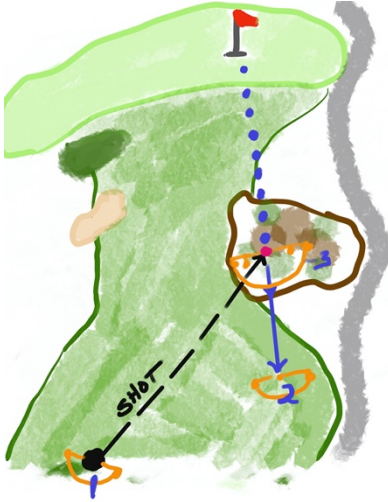


WOWGG-November Rule of the Month

Unplayable ball on Hole 1

When playing Hole #1, there is one area that may present a dilemma on how to play the shot. The area of concern is the “rock area” on the right side near the green. Excuse my terrible drawing, but this is what it somewhat looks like! Sometimes, we have hit into those rocks and a “sort of” lateral is played out of the rock area using the edge of the fairway grass as a reference for the drop (I just know none of us have done that!). Unfortunately, playing the ball as a “lateral” without determining if it is within 2 club lengths would be the incorrect play.



Let's look at it...

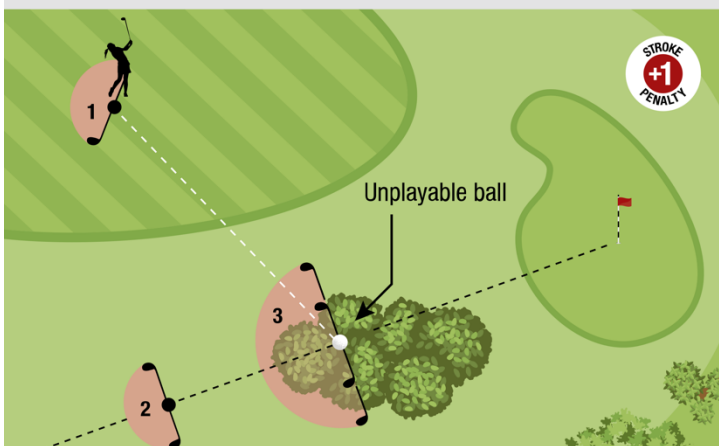
Situation:

- Player hits into the rocks (as shown in the pics) (This area is not deemed as a hazard area.)
- The ball has gone deep into that area. The player decides this to be an unplayable lie. The player has three options and in each case, he/she will add one penalty stroke.

The player has 3 options to play this ball as per USGA Rule 19.2.

1. The player may take stroke-and-distance relief by playing the original ball or another ball from a relief area based on where the previous stroke was made.
2. The player may take back-on-the-line of relief by dropping the original ball or another ball in a relief area based on a reference line going straight back from the hole through the spot of the original ball. The reference point is a point on the course chose by the player that is on the reference line and is farther from the hole than the spot of the original ball. There is no limit on how far back on the line the reference point may be. The relief area is ONE club-length from the reference point, is not nearer to the hole than the reference point and may be in any area of the course. In choosing this reference point, the player should indicate the point by using an object (such as a tee).
3. The play may take lateral relief. The reference point is the spot of the original ball. The relief area is TWO club-lengths from the reference point, is not nearer to the hole than the reference point and may be in any area of the course.

DIAGRAM 19.2: RELIEF OPTIONS FOR BALL UNPLAYABLE IN GENERAL AREA



SPECIAL NOTE:

If using option #3 and our shot has gone deep into the rock area, a dropped ball must be within the TWO club lengths of unplayable ball's resting point. If our “drop” would still be unplayable, as shown in my miserable little drawing, Options One and Two are our best options.

We do NOT simply take a lateral from the edge of the grass using the position of the playable ball as a reference point.

Hope this has helped and not confused anyone!!!