Golf Rules and Scoring

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. What name does the Rules of Golf give to the area from which a player starts the hole?

A. Teeing area
B. Putting green
C. Penalty area
D. Bunker

Correct answer: A. Teeing area
The teeing area is the designated starting area for that hole.

2. What is a prepared area of sand from which turf or soil was removed?

A. Fairway
B. Putting green
C. Bunker
D. Teeing area

Correct answer: C. Bunker
A bunker is a specially prepared area of sand. Sand elsewhere is not necessarily a bunker.

3. A player’s first stroke on a hole sends the ball straight into the cup. What is that score commonly called?

A. Bogey
B. Hole in one
C. Par save
D. Double bogey

Correct answer: B. Hole in one
A hole in one, also called an ace, means the hole was completed in a single stroke.

4. Which part of the hole is specially prepared for putting and contains the hole being played?

A. Penalty area
B. Rough
C. Teeing area
D. Putting green

Correct answer: D. Putting green
The putting green is the area specially prepared for putting on the hole being played.

5. A player completes a par-five hole in seven strokes. How is the score described?

A. Bogey
B. Double bogey
C. Eagle
D. Par

Correct answer: B. Double bogey
Seven is two strokes above the hole’s par. A score of two over par is a double bogey.

6. Over three holes, a player makes 4, 5, and 3 strokes. The player also receives a one-stroke penalty. What is the gross total?

A. 13
B. 12
C. 11
D. 14

Correct answer: A. 13
A gross score counts strokes made and penalty strokes. The three hole totals plus the penalty give 4 + 5 + 3 + 1 = 13.

7. In scratch match play, one player takes four strokes on a hole and the opponent takes six. What goes on the match record?

A. The players tie the hole.
B. The player who took four strokes wins two holes.
C. The player who took six strokes wins one hole.
D. The player who took four strokes wins one hole.

Correct answer: D. The player who took four strokes wins one hole.
A match-play hole is won by the lower score on that hole. The margin in strokes does not make it worth two holes.

8. A tee shot might be lost outside a penalty area. Which step can save a walk back if the original cannot be found?

A. Put another ball in the bag and declare the original holed.
B. Drop another ball wherever the original might have landed.
C. Announce and play a provisional ball before going forward to search.
D. Wait until the round finishes before playing a replacement.

Correct answer: C. Announce and play a provisional ball before going forward to search.
A provisional ball is available under the rule when the original may be lost outside a penalty area or may be out of bounds.

9. On the putting green, a player wants to lift and clean the ball. What should the player do first?

A. Mark the ball’s spot.
B. Place the ball at the edge of the green.
C. Move the ball one club-length toward the hole.
D. Declare the ball a provisional.

Correct answer: A. Mark the ball’s spot.
The player marks the original spot so the ball can be replaced there.

10. A player chooses to leave the flagstick in the hole. A putt rolls into the stationary flagstick and drops. What is the normal ruling?

A. The putt counts only if the opponent had removed the flagstick.
B. The player must putt again with the flagstick removed.
C. The player adds two strokes because the putt started on the green.
D. The ball is holed with no penalty for hitting the flagstick.

Correct answer: D. The ball is holed with no penalty for hitting the flagstick.
The player may leave the flagstick in place. A ball in motion can strike that flagstick without penalty under this rule.

11. A tee shot is lost outside a penalty area. The player uses standard stroke-and-distance relief and tees another ball. What number is the next stroke?

A. Fourth stroke
B. Second stroke
C. Third stroke
D. First stroke

Correct answer: C. Third stroke
The first shot counts. One penalty stroke is added before the player makes the next stroke, which is the third.

12. A paved cart path interferes with a ball in the general area. Under normal free relief, which point establishes the relief area?

A. The nearest point on the fairway, even if it is closer to the hole.
B. The nearest point of complete relief in the general area that is no closer to the hole.
C. Any spot the player prefers in the general area.
D. The spot where the previous shot started.

Correct answer: B. The nearest point of complete relief in the general area that is no closer to the hole.
The reference point is the nearest point of complete relief. The size and limits of the relief area are measured from that point.

13. After the 16th hole of an 18-hole match, a player is three holes ahead. How is the result usually recorded?

A. The match is tied.
B. The player wins 3 and 1.
C. The match continues to the 18th hole.
D. The player wins 3 and 2.

Correct answer: D. The player wins 3 and 2.
Only two holes remain, so the opponent cannot overcome a three-hole lead. The result records the lead and holes remaining.

14. A ball comes to rest on the putting green for a different hole. Under the normal rule for a wrong green, what must the player do?

A. Take free relief from the wrong green.
B. Play the ball as it lies with a putter.
C. Take stroke-and-distance relief with a penalty.
D. Place the ball on the green for the hole being played.

Correct answer: A. Take free relief from the wrong green.
Rule 13 requires free relief when a wrong green interferes. The player takes relief using the nearest point of complete relief.

15. On three holes, player A scores 3, 4, and 8. Player B scores 4, 5, and 5. Who leads in match play, and who has fewer total strokes?

A. A leads in both formats.
B. B leads in both formats.
C. A leads in match play. B has fewer total strokes.
D. B leads in match play. A has fewer total strokes.

Correct answer: C. A leads in match play. B has fewer total strokes.
A wins the first two holes and loses the third, so A leads by one hole. B takes 14 strokes to A’s 15.