

ROG EXPLAINED: Interactive Learning Videos

TRAINER'S GUIDE

PLAY THE COURSE AS YOU FIND IT
PART 1



Introduction to the Rules of Golf Explained: Interactive Learning Videos

Rules of Golf Explained is a collection of 12 short videos offering simple, straight-forward explanations of how to play by the Rules and what your choices are when applying the Rules in situations that happen while playing. The explanations should be familiar but each will probably contain a thing (or things) not previously known or realized by many golfers who view them.

The following information is provided to help you conduct a presentation approximately 20 minutes in length to a small group of golfers using any of the 12 Rules of Golf Explained videos as the center piece. Each presentation is divided into four parts:

- 1) **TEASER QUESTION** (1 to 2 minutes): Each video begins by showing an incident and asking a Rules question about it. Ask participants to consider the question and write down or remember their answer before continuing to view the video. This question will be reviewed and participants will have the opportunity to find out the correct answer at the end of the video. This teaser question is designed to focus the attention of participants on the topic covered in the video.
- 2) **VIDEO** (3 to 5 minutes depending on the video)
- 3) **TEASER QUESTION REVIEW AND ANSWER** (2 to 4 minutes): Most participants, after watching the video, should be clear on the correct answer to this question (even if they were not entirely sure prior to viewing the video). As the presenter, you will have the option to click the button for either the correct or incorrect answer.
 - a. If the correct answer is selected, a message communicating the answer is correct will appear.
 - b. If the incorrect answer button is selected, a message stating that the answer is incorrect will appear.

Regardless of which answer is selected, three buttons will appear.

- a. **<Back to Question>** allows the opportunity to review the question.
- b. **<Review>** will replay the portion of video that provides the answer to the question.
- c. **<Continue>** will advance to the next question without reviewing the answer to the question.

Notes are provided in the next section of this Trainer's Guide for this and the other three questions to help you as the presentation leader clear up any confusion participants might have with incorrect answers.

- 4) **THREE FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS** (5 to 8 minutes): The three additional follow-up questions are meant to reinforce other important points made in the video. As the presenter, you will once again have the opportunity to click the buttons for the correct or incorrect answers. As outlined above with the first question, you will always have the option to:
 - a. Review the question.
 - b. Replay the relevant part of the video.
 - c. Continue to the next question or the end of the video.

A note of caution: These videos are not comprehensive explanations of the Rules covered, but broad overviews meant to cover fundamental and commonly encountered aspects of each Rule presented. If questions come up that are not answered by the video, we recommend they be handled individually after the formal presentation session. If you know the answer and are comfortable answering, please do. If you are not, the USGA can be contacted at (908) 326-1850 or by email at Rules@usga.org.

Rules of Golf Explained – Play the Course as You Find It – Part 1

Two of the basic principles of the game of golf are **1) you play the course as you find it** and **2) you play your ball as it lies**. This segment focuses on the first principle and what players need to know in order faithfully adhere to it.

The video lists areas on the course that must not be improved, what the Rules of Golf mean by “improve” and the types of actions you must refrain from taking in these areas.

The primary messages of this segment are:

- You are not allowed to improve certain protected areas on the course relative to the stroke you are about to make:
 - where your ball lies
 - where you intend to take your stance
 - where you intend to swing
 - anywhere along your path to the hole AND a reasonable distance past the hole
 - anywhere you are going to drop or place your ball
- “Improve” means to change any of these protected areas for the better so you gain a potential advantage
- The types of actions you must not use to improve the protected areas are:
 - pressing a club on the ground
 - moving, bending, breaking anything growing
 - moving, bending, breaking anything fixed
 - smoothing out your path to the hole
 - brushing away sand or loose soil
 - removing dew, frost or casual water

Teaser Question (Question 1)

Q1.As LPGA Tour player Katherine Hull-Kirk takes her stance, is it a penalty if she tucks a branch behind her back?

- Yes** (correct answer)
- No

Question answered correctly: *“That’s correct!”*

Question answered incorrectly: *“Sorry, that’s not correct”*

Choose between the three options:

- **<Back to Question>** allows the opportunity to correctly answer the question, or
- **<Review>** to replay that portion of the video which answers this question, or
- **<Continue>** to go to Question 2.

