

Use of the Word “Override” in Rules and Decisions

An important part of proper understanding, and being able to apply, the Rules and Decisions requires memory of the occasions where the word “override” is used so that the appropriate Rule may be applied to a given situation where more than one Rule appears to be relevant.

For the first time in 2012, the word “override” itself has been specifically incorporated into a Rule [Rule 19-5a]. Heretofore, use of this word was found only in the Decisions. This Rule and Decisions with direct use of the word “override” are covered in Part I of this paper.

In some instances, the word itself is not used; rather an indirect construction of alternate words appears with effectively the same result. A few of the many Rules and Decisions with an indirect construction of alternate words are covered in Part II of this paper.

PART I

A selected listing of the direct uses of the word “override” with suitable excerpts from one Rule and fifteen Decisions follows:

Rules [1]

19-5a Ball in Motion Deflected or Stopped by Another Ball in Motion, Note. Nothing in this Rule overrides the provisions of Rule 10-1 (Order of Play in Match Play) or Rule 16-1f (Making Stroke While Another Ball in Motion).

Decisions [15]

4-4c/2 Whether Player May Use Excess Club to Replace Club Damaged in Normal Course of Play. Rule 4-3a(iii), which states in part that a player may replace a club that is unfit for play as a result of damage that occurred in the normal course of play “with any club” overrides Rule 4-4c, which prohibits the use of a club declared out of play as a result of a breach of Rule 4-4a or b.

12-1/4 Player Touches Ground in Hazard When Searching for Ball Believed to Be Covered by Loose Impediments in Hazard. Rule 12-1 specifically authorizes touching ground in the hazard while probing. Such permission overrides any prohibitions in Rule 13-4.

13-4/35.8 Player Deems Ball Unplayable in Bunker, Announces His Intention to Proceed Under Rule 28a Outside Bunker and Then Rakes Bunker on New Line of Play. The fact that the smoothing improved the player’s line of play for his next stroke from the teeing ground is irrelevant as the right to smooth in these circumstances overrides any conflicting provisions in Rule 13-2.

13-4/37 Ball Played from Bunker Is Out of Bounds or Lost; Player Tests Condition of Bunker or Smooths Footprints Before Dropping Another Ball in Bunker. Furthermore, Exception 2 under Rule 13-4 allows a player, after playing his ball out of a hazard, to

smooth sand or soil in the hazard without restriction. This right overrides any conflicting provisions in other Rules, including Rule 13-2.

13-4/37.5 Player Smooths Irregularities in Bunker After Playing Out Backwards; Smoothed Area on Line of Play. Exception 2 to Rule 13-4 allows a player, after playing his ball out of a hazard, to smooth sand in the hazard without restriction. This right overrides any conflicting provisions in other Rules, including Rule 13-2.

18-2a/1 Player Who Misses Tee Shot Tees Ball Lower Before Making Next Stroke. However, when the player made a stroke at the ball without replacing it, he played under penalty of stroke and distance (see Rule 27-1a). This procedure overrides Rule 18-2a and, therefore, the penalty under Rule 18-2a does not apply. [See Decision 27-2b/10 below for the condition that must apply for the player to be relieved of a penalty under Rule 18-2a for lifting a ball in play when he subsequently plays from the spot of the previous stroke]

18-2a/2 Ball Falling Off Tee When Stroke Just Touches It Is Picked Up and Re-Teed. However, when the player made a stroke at the re-tee ball, he played a ball under penalty of stroke and distance (see Rule 27-1a). This procedure overrides Rule 18-2a and, therefore, the penalty under Rule 18-2a does not apply. [See Decision 27-2b/10 below for the condition that must apply for the player to be relieved of a penalty under Rule 18-2a for lifting a ball in play when he subsequently plays from the spot of the previous stroke]

18-2a/11 Tee Shot Wrongly Thought to Be Out of Bounds Lifted; Competitor Plays Another Ball from Tee. However, when the player made a stroke from where the previous stroke was made (Rule 20-5), he played a ball under penalty of stroke and distance (see Rule 27-1a). This procedure overrides Rule 18-2a and, therefore, the penalty under Rule 18-2a does not apply. [See Decision 27-2b/10 below for the condition that must apply for the player to be relieved of a penalty under Rule 18-2a for lifting a ball in play when he subsequently plays from the spot of the previous stroke]

18-2a/14 Caddie on Own Initiative Lifts Ball for Identification. Since the ball was lifted other than in accordance with the Rules, Rule 18-2a applies and A incurs a penalty of one stroke. Rule 18-2a overrides Rule 12-2 in the circumstances.

