

CONDITIONS AFFECTING THE STROKE

Play the course as you find it, play the ball as it lies. Rule 8

Player is **not** entitled to a normal stance or swing.

8.1 C.A.T.S. Conditions Affecting The Stroke

To **improve** one or more conditions

- The lie of the ball
- Area of intended stance
- Area of Intended swing
- Line of play
- Relief area

Improve: *To alter one or more of the CATS or other physical conditions affecting play so that player gains a potential advantage for a stroke.*

The lie of the ball: The spot on which a ball is at rest and any growing or attached natural object, immovable obstruction, integral object or boundary object touching the ball or right next to it. (Loose impediments are not part of the lie of the ball.)

The area of intend stance: Includes where the will place their feet and the entire area that might affect where the player's body is positioned in preparing for and making the intended stroke.

Area of intended swing: Includes the entire area that might reasonably affect any part of your backswing, downswing or the completion of the swing for the intended stroke.

Line of play: The line where the player intends his or her ball to go after a stroke, including the area o the line that is a reasonable distance up above the ground and on either side of that line. The line of play is not necessarily a straight line between two points.

Relief area: The area where a player must drop a ball when taking relief under a rule.

Player not permitted to:

- Move, bend or break any growing or attached object, immovable obstruction, integral object, boundary object, or tee marker.
- Alter the surface of the ground by replacing divots, removing or pressing down replaced divots, creating or eliminating holes, indentations holes or uneven surfaces (if this affects the CATS)
- Remove or press down sand or loose soil
- Remove dew, frost or water
- Build a stance
- Move loose impediments or movable obstructions into place
- Alter the surface of the ground

Exceptions:

- Fairly searching for ball
- Reasonable actions to remove loose impediments and movable obstructions
- Mark the spot of a ball and lift and replace a ball
- Grounding the club lightly
- Fairly take a stance (take the least intrusive action to take a stance)
- Take reasonable actions to get to the ball and take a stance
- Making a stroke, including firmly placing feet
- Teeing Area permissions
 - Use a tee
 - Move, bend or break growing or attached natural objections
 - Alter the surface of the ground
 - Remove dew, frost or water
- Putting Green permissions
 - Remove sand and loose soil
 - Repair damage
- Bunkers
 - Care for the course
 - Rake the sand when caring for the course (as long as does not improve CATS)
- Moving natural object to see if it is loose

8.1c Avoiding Penalty By Restoring Conditions/Restoration Concept

8.1a(1) or 8.1a(2) only

What can be restored?

- Moving, bending or breaking things growing or attached
- Moving, bending or breaking immovable obstructions, integral objects or boundary objects
- Moving a loose impediment into position
- Moving a movable obstruction into position

What can not be restored?

- Altering the surface of the ground
- Removing or pressing down sand or loose soil
- Removing dew, frost or water

(What a player does to the ground cannot be restored)

How to restore after moving or bending an object:

- The improvement must be eliminated
- Must use original object (pole or branch)

How to restore when moving object into position:

- If a branch is moved due to moving bench into position, must ensure the brach is moved back into its original position

If you cannot get the condition back to what it was, then you cannot avoid the penalty.

8.1d Restoring Conditions Worsened After Ball Came to Rest

8.1d(1)/2 Generally speaking, a player entitled to the conditions affecting the stroke that they had when the ball came to rest.”

If conditions were altered by:

- Any person other than the player
- Animal

Restoration not permitted when done by:

- Player (or caddie)
- Another person (other than a referee) when authorized by the player
- Natural forces

If conditions cannot be restored:

- Lift and replace the ball on the nearest spot
 - Not nearer the hole
 - Most similar conditions
 - Within one club-length of where the ball is at rest
 - Same area of the course

Rule 8.2

In addition to Rule 8.1, the player must not deliberately alter other conditions

- Where the ball might go after the next stroke
- Where the ball might go if it moves before the next stroke

Rule 8.3

Player must not deliberately

- Improve or worsen the CATS of another player
- Alter other physical conditions to affect where another player's ball might go
 - After the next stroke
 - If it moves before the next stroke

Exception: *There is no penalty under this rule if the player alters any such other physical conditions to care for the course (such as smoothing footprints in a bunker or replacing a divot in a divot hole)*