

## Casual Water on the Course

We are now beginning the rainy season, a time when we are likely to find casual water throughout the course. It's good to know what casual water is so that you can determine whether you are entitled to take the free relief provided under Rule 25-1—Abnormal Ground Conditions.

Casual Water is defined in the rules as a temporary accumulation of water on the course that is visible before or after a player takes her stance and is not in a water hazard. Dew and frost are not casual water, but snow and natural ice can be treated as casual water (or as loose impediments). Soft, mushy earth can be casual water only if water is visible before or after the player takes her stance. Casual water includes overflow of water from a water hazard which is outside the margin of the hazard--provided it is visible before or after the player takes her stance.

Interference with casual water occurs when a ball lies in or touches casual water or the water interferes with the player's stance or intended swing. If the player's ball lies on the green, interference occurs if the casual water intervenes on the line of putt. Except when the ball lies in the water hazard, free relief may be taken from interference with casual water.

The relief procedures for casual water differ somewhat depending on where the ball lies: through the green, in a bunker, on the putting green or on the teeing ground. The reader is invited to read Rule 25-1b. Generally, the relief procedure is to drop within one club length of the nearest point of relief, no nearer the hole. If the ball lies in the bunker, relief without penalty must be taken in the bunker. On the putting green, the nearest point of relief may lie off the putting green.