

Rule 27-2 – Provisional Ball
(R & A Decisions on the Rules of Golf 2010 – 2011)

27-2 PROVISIONAL BALL

a. Procedure

If a ball may be lost outside a water hazard or may be out of bounds, to save time the player may play another ball provisionally in accordance with Rule 27-1.

The player **must inform** his opponent in match play or his marker or a fellow-competitor in stroke play that he intends to play a provisional ball, and he must play it before he or his partner goes forward to search for the original ball.

If he **fails to do so** and plays another ball, that ball is not a provisional ball and **becomes the ball in play** under penalty of stroke and distance. (Rule 27-1); the original ball is lost.

b. When Provisional Ball Becomes Ball in Play

The player may play a provisional ball until he reaches the place where the original ball is likely to be. If he makes a stroke with the provisional ball from the place where the original ball is likely to be or from a point nearer the hole than that place, the original ball is lost and the provisional ball becomes the ball in play under penalty of stroke and distance. (Rule 27-1)