

ASGA Rules Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Send your questions to the Event Director

Note: ASGA rules are shown in **blue**; USGA rules are in plain text. First, a point of etiquette: Misunderstandings can often be avoided if you simply inform your playing competitors how you intend to proceed in a rules situation.

1. Is it OK to improve my lie?

Yes, with certain exceptions. You may not improve your lie if your ball is in a penalty area and you may not use this rule to move your ball from the fringe to the green or from the rough to the fairway.

Case 1: **Select Shot events:** you may lift, clean and place or otherwise move your ball within 1 club length of the original position, but no closer to the hole and not to a different cut of grass.

Case 2: **All other event formats:** you may lift, clean and place or otherwise move your ball within 6 inches of the original position, but no closer to the hole and not to a different cut of grass.

Case 3: **Boundary fences and large rocks:** Ball may be moved to the nearest point of relief plus one club length, no closer to the hole, with no penalty.

2. What are my options if my ball is in a penalty area?

- a) Play the ball where it lies in the penalty area. No penalty as long as you do not move your ball. You may remove loose items from around the ball as long as you do not move it.
- b) Play the ball as near as possible to the previous position (the place from which you hit the previous shot.) - 1 stroke penalty
- c) Play the ball within two club lengths of the point at which the ball last entered the penalty area but no closer to the hole. - 1 stroke penalty
- d) Drop a ball behind the penalty area, keeping the point at which the original ball last crossed the margin of the penalty area directly between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped, with no limit to how far behind the penalty area the ball may be dropped. - 1 stroke penalty
- e) **Place the ball as far back along the line of flight as you wish but no closer to the hole - 1 stroke penalty.**

3. What are my options if the ball goes out of bounds?

- a) Play the ball as near as possible to the previous position (the place from which you hit the previous shot.) 1 stroke penalty

- b) Play the ball within two club lengths of the point at which the ball went out of bounds but no closer to the hole. - 1 stroke penalty
- c) Place the ball as far back along the line of flight as you wish but no closer to the hole. – 1 stroke penalty

4. What are my options if my ball is lost? Note: You may search for your ball for a maximum of 3 minutes from the time the search begins after which the ball is declared lost.

- a) Play the ball as near as possible to the previous position (the place from which you hit the previous shot.)- 1 stroke penalty
- b) Place the ball at the point where you last saw it.- 1 stroke penalty
- c) Place the ball as far back along the line of flight as you wish, but no closer to the hole. - 1 stroke penalty

5. What are my options if my ball is on roots or rocks?

- a) Place the ball on the nearest point of relief but no closer to the hole. - No Penalty

6. What are my options in the case that I have an unplayable lie?

- a) Play the ball as near as possible to the previous position (the place from which you hit the previous shot.) - 1 stroke penalty
- b) Play the ball within two club lengths of the unplayable lie position of the ball but no closer to the hole. - 1 stroke penalty
- c) Place the ball as far back along the line of flight as you wish, but no closer to the hole. - 1 stroke penalty

7. What is the procedure for taking relief from casual water or cart path?

First: Determine the nearest point no closer to the hole where you can place the ball so that you have complete relief from either the casual water or cart path. There is only one point of nearest relief.

Second: Place the ball within 1 club length from the point of nearest relief but no closer to the hole. No penalty

8. What should I keep in mind when my ball is in a sand trap?

- a) If you ground your club right in front of or right behind your ball or improve your lie. - 2 stroke penalty
- b) You may move or remove a loose obstruction - no penalty
- c) If you carry a rake into the trap with you and place near the ball - No penalty
- d) In select shot format, the second ball may be placed, rather than dropped, within 1 club length of the first ball within the bunker and no closer to the hole - No penalty

9. Is it really necessary to putt out on every hole?

- a) If you pick up your ball before you have holed your putt without first marking it, it must be replaced and putted until the ball is in the hole. 1 stroke penalty
- b) If another player picks up your ball and concedes the putt to you. - **1 stroke penalty to the player who conceded the putt.** No penalty to you as long as you replace the ball and putt the ball in the hole.

10. What happens if my putt from a position on the green hits another player's ball on the green?

- a) You must play your ball from where it lies. 2 stroke penalty The player whose ball was hit, must replace his ball to its original position. - No penalty

11. What happens if my putt from a position on the green strikes the flagstick?

- a) You must play your ball from where it lies.- no penalty

12. To whom and how should rules infractions be reported?

According to the ASGA bylaws, the Event Chairman has responsibility for making determinations on rules and penalties. The Event Chairman will make the determination after talking to all parties involved. In difficult cases, the Event Chairman reserves the right to consult with the people who know or can direct him to the proper rules before making the ruling. Rules infraction issues can be communicated by telephone to the Event Chairman or by email at:

event_chairman@austinsga.org

It is important for the players involved to be as concise and complete about the issue as possible.

13. What should happen if Player 1 thinks he sees Player 2 break a rule or about to break a rule?

First: Player 1 must proceed in a non-confrontational way.

Second: Player 1 should explain to Player 2 why he thinks there is a rules infraction and what he thinks is the result of that infraction.

14. What should happen if Player 2 disputes the explanation of Player 1 about a possible rules infraction?

Player 1 should explain to Player 2 that he has the option of playing two balls from that point on for that hole. One ball should be played according to the opinion of Player 2 and another played according to the opinion of Player 1. When the round is over, the dispute should be settled by the Event Chairman and the score of the correctly played ball recorded.

15. For Hole No. 1 at Lions Municipal, what are my options if my ball goes over the green and is either lost or unplayable?

- a) Play the ball as near as possible to the previous position (the place from which you hit the previous shot.) - 1 stroke penalty
- b) Play the ball within two club lengths of the original position of the ball but no closer to the hole. 1 stroke penalty
- c) Place the ball as far back along the line of flight as you wish, but no closer to the hole.

In this unique situation, you are allowed to place the ball in front of the No. 1 green, along the line of flight, but never closer to the hole. - 1 stroke penalty