

Rule 13 – Ball Played as it Lies
(R & A Decisions on the Rules of Golf 2008 – 2009)

13-4 BALL IN HAZARD; PROHIBITED ACTIONS

Except as provided in the Rules, before making a stroke at a ball that is in a hazard (whether a bunker or a water hazard) or that, having been lifted from a hazard, may be dropped or placed in the hazard, the player must not:

- a. Test the condition of the hazard or any similar hazard;
- b. Touch the ground in the hazard or water in the water hazard with his hand or a club; or
- c. Touch or move any loose impediment lying in or touching the hazard.

Note: Remember 'local club rule' allows any stone, etc which may be hit (only) and result in injury to fellow player to be removed.

Exceptions:

1. (Deals with preventing falling into hazard, removing an obstruction, measuring or marking.

2. After making the stroke, if the ball is still in the hazard ... the player may smooth sand or soil in the hazard, provided nothing is done to breach Rule 13-2 with respect to his next stroke.

3. Deals with going from hazard to hazard.

Note: Rule 13-2 deals with Improving lie, Area of intended stance or swing, or line of play.