

NEW LOCAL RULE IN EFFECT FOR ALL PLAY: *Accidental Movement of a Ball on the Green*



Golf Australia

“When a player’s ball is at rest on (or has been lifted from) the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved by the player, partner, opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment. The moved ball or ball-marker must be replaced. (Note: If the ball was moved as a result of wind, water or some other natural cause such as the effects of gravity, the ball must be played as it lies from its new location with no penalty.)”

HOW IT WORKS

The following are examples where the Local Rule would apply:



If: When preparing to make a stroke on the green, a player accidentally causes the ball to move...

Answer: No penalty, and the ball must be replaced.



If: On the green, a player accidentally drops the ball on the ball-marker...or drops a ball-marker on the ball...

Answer: No penalty, and if the item was moved it must be replaced.



If: On the green, a player accidentally drops their club, which hits and moves the ball...

Answer: No penalty, and the ball must be replaced.



If: A player accidentally kicks and moves his/her ball on the green...

Answer: No penalty, and the ball must be replaced.

HOW IT DOESN'T WORK

The following are examples where the Local Rule would not apply:

If: A player intentionally moves or lifts his/her ball on the putting green without first marking its location (eg because they mistakenly think they have used all their strokes in Stableford or Par)...

Answer: One-stroke penalty, and the ball must be replaced.

If: A player accidentally moves his/her ball that is lying on the fairway, in the rough or in a bunker...

Answer: One-stroke penalty, and the ball must be replaced.