

Abnormal Ground Conditions

Rule 25

Definitions

Abnormal Ground Conditions (AGC)

Any *casual water*, *ground under repair* or hole, cast, or runway on the course made by a *burrowing animal*, reptile or bird.

Casual Water

Any temporary accumulation of water on the course, not in a water hazard, that is visible before or after the player takes her stance.Dew and frost are not *casual water*. A ball is in *casual water* when it lies in or any part touches *casual water*.

Ground Under Repair (GUR)

GUR is any part of the course so marked or so declared by the rules committee or its authorized representative. It includes material piled for removal and a hole made by a greenskeeper even if these are not marked.... Where the margin of the hazard is defined by a line on the ground, the line itself is inside *GUR*. The *GUR* margin extends downward but not upward... A ball is in *GUR* when any part of it touches *GUR*. Any plant matter rooted in *GUR* is part of *GUR*.

Burrowing Animal

A burrowing animal is one that makes a hole for shelter or habitation, such as a rabbit, mole, gopher or salamander.

Interference

Interference by an *AGC* occurs when a ball lies in or touches the condition or when the condition interferes with a player's stance or swing. Interference also occurs on the putting green if the *AGC* intervenes on the *line of putt*.

Relief

No relief available if the ball and the *AGC* lie in a water hazard!

Relief Procedures

Through the Green: Without penalty, lift and **drop** within one club length of and not nearer the hole than the *nearest point of relief* (NPR). The NPR must not be in a hazard or on the *putting green*. When the ball is dropped, it must first strike a part of the course at a spot that avoids interference by the condition and is not in a *hazard* or on a *putting green*.

In a *bunker*: Follow the procedure for "*through the green*" except that the NPR must be in the *bunker* and the ball must be dropped in the *bunker*. If complete relief is not possible, **drop** at a place in the *bunker* where there is maximum available relief. A player may drop outside the *bunker*, **under penalty of one stroke**, on a line from the *hole* through where the ball lies with no limit on how far behind the *bunker* the ball may be dropped.

On the *putting green*: Without penalty, lift and **place** the ball at the NPR not in a *hazard*. If complete relief is not possible, **place** the ball at the NPR which provides maximum available relief from the condition. **The NPR may be off the *putting green*.**

On the *Teeing Ground*: Follow the procedure for "*through the green*".

The *ball* may be cleaned when proceeding under this rule.

Ball Lost in an AGC

To treat a ball as lost in an AGC, it must be known or virtually certain that the ball lies in the condition. Otherwise, it must be considered a *lost ball* and a stroke and distance penalty would apply under Rule 27.

If a ball is lost in an AGC, the ball is deemed to lie where the ball last crossed the outermost limits of the condition. Relief is available as described under relief procedures for the respective areas.

If a ball is lost in an AGC in a water hazard, the player is not entitled to relief without penalty. The player must proceed under the water hazard rule (Rule 26).