RULE 1. THE GAME

1-1. GENERAL

A ball played with a club into the hole, from the teeing ground.

1-2. EXERTING INFLUENCE ON BALL OR ALTERING PHYSICAL CONDITIONS (Intent-based, does not require knowledge of Rule)

Revised to clarify that "influence" relates to a movement of the ball (your ball or another ball) or the physical conditions that affect playing the hole. Ball does not have to be in motion. Rule 1-2 applies unless another Rule applies to the situation. Possible serious breach for gaining a significant advantage or placing another player at a significant disadvantage. A serious breach cannot be corrected – PENALTY is Disqualification.

Exception 1 stipulates that Rule 1-2 does not apply when another Rule applies.

Exception 2 clarifies that an action taken for the sole purpose of caring for the course is not a breach of Rule 1-2. Note that provisions of Rule 13-2 still apply.

Decision 1-2/0.7 defines the meaning of the phrase "sole purpose of caring for the course".

In Four-Ball when a player interferes with the ball of a partner, he does not receive the penalty – penalty goes the partner whose ball is affected. (Decision 1-2/7)

1-3. AGREEMENT TO WAIVE RULES (Intent-based, requires players to be aware that their action was a breach of Rule or Condition)

In order to be in breach of Rule 1-3, players must be aware that they are doing so. Rule 1-3 applies to a Rule, a condition of competition or a penalty. A breach is based on an agreement, not acting on the agreement. Decision 1-3/0.5 describes when a breach occurs – PENALTY is disqualification.

1-4. Points Not Covered by Rules

Concept of "equity" applies to issues not specifically covered by Rules and Decisions. Equity does not mean "fair" but rather that equity rulings would treat similar incidents in a similar manner.

Decision 1-4/12

Player Breaches Rules More Than Once; Whether Multiple Penalties Should Be Applied.

This Decision was re-written, expanded and improved for 2012. It is noted that several Rules currently state that multiple penalties are not applied in certain situations. This decision assists with ***Principles*** to be applied in other situations where multiple breaches may occur. The term "***unrelated acts"*** replaces "***separate acts***" and additional examples and text improve understanding of multiple penalties, particularly the situations addressed in Principle 3 and Principle 6 of this Decision.

Six Principles of Decision 1-4/12

1. One Act Results in One Rule Being Breached More Than Once – Single Penalty Applied
2. One Act Results in Two Rules Being Breached – Single Penalty Applied
3. Related Acts Result in One Rule Being Breached More Than Once – Single Penalty Applied
4. Related Acts Result in Two Rules Being Breached – Single Penalty Applied
5. Unrelated Acts Result in Two Rules Being Breached – Multiple Penalties Applied
6. Unrelated Acts Result in One Rule Being Breached More Than Once – Multiple Penalties Applied