly 1-3/1)

1-2/9

Player Presses Ball into Surface of Putting Green

Q. In replacing his ball but before putting it back into play, a player firmly presses the ball into the surface of the putting green in order to prevent it from being moved by the wind or gravity. What is the ruling?

A. In altering the surface of the putting green, the player has breached Rule 1-2 by intentionally taking action to influence the movement of a ball in play and to alter physical conditions that affect the playing of the hole.

In match play, the player loses the hole – Rule 1-2.

In stroke play, the player incurs a penalty of two strokes and must play the ball as it lies – Rule 1-2. (Revised – Formerly 18-2a/6)

1-2/10

Player Wraps Towel Around Self or Places Towel on Cactus Before Taking Stance

Q. A player's ball lies near a cactus, and to play the ball, the player would have to stand with his legs touching the cactus. To protect himself from the cactus needles, the player wraps a towel around his legs before taking his stance. He then plays the ball. What is the ruling?

A. Provided the player does not breach Rule 13-2 (i.e., he takes his stance fairly), there is no breach of the Rules. However, if the player were to place the towel on the cactus, the player would be in breach of Rule 1-2 for altering physical conditions with the intent of affecting the playing of the hole; as a result, he would lose the hole in match play or incur a penalty of two strokes in stroke play. (Revised – Formerly 1-4/11.5)

10-1a/3

Players Agree Not to Tee Off in Prescribed Order to Save Time

Q. In match play, A wins the 4th hole. On his way to the 5th tee, he returns to retrieve a club left at the 4th green and suggests that his opponent B play first to save time, which B does. In view of Rule 10-1a, have the players agreed to waive the Rules in breach of Rule 1-3?

A. No. When starting play of a hole, a player who has the honor may invite his opponent to play first to save time, but if the opponent does so, the player has waived his right under Rule 10-1c to recall the stroke played out of turn. The opponent is under no obligation to accept the offer to tee off first. (Revised – Formerly 1-3/1)