

ALLOWED OR NOT?

1. Sue's ball lands in an aeration hole on the putting green and she decides to move her ball as the Local Rule, E4, is in place and she substitutes a different ball. Allowed or not?

2. Ella's ball is on the putting green. She marks and lifts her ball and then when it is her turn to putt she substitutes it with a different ball and putts out. Allowed or not?

3. Lola's ball is within two club lengths of a sprinkler head that is on the edge of the putting green. She takes relief as the Local Rule, F-5, is in place and drops a different ball. Allowed or not?

4. Rebecca accidentally moves her ball on the putting green. She knows exactly where her ball was and substitutes a different ball in that place and putts. Allowed or not?

5. Mary's ball lands on a cart path and she decides to take a drop at her nearest point of relief. Mary uses a different ball to drop. Allowed or not?

6. Rita's ball is in the rough and she hates where it is so she decides to use the Unplayable Ball Rule 19, and take her one penalty stroke, and she drops a different ball within the permitted two club lengths. Allowed or not?

Check out the answers below and then I'll explain the logic of when you can and cannot substitute a different ball.

1. Allowed
2. NOT allowed
3. Allowed
4. NOT Allowed

5. Allowed
6. Allowed

The LOGIC!

You may substitute a new ball any time you are taking relief, as the ball is not returning to its original spot, it will be somewhere else.

You are NOT allowed to substitute a ball when replacing on the same spot. For example, when a ball has been marked and lifted as on the putting green, marked and lifted because it interferes, or the ball has been moved and needs to be replaced.

How do you remember? Original spot **NO**, different spot **YES**.

So let's have fun with this information.

How might you use this information to your advantage? Imagine you are playing your super special Pro V1 ball on hole #9 but you just can't do anything right. You are topping the ball, hitting it into the rough, and finally it lands on the cart path alongside the fairway. You thought this Pro V1 was the best ball ever, NOT.

You get free relief so find your nearest point of relief from where your balls lies on the path, put the bad, bad uncooperative Pro V1 back in your bag, and drop your tried and true Ladies Callaway ball. Now your psyche feels better and probably your upcoming shots will be too.

I'm sure the USGA didn't have our psyches in mind when they came up with this ball "substituting" but all I can say is why not? Some days we need all the help we can get.

I hope this helps you.

Hilary

