



## Tournament Players Golf Club Rule and Play Information (AKA - The Rules By Ben)

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# The Rules By Ben Oops...the ball moved...now what?

**A** frequent rule violation is when we cause our ball (that's in play and at rest) to move unintentionally. Ball movement is defined as coming to rest in a new location. Most often this happens when we sole our club behind the ball while addressing it and the ball rolls backward toward the club. The player shall incur a one-stroke penalty and **MUST** replace the ball or incur a second one-stroke penalty for failing to replace.

**T**he same one + one penalty applies (through the green) in all the following situations. You hit the ball with your practice swing. You kick the ball with your foot while searching in the rough. Your bag falls over and moves the ball. Your hat blows off and moves the ball. You drop anything out of your pocket that moves the ball. You remove sticks or rocks (within one club-length) and the ball moves. And the most frequent violation...you lift the ball (that's in play and at rest) that you did not mark **FIRST**.

**S**urprisingly, there's **no penalty** for causing your ball to move in the following circumstances (but you must replace it): When your ball lies **on the green** and your measuring for distance from the hole, or repairing a hole plug or ball mark, or removing loose impediments. When your ball lies **in a hazard**, or **in casual water**, or **in ground under repair** and you're searching for the covered ball; the act of removing any movable obstruction and the act of placing or removing your mark when you lift the ball. **NOTE!!** Failure to replace the ball gets you a **two-stroke penalty** for breach of **Rule 18**.

**H**ere's a strange twist. If **wind** or **water** cause your ball to move you are not penalized **and** you play the ball as it lies from its new location...**DO NOT** replace it, if you do refer to the one + one penalty above. And finally, if anything else causes your ball to move (outside agency) you incur no penalty but you **MUST** replace it, if you don't refer to the two-stroke penalty above.

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