



Twin Oaks Men's Golf Club

Rules and Greens Monthly Newsletter

October 2015

As a member of the Twin Oaks Men's Club, I take pride in the fact that we are allowed to play one of the finest golf courses in the North County. Lately, however, I've noticed that our fairways and greens are showing signs of both abuse and neglect. Our fairways are littered with un-sanded divots and our greens are becoming severely pock-marked with unrepaired ball marks. As a member of the club, let's make it our goal to make sure that we not only repair and sand the ball marks and divots that we are responsible for, but let's go a step further and be sure to repair and/or sand at least one additional divot and/or ball mark. You can make a difference. Thank you.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bTTzbhDMUCE>

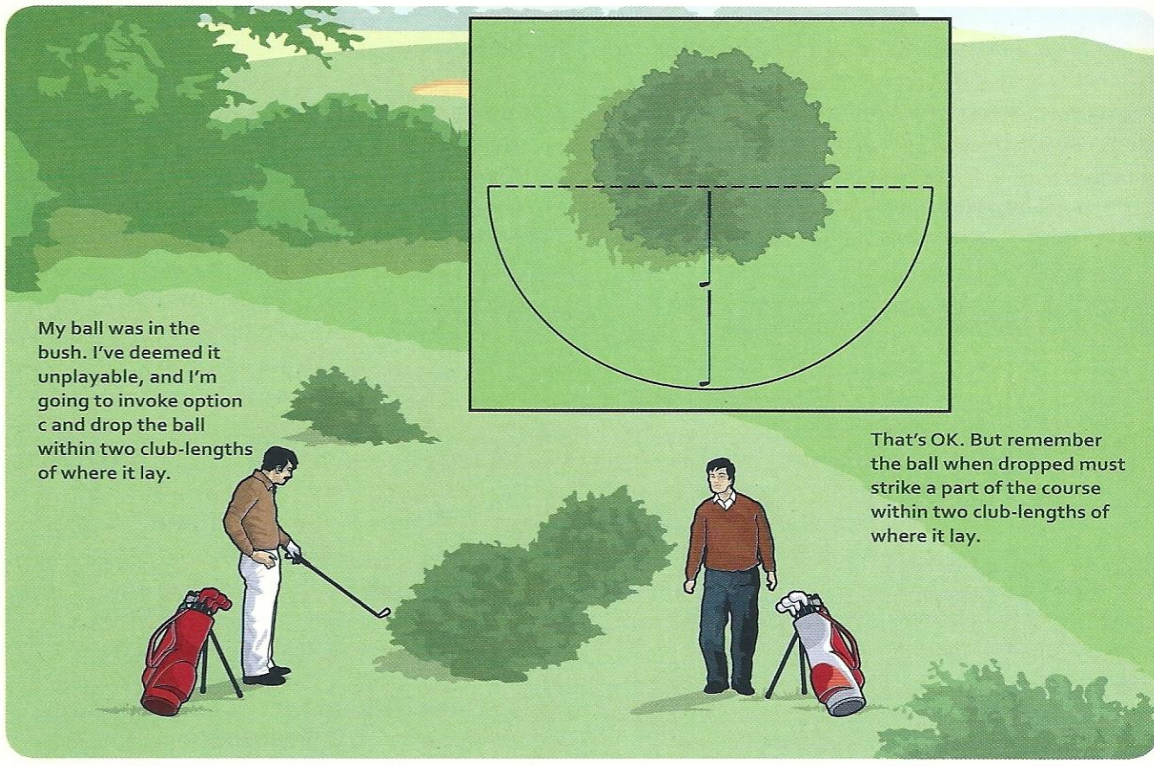
Rule 28 BALL UNPLAYABLE

While playing with the usual suspects a couple of weeks ago, I was forced to try to recall one of the rules of golf. It seems that good old Tom Nesvold had gotten himself stymied behind a rock near the ninth green and decided it necessary to declare his ball unplayable. Because the rock was big, and formed part of the border of the water hazard in front of the green, Tom decided not to attempt moving the rock. (See Loose Impediments, Rule 23) So Tom proceeded by determining his nearest point of relief, no nearer the hole, and then dropping the ball within a club-length of that spot. I commented that I thought the rule for unplayable only allowed you to drop on line with the flag going back as far as you liked on that line. Phil Bystrom, who is by nature a little snippy, declared that I was incorrect and that Tom had proceeded correctly. Since Phil had just given me a package of cheese and peanut butter crackers, I thought it rude to belabor the issue, so I let it go. As soon as I returned home that afternoon, I researched the rule and found that Phil was, in essence, correct. Here is what Rule 28 says: *The player may deem his ball unplayable at any place on the course, except when the ball is in a water hazard. The player is the sole judge as to whether his ball is unplayable. If the player deems his ball to be unplayable, he must, under penalty of one stroke: a. Proceed under the stroke and distance provision of Rule 27-1 by playing a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played (see Rule 20-5); or b. Drop a ball behind the point where the ball lay, keeping that point directly between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped, with no limit to how far behind that point the ball may be dropped; or c. Drop a ball within two club-lengths of the spot where the ball lay, but not nearer the hole. If the unplayable ball is in a bunker, the player may proceed under Clause a, b or c. If he elects to proceed under Clause b or c, the ball must be dropped in the bunker. When proceeding under this rule, the player may lift and clean his ball or substitute a ball.*

Penalty for Breach of Rule: Match play – loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.

What's important to remember is the two club-lengths associated with the penalty is measured from the balls position, not from the point of relief. As it turns out, Tom proceeded incorrectly; however, he had dropped his ball within two club-lengths of the balls position next to the rock, so he was not in breach of the rule. Perhaps more importantly, the DECISIONS ON THE RULES OF GOLF, 28/3 advises that when proceeding under option c, should the ball roll back into an unplayable position, the player would suffer an additional penalty stroke to re-drop the ball, as the ball was in play when dropped. (Rule 20-4) Thought for consideration, eh?

BALL UNPLAYABLE IN BUSH: PLACE FOR DROPPING



BALL UNPLAYABLE IN BUNKER: PLAYER'S OPTIONS

