

# LOCAL RULE: ACCIDENTAL MOVEMENT OF A BALL ON THE PUTTING GREEN

**WHAT IT MEANS:** *The committee in charge of a competition or course now has the option to adopt a Local Rule that eliminates the penalty for **all** circumstances when a player, an opponent or either of their partners, caddies or equipment **accidentally** moves a ball or ball marker on the putting green.*

**HOW IT WORKS** | The following are examples where the Local Rule would apply:

**IF:** When preparing to play a stroke, a player accidentally causes the ball to move...



**THEN:** No penalty, and the ball must be replaced.

**IF:** A player accidentally drops his/her ball, which hits and moves the ball marker...



**THEN:** No penalty, and the ball marker must be replaced.

**IF:** A player accidentally drops his/her ball marker, which hits and moves the ball...



**THEN:** No penalty, and the ball must be replaced.

**IF:** A player accidentally kicks and moves his/her ball...



**THEN:** No penalty, and the ball must be replaced.

**HOW IT DOESN'T WORK** | The following are examples where the Local Rule would not apply:

**IF:** A player accidentally moves his/her ball that is lying through the green (fairway, rough, etc.)...

**THEN:** One-stroke penalty, and the ball must be replaced.

**IF:** A player intentionally moves or lifts his/her ball on the putting green without first marking its location...

**THEN:** One-stroke penalty, and the ball must be replaced.

