

As some of you already know, the R&A have given you a late present, and made some changes to the rules regarding a ball at rest on the putting green being moved accidently.

A new revision of the rules is some way off, so a new Local Rule will come into force from 1st. January 2017.

Rules 18-2, 18-3, and 20-1 are modified as follows.

"When a player's ball lies on the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball marker is accidentally moved by the player, his partner, his opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment.

The moved ball or ball marker must be replaced as provided in Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1.

This Local Rule applies only when the players ball or ball marker lies on the putting green and any movement is accidental.

Note. If it is determined that a player's ball on the putting green 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. A ball marker moved in such circumstances is replaced.

On another matter, I made a joke after the Captains' drive in competition that I should d/q the winners [amazing score wasn't it though] as they had played from an area marked GUR. i.e. the sixth temporary putting green.

Yes, I know, and so should all of you, that temporary greens, are "wrong greens" and not GUR. Unfortunately, the green staff were frustrated and fed up with repairing the temporary greens as some of you continue to play from them. There has been a explanation of the rules on temporary greens on the boards in the entrance to the club for some time now, but clearly some of you have not read or bothered with it.

The erroneous GUR markings have been removed, and you should treat any temporary green not in use as a "wrong green". You may take free relief within one club's length of the nearest point of relief, not nearer the hole. There is no relief if you are standing on the temporary green with the ball off the green.

D Kerswell

Chair H&C