

Rule 7 – Notable Changes

- Player no longer gets a penalty for improving conditions during a search so long as it happened while “fairly searching”.
- No longer necessary to announce or involve others when lifting a ball for identification.
- No longer a penalty if ball is moved while searching or trying to identify it.

Rule 7 – Key Concepts

7.1 How to Fairly Search for Ball

- May move sand and water, grass, bushes, tree branches or other growing/attached objects as reasonable to find ball.
- Penalty for improving conditions affecting stroke if search exceeds what was reasonable.

7.2 How to Identify Ball

- Ball may be identified by:
 - Seeing it come to rest in the circumstances where it's known to be the ball,
 - Seeing the identifying mark,
 - Finding the same brand, make, model and condition ball where the player's ball should be (unless an identical one nearby).

7.3 Lifting Ball to Identify It

- Player may lift ball to identify it. Must be marked first, and not cleaned except enough to ID it. One stroke penalty for lifting without reason, no mark or improper cleaning.

7.4 Ball Accidentally Moved in Trying to Find or Identify It

- No penalty for accidentally moving ball while trying to find or ID it.