18-2b/10 Ball Falls into Hole After Being Addressed. Although Rule 16-2 applies when a player's ball overhangs the lip of the hole, Rule 18-2b, which specifically applies when a player's ball moves after he has addressed it, overrides Rule 16-2 in this case.

20-1/0.5 Whether Player Himself Must Lift Ball. Rule 20-1 states: "A ball to be lifted under the Rules may be lifted by the player, his partner or another person authorized by the player". On the other hand, other Rules, e.g., Rules 24-2b(i) and 25-1b(i), state that the player shall lift the ball. Does Rule 20-1 override other Rules which imply that the player himself must lift the ball? Answer is yes.

20-3a/0.5 Whether Player Himself Must Place or Replace Ball. Rule 20-3a provides that, in some instances, a person other than the player may place or replace the player's ball. On

the other hand, other Rules, e.g., Rule 12-2, state that the player must place or replace the ball. Does Rule 20-3a override other Rules that imply that the player himself must place or replace the ball? Answer is yes.

20-3d/1 Placed Ball Rolls into Hole. However, if the ball had been overhanging the hole when it was lifted, the provisions of Rule 16-2 would override those of Rule 20-3d.

23-1/12 After Ball Addressed on Putting Green Ball Moved in Removal of Loose Impediment. Under Rule 23-1, a player incurs no penalty if a ball on the putting green moves while he is in the process of removing a loose impediment. Rule 23-1 overrides Rule 18-2b in this case.

30-3b/1 Player Entitled to Putt Stands on Another Player's Line of Putt. A would be entitled to putt first even if he would be standing on B's line. Rule 30-3b overrides Rule 16-1a, which prohibits touching the line of putt.

PART II

A selected listing of the indirect construction of alternate words to the direct uses of the word "override" with suitable excerpts from seven Rules and seven Decisions follows:

Rules [7]

1-2 Exerting Influence on Movement of Ball or Altering Physical Conditions, Exception 1. An action expressly permitted or expressly prohibited by another *Rule* is subject to that other Rule, not Rule 1-2.

8-2a Indicating Line of Play Other Than on Putting Green. ...no one may be positioned by the player on or close to the line or an extension of the line beyond the hole while the stroke is being made. **Exception:** Flagstick attended or held up - see Rule 17-1. [This is constructive use of the Exception to Rule 8-2a to achieve the same result as use of the word override to allow someone to stand near the hole when attending or holding up the flagstick, which would otherwise be prohibited by Rule 8a.]

12-1b Searching for or Identifying Ball Covered by Loose Impediments in Hazard. In a hazard, if the player's ball is believed to be covered by loose impediments to the extent that he cannot find or identify it, he may, without penalty, touch or move loose impediments in order to find or identify the ball. [There is no indication herein that Rule 12-1 constructively overrides the prohibitions within Rule 13-4b and c - see Decision 12-1/4 but this statement effective does so.]

13-4 Ball in Hazard; Prohibited Actions, Exception 2. If a ball played from a hazard is outside the hazard after the stroke, the player may smooth sand or soil in the hazard without restriction. [There is no indication herein that this exception constructively overrides the provisions of Rule 13-2 but this statement effective does so.]

18-2b Ball Moving After Address, Exception. If it is known or virtually certain that the player did not cause his ball to move, Rule 18-2b does not apply. [This is constructive use of other expressions to achieve the same result as use of the word override – see Decision 18-2b/11 below.]

20-1 Lifting and Marking. If a ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved in the process of lifting the ball under a Rule or marking its position, the ball or ball-marker must be replaced. There is no penalty, provided the movement of the ball or ball-marker is directly attributable to the specific act of marking the position of or lifting the ball. Otherwise, the player incurs a penalty of one stroke under this Rule or Rule 18-2a. [This provision of Rule 20-1 creates an exception to Rule 18-2a for the movement of a ball.]

