

BUNKERS

***After making a stroke at the ball in the bunker, if the ball is still in the bunker, or has been lifted from the bunker and may be dropped or placed in the bunker, the player may smooth sand or soil provided nothing is done to breach Rule 13-2 with respect to the NEXT STROKE.**

If the ball is outside the bunker after the stroke, the player may smooth sand or soil in the bunker without restriction.

***If a player has reason to believe a ball at rest in the bunker is hers, AND IT IS NECESSARY TO LIFT THE BALL IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY IT, she may lift the ball. Before lifting the ball, she must announce her intention to her opponent or fellow competitor and mark the position of the ball. She may then lift the ball and identify it, provided she gives her opponent or fellow competitor an opportunity to observe the lifting and replacement. The ball must not be cleaned beyond the extent necessary to identify it.**

If the ball is hers and she fails to comply with all or any part of this procedure, or lifts her ball in order to identify it when it is not necessary to do so, she incurs a penalty of one stroke

***Should a wrong ball be hit out of the bunker, the player incurs a penalty of two strokes and must rectify the situation before teeing off on the next hole.**

Before making a stroke at a ball that is in a bunker, a player MAY NOT ground her club in the bunker, rake or smooth sand, touch or move a loose impediment, build a stance, test the condition of the bunker in another part of the bunker or a similar bunker. She cannot stick the handle of the rake into the sand before taking her shot. She cannot rake or smooth footprints that were made while searching for the ball.

She cannot improve or allow to be improved, the position of the ball, the area of her intended stance or swing, her line of play, or a reasonable extension of that line beyond the hole, or the area in which she is to drop or place a ball. Penalty for breach of this rule is two strokes in stroke play or loss of hole in match play.

DEFINITION: A bunker is a hazard consisting of a prepared area of ground, often a hollow, from which turf or soil has been removed and replaced with sand or the like. Grass covered ground bordering or within a bunker, including a stacked turf face (whether grass covered or earthen), is not part of the bunker. A wall or lip of the bunker not covered with grass is part of the bunker. The margin of a bunker extends vertically downwards, but not upwards.

A ball is in a bunker when it lies in or any part of it touches the bunker.

THINGS A PLAYER CAN DO WHEN HER BALL IS IN A BUNKER

If her ball is in casual water in a bunker, she can touch the water with her club when addressing the ball.

If a ball is believed to be covered by loose impediments or sand, she may probe for her ball by raking or other means to see a part of the ball. If an excess is removed, no penalty is incurred and the ball must be recovered so that only a part of the ball is visible. If the ball is moved during the search, that ball must be replaced and, if necessary, recovered.

If a stroke made by a player's partner, opponent or fellow-competitor causes a loose impediment to come to rest on or near a player's ball lying in a bunker, the loose impediment may be removed without penalty. A player is entitled to the lie her stroke gave her.

She can remove a moveable obstruction.

She can take clubs or a rake into the bunker when she enters.

She can enter a bunker with a club, take her stance, exit and reenter with a different club. She can use a cane or a club to keep her from falling as long as she does nothing to improve her lie of the ball or test the condition of the bunker.

She can declare a ball unplayable in a bunker. Under penalty of one stroke, she may play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played; 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, as long as it is dropped in the bunker, or drop a ball within two club lengths of the spot where the ball lay, not nearer the hole—but it must be dropped in the bunker.

She can take free relief from an abnormal ground condition, such as a burrowing animal hole or casual water, within one club-length of and no nearer the hole than the nearest point of relief. The nearest point of relief must be in the bunker. Under penalty of one stroke, outside the bunker, keeping the point where the ball lay directly between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped, with no limit as to how far behind the bunker the ball may be dropped.

A player is allowed to remove a loose impediment from a bunker when her ball is not in the bunker and she may test the condition of a bunker when her ball is outside the bunker, provided she does not do anything to improve her line of play.

