

13.1d When Ball or Ball-Marker Moves on Putting Green

There are two specific Rules for a ball or *ball-marker* that *moves* on the *putting green*.

Rule 13

- (1) **No Penalty for Accidentally Causing Ball to Move.** There is no penalty if the player, *opponent* or another player in *stroke play* accidentally *moves* the player's ball or *ball-marker* on the *putting green*.

The player must:

- Replace the ball on its original spot (which if not known must be estimated) (see Rule 14.2), or
- Place a *ball-marker* to mark that original spot.

Exception – Ball Must Be Played as It Lies When Ball Begins to Move During Backswing or Stroke and Stroke Is Made (see Rule 9.1b).

If the player or *opponent* deliberately lifts the player's ball or *ball-marker* on the *putting green*, see Rule 9.4 or Rule 9.5 to find out if there is a penalty.

Rule 13.1d(1) Interpretations:

13.1d(1)/1 – No Penalty for Accidental Movement of Ball or Ball-Marker on Putting Green

Under Rule 13.1d(1) examples of actions that are accidental include when:

- The player takes normal actions near the ball before attempting a *stroke*, such as practice swings near the ball or addressing the ball by placing the putter on the ground near the ball.
- The player drops a coin or a club, hitting the ball and causing it to *move*.
- The *partner* or *opponent* of the player, or one of their *caddies*, unintentionally *moves* the ball or *ball-marker*, such as by kicking the ball, dropping something on the ball, or by pressing down the *ball-marker*.
- The player inadvertently steps on the *ball-marker* and it sticks to the bottom of his or her shoe.

In these examples of accidental *movement*, the ball or *ball-marker* must be *replaced* and there is no penalty to anyone. If the exact spot from where the ball or *ball-marker* was *moved* is not known, it must be estimated (Rule 14.2c).