

COMMON MATCH PLAY RULES TIPS [Penalty strokes in parentheses (). **GENERAL (GP):** 2-strokes stroke play/loss-of-hole match play.]

- DO NOT TOUCH your opponent's ball!! DO NOT MOVE or LIFT your opponent's ball. One stroke penalty except during a search. (1)
- There IS NO PENALTY for PLAYING OUT of TURN; the opponent may recall your stroke, but no other penalty.
- There IS NO PENALTY for tapping-in a putt after a CONCESSION, unless doing so helps her partner (then GP for both).
- When it is a player's turn to play IN MATCH PLAY, the partner may choose to play first if it does NOT DELAY PLAY.
- If a putt from "PLAYER A" strikes anyone else's ball on the Putting Green, THERE IS NO PENALTY IN MATCH PLAY.
- CONCESSIONS ARE FINAL.

COMMON RULES MISTAKES and # of penalty strokes in parentheses ():

- If YOU accidentally cause your ball to move anywhere except the putting green/teeing area, it must be replaced. (1)
- You tap down a pitch mark or divot/improve the area/ground near your ball anywhere except the putting green/teeing area. (GP).
- You get relief from an embedded ball ONLY in the GENERAL AREA, NOT in a bunker and NOT in a Penalty Area. (GP for infraction)
- DO NOT LIFT your ball to IDENTIFY it without marking it; DO NOT ROTATE your ball to identify it or on the putting green to align it without marking it. (1)
- **NEW Penalty 2023:** DO NOT SUBSTITUTE another ball to avoid losing a "new favorite ball" (your original ball) when making stroke over a penalty area or to putt a different ball "without scuffs" on the putting green. (1)
- A BALL MARKER MUST BE an ARTIFICIAL OBJECT and cannot be left in place while making a stroke. (1)
- DO NOT PLAY 2-Balls if unsure of a rule in Match Play (GP)

HANDY RULES TO KNOW:

- If you marked, lifted and replaced your ball on the putting green, "you own that piece of real estate," and it moves from wind, water or gravity, put it back on the spot. If you have not marked, lifted and replaced, then play the ball as it lies.
- **New 2023:** If you take relief, drop/place a ball and after it is at rest, the ball rolls into a different area of the course (e.g., from bunker into Penalty Area, from rough into a bunker/ moves OB), you replace the ball.
- You can only brush away sand and loose soil that lies on the putting green – nowhere else (GP).
- If a ball is in a penalty area, the "actual" location of the ball determines "who is away" for the next stroke in MATCH PLAY. But, the spot where it last crossed the edge of the Penalty Area is the location for determining where to take relief.
- If you know your ball went into a penalty area and DROP another ball, you MUST play the dropped ball, even if the original ball is found (and playable) before you make the stroke with the dropped ball.
- If you cannot find your original ball in 3 minutes, it is LOST. You CANNOT PLAY THE ORIGINAL even if it is found before you play your provisional or another ball.
- You MAY NOT play your ball if it is OB – Loss of hole (GP) in match play/2-stroke penalty in stroke play and must take proper relief [stroke & distance=TOTAL of 3 penalty strokes].
- If you putt your ball on the putting green and it hits another person (NOT yourself + your club/partner/caddie), object (including clubs) or animal (not ants or other small insects), the stroke is canceled and the putt replayed from the original spot.
- You may NOT share clubs with your partner unless you have only 14 clubs total between both partners. (adjustment to match score)