20-3b Lie of Ball to be Placed or Replaced Altered, Note. If the original lie of a ball to be placed or replaced has been altered and it is impossible to determine the spot where the ball is to be placed or replaced, Rule 20-3b applies if the original lie is known, and Rule 20-3c applies if the original lie is not known. [This is constructive use of other expressions to achieve the same result as use of the word override – see Decisions 20-3b/4, 20-3b/5 and 20-3b/6 below.]

Decisions [7]

10-1c/2 Player Requested to Lift Ball Due to Interference Plays Out of Turn Instead. In match play, A's ball is on B's line of putt. B requests A to lift his ball under Rule 22-2. Instead of complying with the request, A putts out of turn. Does A lose the hole for a breach of Rule 22-2 or does Rule 10-1c apply, in which case there would be no penalty but B would have the right to require A to replay the stroke in correct order? Answer is Rule 10-1c governs. [This is constructive use of other expressions to achieve the same result as use of the word override.]

10-2c/2 Competitors in Stroke Play Agree to Play Out of Turn But Not for Purpose of Giving One of Them an Advantage. In stroke play, A and B agree to play out of turn at the 10th hole to save time. There is no penalty under Rule 10-2c because they did not do so in order to give one of them an advantage. However, are they liable to disqualification under Rule 1-3 for agreeing to exclude the operation of Rule 10-2a or 10-2b as the case may be? Answer is No. Rule 10-2c specifically governs and permits the procedure in stroke play. Accordingly, Rule 1-3 does not apply. [This is constructive use of other expressions to achieve the same result as use of the word override.]

18-2b/11 Ball Moved by Another Agency After Address. After a player has addressed his ball in play, some other agency (e.g., a ball played by another player) moves the player's ball. As it is known or virtually certain that the player did not cause the ball to move, Rule 18-2b does not apply – see Exception under Rule 18-2b. In such a case where an agency directly causes a ball to move, the Rule applicable to that agency (e.g., Rule 18-1, 18-2a, 18-3, 18-4 or 18-5) applies. [This is constructive use of other expressions to achieve the same result as use of the word override.]

20-3b/4 Lie of Ball Through the Green Altered; Original Lie of Ball Known But Spot Where Ball Lay Not Determinable. In stroke play, B plays A's ball, which was lying through the green, and in the process removes a divot. The original lie of A's ball was known and has been altered. It is impossible to determine the exact spot where A's ball originally lay. As A knew the original lie of the ball, Rule 20-3b applies (see Note to Rule 20-3b). [This is constructive use of other expressions to achieve the same result as use of the word override.]

20-3b/5 Lie of Ball in Rough Altered by Outside Agency; Original Lie of Ball Not Known and Spot Where Ball Lay Not Determinable. An outside agency accidentally steps on A's ball in tall grass through the green and presses the ball into the ground. The original lie of A's ball was not known, but the lie has clearly been altered. It is impossible to determine the spot where A's ball originally lay. As A did not know the original lie of the ball, Rule 20-3c applies. [This is constructive use of other expressions to achieve the same result as use of the word override.]

20-3b/6 Lie of Ball in Bunker Altered; Original Lie of Ball Known But Spot Where Ball Lay Not Determinable. At B's request, A has marked the position of and lifted his ball in a bunker under Rule 22-2 as it interfered with B's stroke. B makes his stroke and, in the process, accidentally moves A's ball-marker. The original lie of A's ball was known and has been altered. It is impossible to determine the exact spot where A's ball originally lay. As A knew the original lie of the ball, Rule 20-3b applies (see Note to Rule 20-3b). [This is constructive use of other expressions to achieve the same result as use of the word override.]

27-2b/10 Provisional Ball Lifted Subsequently Becomes Ball in Play; Competitor Then Plays from Wrong Place. However, the penalty of one stroke for the original lifting of the provisional ball in breach of Rule 18-2a still applies because, at the moment of lifting the provisional ball, the player had no intention of playing it again from the teeing ground. [This is introduction of the condition (player's intention to play under Rule 27-1a at the time of lifting) under which the player may be relieved of a penalty under Rule 18-2a for lifting a ball in play when he subsequently plays from the spot of the previous stroke thus allowing Rule 27-1a to constructively override Rule 18-2a.]