

# **Rule 1. The Game**

## **1-1. General**

The Game of Golf consists of playing a ball with a club from the [teeing ground](#) into the [hole](#) by a [stroke](#) or successive strokes in accordance with the [Rules](#).

## **1-2. Exerting Influence on Ball**

A player or [caddie](#) must not take any action to influence the position or the movement of a ball except in accordance with the Rules.

Removal of loose impediment — see [Rule 23-1.](#))

(Removal of movable obstruction — see [Rule 24-1.](#))

*\*PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 1-2:*

Match play — Loss of hole; Stroke play — Two strokes.

\*In the case of a serious breach of Rule 1-2, the [Committee](#) may impose a penalty of disqualification.

Note: A player is deemed to have committed a serious breach of Rule 1-2 if the [Committee](#) considers that his act of influencing the position or movement of the ball has allowed him or another player to gain a significant advantage or has placed another player, other than his [partner](#), at a significant disadvantage.

## **1-3. Agreement to Waive Rules**

Players must not agree to exclude the operation of any Rule or to waive any penalty incurred.

*PENALTY FOR BREACH OF RULE 1-3:*

Match play — Disqualification of both [sides](#);

Stroke play — Disqualification of [competitors](#) concerned.

(Agreeing to play out of turn in stroke play — see [Rule 10-2c.](#))

## **1-4. Points Not Covered by Rules**

If any point in dispute is not covered by the Rules, the decision should be made in accordance with equity.