

Rule 28 - UNPLAYABLE LIE



You can declare a ball UNPLAYABLE ANYWHERE on the course EXCEPT in a Water Hazard.



Mark the ball with a tee peg if you can, leave it where it is until you have decided what you are going to do. Remember you have three options available to you, viz

- a) Two club lengths from the ball
- b) Go back as far as you like keeping the ball in line with the flag
- c) Go back to from where you played the shot and replay it.

a) Measure two club lengths from where the ball lies. If you cannot access the ball because of dense scrub or gorse or suchlike, you can hold the shaft of your club over the ball and put a tee peg directly underneath. Then measure the second club length putting another tee peg at the end of the club (you can then lift the previous tee peg) The ball must then be dropped between where the ball lay and the last tee peg,. Be aware that when dropped, if it rolls back into the same unplayable situation, it is **NOT** a re-drop, it is **another penalty drop** so be careful where you drop the ball. It is allowed to roll a further 2 club lengths, if it rolls further, it is then a re-drop followed by placing the ball at the spot where it first touched the course on the re-drop.



b) If two clubs lengths doesn't give you any relief, you can go back as far as you like keeping the point where the ball lies in line with the flag. There is no limit as to how far back you can go, as long as you remain "in bounds" but the ball **MUST** be dropped on that line.



c) Sometimes the only option, especially if you are in a bunker, is to go back to where you played the shot from and replay it. If you go back to the tee, you may tee the ball up..



If you declare a ball unplayable in a bunker, then the ball **MUST** be dropped in the bunker, hence why sometimes (c) is the only option available to you.

It is important before you decide on the best option, to look at the terrain around you, is there a likelihood that, when dropped, the ball may roll back into the same unplayable lie thus incurring another penalty stroke? Would two clubs lengths out give you a clear shot or would your view or swing be obstructed by a tree or fence?



If your ball is trapped in the branches of a tree, you **must** be able to identify it as yours, otherwise it becomes a lost ball. It is not enough to just have seen it go into the tree, you must have an identifying mark on the ball. If you then declare it unplayable, place a tee peg directly under the ball, that then becomes your reference point for measuring.