

RULES OF GOLF EXPLAINED

TRAINER'S GUIDE

WATER HAZARDS



Introduction to the Rules of Golf Explained Video Series

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 – Water Hazards

This segment focuses on the two types of water hazards (YELLOW/“REGULAR” and RED/LATERAL) and the relief choices available under the Rules of Golf to get a ball out of each types of water hazard.

The primary messages in this segment are:

- There are two kinds of water hazards distinguished by color:
 - YELLOW, commonly referred to as a “REGULAR” water hazard
 - RED, referred to as a LATERAL water hazard
- A ball in a water hazard can be played as it lies from the water hazard without penalty, though often this is not possible or practical.
- A player has **2 relief choices** to get their ball out of a YELLOW/“REGULAR” water hazard for a penalty of one stroke
- A player has **4 relief choices** to get their ball out of a RED/LATERAL water hazard for a penalty of one stroke

The secondary messages are:

- The **2 relief choices** to get a ball out of a YELLOW/“REGULAR” water hazard are:
 1. Stroke and distance
 2. Drop a ball BEHIND the hazard anywhere on a straight line drawn from the hole through the spot where the ball crossed over the hazard’s YELLOW margin as it went in.
- The **4 relief choices** to get a ball out of a RED/LATERAL water hazard are:
 1. Stroke and distance (same as for a YELLOW/“REGULAR” water hazard)
 2. Drop a ball BEHIND the hazard anywhere on a straight line drawn from the hole through the spot where the ball crossed over the hazard’s RED margin as it went in (same as for YELLOW/“REGULAR” water hazard).
 3. Drop a ball within TWO CLUB-LENGTHS of and not nearer the hole than where the ball crossed over the hazard’s RED margin as it went in.
 4. Find a spot the same distance from the hole as where the ball crossed over the hazard’s RED margin as it went in that is on the hazard’s opposite side margin and DROP a ball within TWO CLUB-LENGTHS of that spot, not nearer the hole.

Teaser Question (Question 1)

Q1.How many choices does Justin Rose have for taking relief out of this water hazard?

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2 (correct answer)
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4

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

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.For a penalty of one stroke, how many choices do you have to get your ball out of a Lateral (Red) Water Hazard?

- ☐ 2
- ☐ 4 (correct answer)

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 3.

Q3.When taking relief from any water hazard, can you drop behind the hazard anywhere on a straight line from the hole through the spot where the ball crossed into the hazard?

☐ **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 4.

Q4.When your ball is in any water hazard, can you drop a ball outside the hazard within two club-lengths of where it went in?

☐ Yes

☐ **No** (correct answer)

Question answered correctly: "That's correct! 2 club-length drops are allowed only when taking relief from a Red/Lateral Water Hazard."

Question answered incorrectly: "Sorry, that's not correct. 2 club-length drops are allowed only when taking relief from a Red/Lateral Water Hazard."

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:

Script:

► – VIDEO CLIP WITH INTRODUCTORY QUESTION

PART 1 – INTRODUCTION

Just about everyone who plays golf has hit their ball into a water hazard and needed to take a penalty stroke to get it out.

The Rules of Golf recognize two different kinds of water hazards. Those defined with a yellow line or yellow stakes, commonly referred to as “REGULAR” water hazards and those defined with a red line or red stakes, called LATERAL water hazards.

If your ball is in a “REGULAR” water hazard, you have TWO choices of how to take it out with a penalty stroke. If your ball is in a LATERAL water hazard, you have FOUR choices.

PART 2 – REGULAR OPTIONS

When your ball goes in a “REGULAR” water hazard, for a penalty of one stroke you can DROP a ball BEHIND the hazard anywhere on a straight line drawn from the hole through the spot where your ball crossed over the hazard’s yellow margin as it went in.

When using this choice you are allowed to drop as FAR behind the water hazard as you want.

Your SECOND choice is to play again from where you just played; this is referred to as playing under “STROKE and DISTANCE.”

Since this player just played from the teeing ground, in choosing to play under stroke and distance, he may either place or tee a ball anywhere within the teeing ground.

PART 3 – LATERAL OPTIONS

When your ball goes in a LATERAL water hazard, you have FOUR ways to get it out for a penalty of ONE stroke. TWO of the choices are the same ones you have for getting your ball out of a “REGULAR” water hazard.

ONE, you can play under stroke and distance. Since this player just played from the fairway he must drop a ball as close as possible to where he made his last stroke but not nearer the hole.

...and TWO, you can DROP a ball BEHIND the LATERAL water hazard anywhere on a straight line drawn from the hole through the spot where your ball crossed over the hazard’s red margin as it went in.

The THIRD choice is the one players most frequently use. You can DROP a ball within TWO CLUB-LENGTHS of and not nearer the hole than where your ball crossed over the hazard’s RED margin as it went in.

Your FOURTH choice is to find a spot the same distance from the hole as where your ball crossed over the hazard's red margin that is on the opposite side of the hazard and DROP a ball within two club-lengths of that spot not nearer the hole.

PART 4 – SUMMARY

In addition to the TWO choices you have to get your ball out of a “REGULAR” water hazard and the FOUR choices you have from a LATERAL water hazard, you are also allowed to play your ball from a water hazard with no penalty stroke as long as you are careful not to ground your club or touch the water with it before you make your stroke.

When your ball is in a water hazard, being aware of ALL your choices will help you pick the best one available to you. There is no choice that is always the best because water hazards and other factors can vary so greatly.

PART 5 – QUESTIONS

For more information on water hazards refer to the Definition of Lateral Water Hazard on page 27 of the Rules of Golf, the definition of Water Hazard on page 34 and to Rule 26 (Water Hazards) on page 97.

(pause)

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