



Additional Clarifications of the 2023 Rules of Golf

Updated April 3, 2023

Additional clarifications will normally be updated on a quarterly basis each January, April, July, and October and the next quarterly update will be in July 2023.

New Clarifications

Rules

Rule 14.3:

Clarification 14.3b(4)/1 – General Penalty Applies Under Rule 14.7

RULES

Rule 5:

Rule 5.2:

5.2b/3 – Application of Penalty for Practising on Course Before Round in Stroke Play

Rule 5.2b explains when a player is not allowed to practise on the course before a round in *stroke play*. The penalty statement in Rule 5.2b is not limited to making a *stroke* as the term “practising on the course” also includes testing the surface of the *putting green* by rolling a ball or rubbing the surface.

If a player rubs the surface of a single *green*, they have only breached Rule 5.2 once no matter how many times they rub the surface of the same *green*. (Added December 2022)

Rule 10:

Rule 10.2:

10.2b/1 – Use of Self-Standing Putter for Alignment Help is Not Allowed

[Note: A delay of implementation is in effect until January 1, 2025 that applies to certain uses of self-standing putters. For more information, see Clarification 10.2b(3)/2]

Provided a self-standing putter conforms to the *Equipment Rules*, it may be used to make a *stroke* (Rule 4.1a(1)). But the player (or their *caddie*) is not allowed to set such a putter down to get help in any way that would breach Rule 10.2b.

For example, the player must not set the putter down in a standing position right behind or right next to the spot where the ball lies on the *putting green* to show the *line of play* or to help the player in taking their *stance* for the *stroke* in breach of Rule 10.2b(3). (Added December 2022)



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10.2b(3)/1 – Setting Clubhead on Ground Behind Ball to Help the Player Take a Stance is Allowed

[Note: A delay of implementation is in effect until January 1, 2025 that applies to certain uses of self-standing putters. For more information, see Clarification 10.2b(3)/2]

Rule 10.2b(3) does not allow a player to set down an object (such as an alignment rod or a golf club) to help the player take a *stance*.

However, this prohibition does not prevent a player from positioning their clubhead behind the ball, such as when a player stands behind the ball and places the clubhead perpendicular to the *line of play* and then, while still holding the club, walks around from behind the ball to take their *stance*. (Added December 2022)

10.2b(3)/2 – Delay of Implementation for Certain Uses of Self-Standing Putters

A two-year delay of implementation in relation to certain uses of self-standing putters under Rule 10.2b(3) is in effect as follows:

- Until January 1, 2025, a player may use a self-standing putter by setting it down right behind or right next to the spot on which the ball came to rest to help aim or to take a *stance* or position their feet.
- From January 1, 2025, Rule 10.2b(3) will apply to self-standing putters and the acts described in the previous paragraph will no longer be allowed. But a player will still be allowed to use a self-standing putter that conforms to the Rules to make a *stroke* or take other actions allowed by the Rules. (Added December 2022)

Rule 14:

Rule 14.3:

14.3b(4)/1 – General Penalty Applies Under Rule 14.7a

In relation to the final bullet in Rule 14.3b(4), if a player gets the *general penalty* for making a *stroke* without correcting their mistake, the *general penalty* applies under Rule 14.7a for having played from a *wrong place*.

For example, when taking back-on-the-line relief, a player *drops* their ball almost one *club-length* to the side of the line. The ball is in a *wrong place* irrespective of where it comes to rest, even if it comes to rest on the line. The ball must be *dropped* again to avoid penalty under Rule 14.7a.

In *stroke play*, if the player makes a *stroke* from the *wrong place*, the player would need to correct this mistake if playing from a *wrong place* was a *serious breach*. (Added April 2023)