Three Follow-up Questions (Questions 2, 3 and 4)

Q2.What do the Rules mean by “improve” your lie, stance, area of swing, path to the hole or where you are going to drop or place your ball?

- To make one of those areas better so you gain an actual advantage in your play.
- To make one of those areas better so you gain a potential advantage in your play.**
(correct answer)

Question answered correctly: *“That’s correct! ‘Improve’ means you have gained a potential advantage.”*

Question answered incorrectly: *“Sorry, that’s not correct. ‘Improve’ means you have gained a potential advantage.”*

Choose between the three options:

- **<Back to Question>** allows the opportunity to correctly answer the question, or
- **<Review>** to replay that portion of the video which answers this question, or
- **<Continue>** to go to Question 3.

Q3.If you have casual water interference, the Rules permit you to soak it up or move it out of your way as long as you can do it quickly?

- Yes
- No** (correct answer)

Question answered correctly: *“That’s correct! The Rules don’t let you soak up or move casual water. (There is a free relief procedure explained in the Abnormal Ground Conditions video in this series.)”*

Question answered incorrectly: “Sorry, that’s not correct. The Rules don’t let you soak up or move casual water. (There is a free relief procedure explained in the Abnormal Ground Conditions video in this series.)”

Choose between the three options:

- **<Back to Question>** allows the opportunity to correctly answer the question, or
- **<Review>** to replay that portion of the video which answers this question, or
- **<Continue>** to go to Question 4.

Q4. If your ball is in bounds and an out of bounds stake is in your way, may you move it without penalty?

- Yes
- No** (correct answer)

Question answered correctly: “That’s correct! The Rules consider out of bounds stakes fixed. They must not be moved.”

Question answered incorrectly: “Sorry, that’s not correct. The Rules consider out of bounds stakes fixed. They must not be moved.”

Choose between the three options:

- **<Back to Question>** allows the opportunity to correctly answer the question, or
- **<Review>** to replay that portion of the video which answers this question, or
- **<Continue>** to go to the video’s conclusion.

Resources:

Video Script:

► – VIDEO CLIP WITH INTRODUCTORY QUESTION

PART 1 – INTRODUCTION

Golf is a game of playing a ball from the teeing ground to the hole with a progression of strokes ... and doing so by playing your ball as it lies and by playing the course as you find it.

PART 2 – PROTECTED AREAS

The way the Rules apply the expectation that YOU WILL PLAY THE COURSE AS YOU FIND IT is by saying you aren't allowed to improve certain protected areas that relate to the stroke you are about to make:

- where your ball lies,
- where you intend to take your stance,
- where you intend to swing,
- anywhere along your path to the hole ... plus reasonable distance past the hole, and
- anywhere you are going to drop or place your ball.

By "improve" the Rules mean to change one of these protected areas for the better so you gain a potential advantage, as this player is doing by flattening raised turf before putting over it.

PART 3 – PROHIBITED ACTIONS

The actions you are not allowed to take to improve these protected areas are:

- Pressing a club on the ground. This player has improved his lie.
- Moving, bending or breaking anything growing. By bending this branch this player has improved the area of his intended swing ... OR
- Moving, bending or breaking anything fixed, like this out of bounds stake. This player has also improved the area of his intended swing.
- Smoothing out your path to the hole. By MOVING and PRESSING DOWN a divot, this player has improved her line of play.
- Brushing away sand or loose soil, (both are considered part of the ground, even when on top of the grass). This player has also improved his line of play ... and ...
- Removing dew, frost or water. This player has improved her line of putt.

PART 4 – SUMMARY

By doing any of these things in any of these protected areas you will not be playing the course as you find it and will incur a loss of hole penalty in match play and a two-stroke penalty in stroke play.

PART 5 – QUESTIONS

For more information on playing the course as you find it, see Rule 13-2 in the Rules of Golf and the video Play the Course as You Find It - Part 2 in this series.

(pause)

The USGA and the R&A jointly govern the game worldwide, administering the Rules of Golf, Rules of Amateur Status, Equipment Standards and World Amateur Golf Rankings.