

LOCAL RULE: ACCIDENTAL MOVEMENT OF A BALL ON THE PUTTING GREEN

WHAT IT MEANS: The committee in charge of a competition or course now has the option to adopt a Local Rule that eliminates the penalty for all circumstances when a player, an opponent or either of their partners, caddies or equipment accidentally moves a ball or ball-marker on the putting green.

HOW IT WORKS | The following are examples where the Local Rule would apply:

IF: When preparing to make a stroke, a player accidentally causes the ball to move...



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

IF: A player accidentally drops his/her ball, which hits and moves the ball-marker...



THEN: No penalty, and the ball-marker must be replaced.

IF: A player accidentally drops his/her ball-marker, which hits and moves the ball...



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

IF: A player accidentally kicks and moves his/her ball...



THEN: 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...

THEN: 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...

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