

ROG EXPLAINED: Interactive Learning Videos

# TRAINER'S GUIDE

## ABNORMAL GROUND CONDITIONS



1894



## 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](mailto:Rules@usga.org).

## **Rules of Golf Explained – Abnormal Ground Conditions**

This segment focuses on how to take free relief from interference from what the Rules of Golf call abnormal ground conditions. Players are entitled to free relief from abnormal ground conditions if they interfere with their lie, stance or swing, or line of putt.

### **The primary messages of this segment are:**

- There are three types of abnormal ground conditions: 1) casual water, 2) ground under repair and 3) holes, casts and runways made by a reptiles, birds or burrowing animals.
- Taking free relief from any abnormal ground condition is a two-step procedure: 1) identify the nearest point of relief and 2) drop your ball within one club-length of that point not nearer the hole.
- You are not entitled to relief from an abnormal ground condition if your ball is in a water hazard (or lateral water hazard) or because your interference comes about through an unnecessarily abnormal stance, swing or direction of play.

### **The secondary messages of this segment are:**

- Relief is optional.
- Taking free relief from any abnormal ground condition on a putting green is a slightly different two-step procedure: 1) identify the nearest point of relief and 2) place your ball at the nearest point of relief.

## Teaser Question (Question 1)

**Q1.**When Patty Sheehan takes relief from this casual water, her correct procedure is to drop within one club-length of:

- The nearest point of relief from the casual water** (correct answer)
- The edge of casual water

Click button "Continue to video to find the answer."

## Teaser Question (Question 1) Review

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.**Which of the following are abnormal ground conditions?

- Casual Water** (correct answer)
- Ground Under Repair** (correct answer)
- Divot hole (incorrect)
- Burrowing Animal Hole** (correct answer)
- Cart Path (incorrect, a cart path is an immovable obstruction)

If all three correct answers are chosen: "That is correct!"

If only one or two of the three correct answers are chosen: "Your choice is correct! However, there are three correct choices among the five offered."

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 3.

**Q3.**What must this player do when taking relief without penalty from this area of ground under repair?

- Drop within one club-length of the edge of the ground under repair not nearer the hole.
- Drop the ball within two club-lengths of the ball not nearer the hole.
- Find the nearest point of relief and drop within one club-length not nearer the hole.**  
(correct answer)

Question answered correctly: *“That’s correct! Find the nearest point of relief and drop within one club-length not nearer the hole”*

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 4.

**Q4.**When you take relief from abnormal ground conditions, do the Rules require you to physically mark the nearest point of relief and measure the one club-length drop area?

- Yes
- No** (correct answer)

Question answered correctly: *“That’s correct! Marking and measuring are best practices to follow but are not required.”*

Question answered incorrectly: *“Sorry, that’s not correct. Marking and measuring are best practices to follow but are not required.”*

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 end of the video.

## **Resources:**

### **Video Script:**

► – VIDEO CLIP WITH INTRODUCTORY QUESTION

#### **PART 1 – INTRODUCTION**

Two of the fundamental principles underlying the Rules of Golf are you PLAY YOUR BALL AS IT LIES and you PLAY THE COURSE AS YOU FIND IT. The Rules however make an exception to these principles when an ABNORMAL GROUND CONDITION interferes with your lie, stance, area of your intended swing or your line of putt.

#### **PART 2 – DEFINITION**

ABNORMAL GROUND CONDITIONS come in three types:

1. GROUND UNDER REPAIR: an area usually marked with a white painted line.
2. CASUAL WATER: a visible but temporary accumulation of water anywhere on the course except in a water hazard, and
3. Reptile, Bird and Burrowing Animal HOLES and the casts of dirt and runways associated with them.

#### **PART 3 – RELIEF**

While the Rules allow you from play your ball from an ABNORMAL GROUND CONDITION, if you want to take relief, a two-step procedure is involved.

The FIRST STEP is to determine the spot the Rules call the NEAREST POINT OF RELIEF. The SECOND STEP is to determine the area within one club-length of the NEAREST POINT OF RELIEF not nearer the hole than lift and drop your ball within that area.

Marking the location of the nearest point of relief and measuring the ONE CLUB-LENGTH DROPPING AREA are good practices to follow but are not required by the Rules.

The one place where the TWO STEP procedure changes slightly is when a ball is on the putting green. This recently sodded area has been declared to be ground under repair and interferes with this player's line of putt. Step 1 the player determines the nearest point of relief where the sodded area no longer interferes with his play and Step 2 the player places his ball at the nearest point of relief.

#### **PART 4 - EXCEPTIONS**

The Rules include some exceptions to the treatment of ABNORMAL GROUND CONDITIONS as just reviewed. If one applies you cannot take free relief. The two that occur most frequently are:

There is no free relief when interference from an ABNORMAL GROUND CONDITION occurs only because you use an unnecessarily abnormal stance, swing or direction of play... and

When your ball is in a water hazard, you are not entitled to free relief regardless of where the ABNORMAL GROUND CONDITION is.

## **PART 5 – QUESTIONS**

For more information on abnormal ground conditions, refer to the definition of Abnormal Ground Condition, the definition of Casual Water, the definition of Ground Under Repair, and Rule 25-1 (Abnormal Ground Conditions) in the Rules of Golf.

(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.