

## Some U. S. Golf Association Decisions on the Rules of Golf

**Question.**—A player tees the ball for a drive, swings and misses it entirely. He then addresses the ball, playing two, and accidentally knocks it off the tee. Has he the right to re-tee without penalty?

**Answer.**—No. As the player has made his first stroke when he missed the ball, it was in play, and therefore there is a penalty of one stroke for knocking it off the tee when he subsequently addressed the ball. See definition 13 and rule 12, section 3.

**Question.**—Match play. Player putting or approaching from within twenty yards of the flag-stick, which has not been removed, hits the same. Is he penalized?

**Answer.**—Either side is entitled to have the flag-stick removed in match play, and should the ball strike the stick before its removal it must be considered a "rub of the green," and there is no penalty. See rule 32.

**Question.**—Can a player either in match or medal play lift a ball from a hoofprint in the fairway and drop it without penalty for a better lie?

**Answer.**—There is no ruling which allows a player either in match or medal play to lift a ball from a hoofprint in the fairway and drop it without penalty. See rule 6.

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### Grassy Hollows

The following letter, with answer prepared by a member of the Rules Committee of the U. S. Golf Association, may be of general interest:

"We notice in the April BULLETIN a suggestion on the back page in favor of the use of grass bunkers and have adopted this suggestion on one of our fairways. The question has arisen among some of our members as to what rule should apply, particularly in reference to grounding the club. Also, will you kindly advise us if certain ravines which we play over as water hazards should come under this rule prohibiting the grounding of club, when playing out of the ravine?"

"Speaking of a grass bunker is really a misnomer, for mounds which are covered with grass and hollows which are covered with grass are not really bunkers and therefore not hazards, and in playing the shot from them the club may be soled without penalty. Under definition 6 of the rules of golf you will find this clearly stated in the last paragraph defining a bunker.

"The second question you ask is in regard to ravines which you play as water hazards. If you play the entire ravine as a water hazard, the club may not be grounded if the ball lies anywhere in the ravine—that is, anywhere in the hazard. The usual practice is to consider the break of the bank as the limit of the hazard, and if a ball lies under the break it is in the hazard. It may seem severe that the club may not be soled when the ball is lying on perfectly good turf, but on the other hand, this construction often gives the player a distinct advantage; that is, if the ball buries in the far bank or if it is found to be in an impossible lie, as often happens in ditches, he may lift for the loss of one stroke instead of the usual penalty for an unplayable ball of stroke and distance.