

# UNPLAYABLE BALL (version eleven 2019)

## WHERE TO DROP (excluding penalty areas)

A player can declare the ball unplayable at any time, anywhere on the course, inside the boundary - the player does not have to state any reason (rule 19.1).

(Note: This article does not include "penalty areas", e.g. water hazards and bunkers.)

These answers use current Whyalla Golf Course local rules ... March 2019

### WHERE TO DROP

After declaring a ball unplayable a player has three options:

Option 1: Drop laterally within two club lengths

Option 2: Drop back on line

Option 3: Play again from previous spot ("stroke-and-distance")

### OPTION 1:

#### **DROPPING NEAR THE SPOT** (2 club lengths left or right, or behind the ball)

1a. When you declare the ball unplayable, how far to the side of the original unplayable spot can you drop the ball (not nearer the hole): (a) Up to 1 club length (b) Up to 2 club lengths (c) Up to 3 club lengths (d) Up to 4 club lengths?

You can drop the ball within two club lengths in any direction but not nearer the hole (rule 19.2(1))  
(Note: Drop from knee height)

1b. If the unplayable ball is under a wide bushy tree can you drop the ball to the nearest side of the tree, for relief, if the side is more than two club lengths?

No. The ball must be dropped within two club lengths from where it lay (rule 19.2(3)).

2a. If on the first drop the ball rolls nearer to the hole than the original lie what do you do:

(a) Leave it and play it, (b) Drop it again, (c) Place it where it was dropped?

Drop it again. The ball has to be re-dropped if it rolls nearer to the hole than the original position (rule 14.3c).

2b. If on the first drop the ball rolls out of the relief area, in any direction, what do you do:

(a) Leave it and play it, (b) Drop it again, (c) Place it where it was dropped?

Drop it again. The ball has to be re-dropped if it rolls nearer to the hole than the original position (diagram 14.3c)

2c. If on the second drop the ball rolls out of the relief area what do you do:

(a) Leave it and play it, (b) Drop it again, (c) Place it where it was dropped?

Place it where it was dropped (rule 14.3c(2) – page 116 in larger rule book).

3a -1. If the ball is just 1.5 (one and a half) club lengths off the fairway can you declare it unplayable and drop it on the fairway?

Yes...the ball can be dropped anywhere within two club lengths ("relief area") not nearer the hole (rule 19.2(3)).

3a-2. If you did drop the ball on the fairway can you then take a preferred lie after the ball comes to rest?

Yes, if it is the fairway of the hole being played...there are preferred lies for all balls on the fairway being played at Whyalla GC (local rule).

4a. After dropping the ball, (in questions 1., 2., and 3. above,) what is the furthest distance the ball can finish from the original spot, that you can play it: (a) Up to 1 club length, (b) Up to 2 club lengths (c) Up to 3 club lengths, (d) Up to 4 club lengths?

Up to 2 club lengths; the ball MUST come to rest in the relief area (rule 14.3c)

(Note: The 2019 rules make this question redundant)

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- 4b. Can you use a long shafted putter to measure the two-club length distance.  
No. Since Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 use the longest club in your bag but not the putter (USGA video).
- 4c. Can you use your driver to measure the club length distance: answer Yes or No or Not likely?  
Yes, you may use any club in your bag (most will use the longest club) but not the putter (USGA video)
- 4d. What is the penalty for taking an unplayable ball drop in Option 1: (a) one stroke, (b) two strokes?  
One stroke (rule 19).

### **OPTION 2:**

#### **DROPPING BACK IN LINE WITH THE HOLE**

- 5a. After declaring the ball unplayable, keeping the unplayable spot between the ball and the hole...how far back can you drop the ball: (a) 2 club lengths, (b) 4 club lengths, (c) 10 club lengths, (d) 20 club lengths, (e) any distance as long as still in the course?  
Answer (e) is correct ... Can drop any distance behind the spot (keeping the flag in line) on the course (in "the general area")(rule 19.2(2)).
- 5b. How large is the dropping "relief" area (1) one club length semi circle (2) two club lengths semi-circle?  
Answer (1) is correct – drop within one club length ("in the relief area") of the chosen spot not nearer the hole (diagram 19.2)
- 5c. What is the penalty for dropping in Option 2: (a) One stroke, (b) Two strokes?  
One stroke (rule 19).

### **OPTION 3:**

#### **RETURNING TO A PREVIOUS HIT POSITION** (referred to as "stroke and distance")

- 6a(i). After declaring the ball unplayable, can you go back and play the ball off the tee, if the last shot before the unplayable lie was made from the tee?  
Yes (rule 14.6a)
- 6a(ii). If you decide to go back to the tee (as in 6a(i) above) can you tee up the ball?  
Yes, anywhere in the "teeing area" (rule and diagram 14.6)
- 6a(iii). After declaring the ball unplayable can you go back and play the ball off the tee, if the last shot that resulted in the unplayable lie WAS NOT made from the tee?  
No...you can only go back to where the shot, that led to the unplayable lie, was hit from (rule 14.6).
- 6b. After declaring the ball unplayable can you go back and play the ball from where (as near as possible) it was last hit?  
Yes (rule 14.6)
- 6c. If you choose to go back to the spot from whence the last shot was played, that is not the tee, do you: (a) Drop the ball or (b) Place the ball?  
Drop the ball (rule 14.6),  
Note 1: The ball must be dropped as near as possible (estimate) to the original spot  
Note 2: At Whyalla Golf Club, if the relief area is on the fairway in play, you can then take a preferred lie.
- 6d. What is the penalty for taking the ball back to the last stroke spot in Option 3: (a) One stroke or (b) two strokes?  
One stroke (rule 19).