

Rule Teasers



It has been my custom to set a few Rules teasers for readers to think about over the New Year holiday. This year I have 9 questions that may require a little more thought/knowledge than those in my book, *'999 Questions on the Rules of Golf'*. Don't be tempted to check my answers below until you have arrived at an answer of your own.

1. How can a player win a hole in match play when their opponent has not made a stroke and has not incurred any penalty?
2. What are the two occasions when a player is not penalised for making a stroke at a ball that is moving?
3. After a putt for birdie on a par-4, the player's ball balances on the edge of hole, the player walks up and makes a one-handed stroke at their ball but misses it. The ball falls into the hole anyway. a) Was the ball holed, or does it have to be replaced on the edge of the hole and tapped in? b) What is the player's score for the hole?
4. A Local Rule permits taking relief for a ball that is embedded through the green. A player's ball lands in soft ground entering just inside the out of bounds line, but comes to rest out of bounds. May the player take relief?
5. Rule 22 details three situations where a ball may not be cleaned when lifted under a Rule. What is a fourth situation?
6. In a stroke play competition a player did not record any gross score on their score card for their 14th hole, but they were not disqualified and won the competition. Explain.
7. Which Rule is regularly breached at Club level but is rarely penalised because the players, their markers and probably the Committee, do not realise that they have breached a Rule of Golf?
8. In stroke play, which Rule can be breached without incurring a penalty?
9. Which of the following statements is incorrect? a) Players may use an

artificial device to warm their golf balls before their round.

b) Players may use an artificial device to keep their golf balls warm during their round.

c) Players may use an artificial device to warm their golf balls during their round.

d) Players may use an artificial device to warm their hands during their round.

e) a), b), c) and d) are all incorrect.

Answers:

1. The player had a hole-in-one with a handicap stroke and their opponent did not have a handicap stroke on that hole.

2. When a player is making their first stroke at a ball on teeing ground (Rule 11-3) and when the ball is moving in water (Rule 14-6).

3. a) The ball was holed. b) 4 strokes.

4. The player may take relief. Decision 13/4 clarifies that an embedded ball is considered to be lying in the part of the course where it entered the ground.

5. A player may not clean their ball when they lift it to determine whether they are entitled to relief under a Rule, e.g. to determine whether the ball is in a hole made by a burrowing animal, or is embedded (Decision 20-1/0.7).

6. It was a Stableford or Par/Bogey competition, in which it is not required to mark a score for a hole where no points are scored, or the hole is lost (Decision 32-1/2).

7. When they start before their scheduled starting time (Decision 6-3a/5).

8. Rule 10-2c. Competitors may play out of turn, providing they have not agreed to play out of turn to give one of them a competitive advantage.

9. c) is incorrect. An artificial device may be used to warm golf balls before the round and to keep them warm during a round, but not to warm them during a round. Decision 14-3/13.5. Players may use an artificial device to warm their hands at any time.