



Additional Clarifications of the 2023 Rules of Golf

Updated 16 December 2022

Additional clarifications will normally be updated on a quarterly basis each January, April, July, and October and the next quarterly update will be in April 2023.

RULES

Rule 5:

Rule 5.2:

5.2b/3 – Application of Penalty for Practising on Course Before Round in Stroke Play

Rule 5.2b explains when a player is not allowed to practise on the course before a round in stroke play. The penalty statement in Rule 5.2b is not limited to making a stroke as the term “practising on the course” also includes testing the surface of the *putting green* by rolling a ball or rubbing the surface.

If a player rubs the surface of a single *green*, they have only breached Rule 5.2b once no matter how many times they rub the surface of the same *green*. (Added December 2022)

Rule 10:

Rule 10.2:

10.2b/1 – Use of Self-Standing Putter for Alignment Help is Not Allowed

[Note: A delay of implementation is in effect until January 1, 2025 that applies to certain uses of self-standing putters. For more information, see Clarification 10.2b(3)/2] (Added December 2022)

10.2b(3)/1 – Setting Clubhead on Ground Behind Ball to Help the Player Take a Stance is Allowed

[Note: A delay of implementation is in effect until January 1, 2025 that applies to certain uses of self-standing putters. For more information, see Clarification 10.2b(3)/2] (Added December 2022)

10.2b(3)/2 – Delay of Implementation for Certain Uses of Self-Standing Putters

A two-year delay of implementation in relation to certain uses of self-standing putters under Rule 10.2b(3) is in effect as follows:

- Until January 1, 2025, a player may use a self-standing putter by setting it down right behind or right next to the spot on which the ball came to rest to help aim or to take a *stance* or position their feet.
- From January 1, 2025, Rule 10.2b(3) will apply to self-standing putters and the acts described in the previous paragraph will no longer be allowed. But a player will still be allowed to use a self-standing putter that conforms to the Rules to make a *stroke* or take other actions allowed by the Rules. (Added December 2022)