

## RULE OF THE MONTH – Rule 12

### Searching for and identifying the Ball

In going around various clubs, I am aware that there is still a lack of understanding about searching for and identifying a ball, especially in the identifying of it.

**SEARCHING** Searching for your ball can involve two rules, Rule 12 which you can do when searching, and Rule 18 which tells you should you move the ball upon finding it



tells you what the penalties

Firstly you **MUST** tell the person with whom you are playing that you intend to identify your ball.



You **MUST** mark the ball before you lift it

When lifted, you may clean the ball **ONLY TO THE EXTENT NEEDED FOR IDENTIFICATION**, and once identified, it **MUST** be returned to the spot from whence it was lifted



**Failure to do any one of the above results in a ONE shot penalty.**

**NO!**

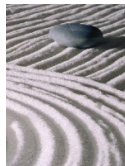
If you cannot positively identify the ball as yours, it is classed as lost.

In searching for your ball, you can bend long grass, rushes, heather etc but only to the extent necessary to find and identify it.



You **must not** improve the lie of the ball or the area of your intended stance or swing. This means that if you bend long grass to look for your ball and find it, you must allow the grass to go back to its original position, if it doesn't do it naturally, you should put the grass back.

If you are in a bunker and you remove sand from around the ball to identify it, you **must** re-cover the ball **it is a 2 shot penalty** ([Rule 15-3](#))



bunker and you remove sand from around the ball to identify it, you **must** with sand again. (*Remember, you may now identify your ball in a bunker, penalty or loss of hole if you play a wrong ball from out of a bunker –Rule*

**Rule 12 says that a player is not necessarily entitled to see his/her ball when playing a stroke.**

**Rule 18.** Says If **you** unintentionally move your ball whilst searching for it, it is a **ONE SHOT penalty** and you must put the ball back (unless you are searching in Abnormal Ground Conditions or in an Obstruction) If you do not put it back, you will be playing from a wrong place thus incurring **TWO penalty shots.**



If a fellow player moves your ball in searching, it must be replaced and there is **NO penalty.**