

Misconceptions About The Rules of Golf

(Of course, every rule has its **exception(s)**.)

- You **MAY** fix a ball mark even if your ball is **NOT ON** the **green**.
- You **MAY** move a flagstick lying **on** the **green** if a ball in motion might hit it.
- You **MAY** move clubs lying **on** the **green** if a ball in motion might hit them.
- You **MAY** hold an umbrella over your head with one hand and putt a ball with the other.
- Your ball **DOES NOT** have to be **on** the **green** in order to have a flag attended.
- You **MAY** borrow golf balls, gloves, etc. during a round.
- You **MAY NOT** borrow clubs during a round.
- You **MAY** practice putting on the **green** you've just finished. (**Stroke** or **Match** Play)
- You **MAY** mark your ball **on** the **green** with your finger or putter head; although **NOT** recommended.
- You **MAY** straddle your line of putt to keep from stepping on a player's line.
- Marking your ball does **NOT** take it out of play, you **MUST** also lift it.
- If you authorize someone else to mark your ball **on** the **green**, they aren't the only one that have to replace it, you **MAY** also.
- You **MAY** lay clubs/rakes in a bunker.....you **MAY** even toss them into the bunker.
- There is **NO penalty** for moving a **fellow-competitor's** ball. (**Stroke** Play)
- There is **NO penalty** for playing out of turn. (**Stroke** or **Match**)
- If you are going to play a provisional ball from the tee, you do so after everyone else has played .
- You do **NOT** get line of play, sometimes called "line of sight", **relief** from an obstruction, unless it's **on** the **putting green**.
- You **MAY** touch growing things with your club in a hazard, you **MAY NOT** touch the ground with your club in a hazard. (Other than the actual stroke.)

- There is **NO** penalty for holing a putt with another ball already in the hole.
- You **MAY** move **Red** and **Yellow** hazard stakes.
- The **ONLY** place where you **MAY** remove dew or frost is on the teeing area.
- The **ONLY** place where you **MAY** remove loose soil and sand is **on** the **putting green** and teeing area.
- You **MAY** reach across a hole to tap in a short putt. The **only** thing you **MAY** fix on **greens** are ball marks and old hole plugs.
- You **MAY NOT** fix heel prints, indentations from putter heads, etc.
- You **MAY NOT** practice **ON** the course the day of a tournament. (Stroke Play)
- You **MAY NOT** **substitute** your ball for a special "putting ball" **on** the **green**.
- Practice swings are **NOT** strokes, if you accidentally hit your ball, you put it back.
- You **MAY NOT** play a **provisional ball** for an **original ball** that **MAY BE LOST IN** a water hazard **but** is also **definitely NOT LOST OUTSIDE** the water hazard. (I know, this one is kind of confusing.)
- If someone is talking about 'line of flight' when taking **relief** they **DO NOT** know what they are doing.
- There are 5 ways to lose a golf ball under the rules, "declaring" it lost is **NOT** one of them.
- There is **NO** drop within 2 club lengths **option** with a **water hazard**. (**Yellow stakes**)
- When you drop out of a hazard we **only** care where the **ball** ends up, **DOES NOT** matter where your feet end up. The **ball** gets **relief**, **not** a requirement for your stance.
- When you drop to take **relief** from a cart path, ground under repair, etc., we **do** care where your feet end up. The **ball** AND your **stance** **MUST** have **relief**.