



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

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### The Rules By Ben “*The Provisional Ball Rule 27-2*”

**O**ne of the ugly penalties in golf is for *losing* our ball or hitting it *out of bounds*. Why is it ugly? Because after hitting we proceed forward with a determined effort to find our ball only to discover O.B. stakes or heavy rough in the location of where our ball should be. After a 5-minute search we come up empty handed and the ball is deemed *lost*. The player may **NOT** drop a ball there and play on! They **MUST** return to the spot from which the original ball was last played and add a penalty of one-stroke (stroke and distance). A certain amount of danger is involved here because the foursome behind you may already be playing their next shots.

**I**f your shot may be *lost* outside a water hazard or may be *out of bounds*, to save time you may play a *provisional ball*. If it's a tee shot you may tee it up, if it's through the green you shall drop it. If you **find** your original ball in bounds, all strokes and penalties incurred with the provisional are disregarded!

**T**he procedure portion of this rule **requires** the player to inform their fellow-competitor of their intentions. The player must **say**, "I'm playing a provisional ball". If you fail the above requirement you have not hit a provisional. The new ball becomes the *ball in play* and the original is deemed lost!

**P**rovisional balls are always hit before anyone goes forward to search. A player **never** goes back to play a provisional ball...if you go back and put a ball in play the original ball is deemed lost. If there is reasonable evidence that the original ball is lost in a water hazard (no way it could be anywhere else) then the provisional shall be **abandoned** and relief for ball in water hazard taken (Rule 26-1).

**I**t is the sole responsibility of the player to tell the difference between the original and provisional balls. The rules of golf can not force any player to put an identifying mark on their ball. Although it is very smart to do so because if either ball is found (in bounds) the player must be able to tell the difference. If they can not identify the difference, they are deemed to have found the *provisional ball*. If both balls are found and the provisional can't be identified...**either** ball may be played but it is deemed to be the *provisional ball* (Ruling 27/11).

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