

# 2018 Mens and Ladies Club Championships – Quick Rules Guide (casual water)

## Rule 25-1

### a. Interference

Interference by an **abnormal ground condition (i.e casual water)** occurs when a ball lies in or touches the condition or when the condition interferes with the player's **stance** or the area of his intended swing. If the player's ball lies on the **putting green**, interference also occurs if an **abnormal ground condition** on the **putting green** intervenes on his **line of putt**. Otherwise, intervention on the **line of play** is not, of itself, interference under this Rule.

### b. Relief

Except when the ball is in a **water hazard** or a **lateral water hazard**, a player may take relief from interference by an **abnormal ground condition (i.e casual water)** as follows:

(i) Through the Green: If the ball lies **through the green**

the player must lift the ball and drop it, without penalty, within one club-length of and not nearer the **hole** than the **nearest point of relief**. The **nearest point of relief** must not be in a **hazard** or on a **putting green**. When the ball is dropped within one club-length of the **nearest point of relief**, the ball must first strike a part of the **course** at a spot that avoids interference by the condition and is not in a **hazard** and not on a **putting green**

(ii) In a Bunker: If the ball is in a **bunker**, the player must lift the ball and drop it either:

(a) Without penalty, in accordance with Clause (i) above, except that the **nearest point of relief** must be in the **bunker** and the ball must be dropped in the **bunker** or, if complete relief is impossible, as near as possible to the spot where the ball lay, but not nearer the **hole**, on a part of the **course** in the **bunker** that affords maximum available relief from the condition; or

(b) **Under penalty of one stroke**, outside the **bunker** keeping the point where the ball lay directly between the **hole** and the spot on which the ball is dropped, with no limit to how far behind the **bunker** the ball may be dropped.

The ball may be cleaned when lifted under Rule 25-1b.

(Ball rolling to a position where there is interference by the condition from which relief was taken – see [Rule 20-2c\(v\)](#))

**Exception:** A player may not take relief under this Rule if (a) interference by anything other than an **abnormal ground condition (i.e casual water)** makes the **stroke** clearly impracticable or (b) interference by an **abnormal ground condition** would occur only through use of a clearly unreasonable **stroke** or an unnecessarily abnormal **stance**, swing or direction of play.

**Note 1:** If a ball is in a **water hazard** (including a **lateral water hazard**), the player is not entitled to relief, without penalty, from interference by an **abnormal ground condition**. The player must play the ball as it lies (unless prohibited by Local Rule) or proceed under [Rule 26-1](#).

**Note 2:** If a ball to be dropped or placed under this Rule is not immediately recoverable, another ball may be **substituted**.

### c. Ball in Abnormal Ground Condition Not Found

It is a question of fact whether a ball that has not been found after having been struck toward an **abnormal ground condition** is in such a condition. In order to apply this Rule, it must be known or virtually certain that the ball is in the **abnormal ground condition**. In the absence of such knowledge or certainty, the player must proceed under [Rule 27-1](#).

If it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found is in an **abnormal ground condition**, the player may take relief under this Rule. If he elects to do so, the spot where the ball last crossed the outermost limits of the **abnormal ground condition** must be determined and, for the purpose of applying this Rule, the ball is deemed to lie at this spot and the player must proceed as follows:

(i) Through the Green: If the ball last crossed the outermost limits of the **abnormal ground condition** at a spot **through the green**, the player may **substitute** another ball, without penalty, and take relief as prescribed in Rule 25-1b(i).

(ii) In a Bunker: If the ball last crossed the outermost limits of the **abnormal ground condition** at a spot in a **bunker**, the player may **substitute** another ball, without penalty, and take relief as prescribed in Rule 25-1b(ii).

(iii) In a Water Hazard (including a Lateral Water Hazard): If the ball last crossed the outermost limits of the **abnormal ground condition** at a spot in a **water hazard**, the player is not entitled to relief without penalty. The player must proceed under [Rule 26-1](#).

(iv) On the Putting Green: If the ball last crossed the outermost limits of the **abnormal ground condition** at a spot on the **putting green**, the player may **substitute** another ball, without penalty, and take relief as prescribed in Rule 25-1b(iii).

#### **IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS (Rule 24-2)**

**The following are classified as immovable obstructions:**

All stakes including hazard stakes, tee markers, tee signs, rubbish bins, seats, chain & rope barriers including those on stakes, tree guards, tree stakes, distance marker plates and sponsors signs.

Where the ball is outside the hazard but hazard stake interferes you may *take a drop at the nearest point of relief*.

**(Where a hazard stake interferes with the stance or swing when playing a ball lying outside the hazard, the ball may be dropped within a club length of the nearest point of relief).**

#### **PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE:**

Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.

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