



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

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The Rules By Ben Rules for Tournament Play - Lift, Clean and Place -

If you've played a round of golf recently you know that the December rains have turned many courses into quagmire and just finding your ball in the saturated soil has become quite difficult. While playing our casual rounds in these conditions we forget the Rules of Golf, since having **fun** is so difficult and our personal habits of improving our lie overwhelm us...and anything goes.

To be fair to **all** in tournament play we can't have the "anything goes" rule. Please note TPGC members that on the pairing sheet you will always find the appropriate Local Rule adopted for that tournament. Mud, extreme wetness, and poor conditions will generally have a *Lift, Clean and Place* rule but ask the day of the tournament because conditions change.

As the committee we can adopt Local Rules for adverse conditions and here's a description of how we'll handle the *Lift, Clean and Place* rule. There are specific procedures you have to follow or penalty strokes will be involved. Rule 20-1 states: "The position of the ball shall be **marked** before it is lifted under a Rule, which requires it to be **replaced**." Please...have a tee in your pocket ready to mark your ball *before* lifting it when following the Local Rule. Lifting your ball before marking its location carries an immediate *one-stroke* penalty **AND** you must replace your ball and start over. If you do not start over and follow the correct procedure a *two-stroke* penalty applies for breach of the Local Rule. Yeah, it's a tough thing but this is tournament golf and prizes are on the line.

The USGA does not endorse "winter rules" and will not interpret them. They **do** recommend the following: "A ball lying *through the green* may, without penalty, be moved or may be lifted, cleaned and placed within a specific area (six inches, one club-length, etc.) of where it originally lay, but not nearer the *hole* and not in a *hazard* or on a *putting green*. A player may move or place their ball once and after the ball has been so moved or placed, it is in play." A breach of this Local Rule carries a *two-stroke* penalty.

Beware to those who find the choicest spot of grass to perch their ball on! Yes, it is legal but if the ball falls off its perch while you address it a *one-stroke* penalty will apply (Rule 18-2) and you must *replace* it. Failure to replace a ball that was at rest and moved by you is a breach of Rule 18 and a *two-stroke* penalty applies. The pit falls of the "preferred lie"!
