

Rule 16: Relief from Abnormal Course Conditions

VS

Rule 19: Unplayable Ball

16.1c: Free Relief for Ball in Bunker

c. Relief for Ball in Bunker

If a player's ball is in a *bunker* and there is interference by an *abnormal course condition* on the *course*, the player may take either free relief under (1) or penalty relief under (2):

(1) **Free Relief: Playing from Bunker.** The player may take free relief under Rule 16.1b, **except** that:

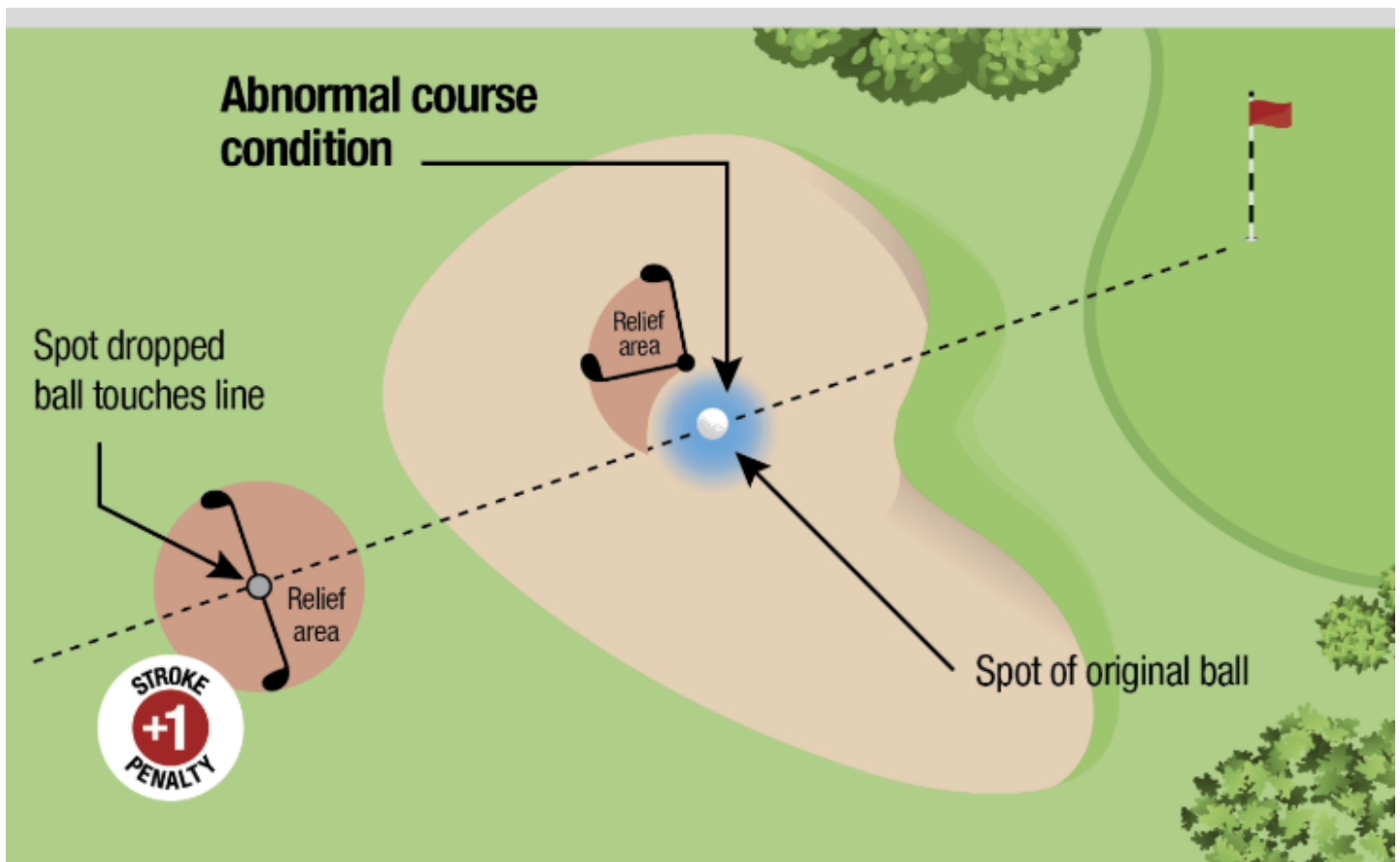
- The *nearest point of complete relief* and the *relief area* must be in the *bunker*.
- If there is no such *nearest point of complete relief* in the *bunker*, the player may still take this relief by using the *point of maximum available relief* in the *bunker* as the reference point.

(2) **Penalty Relief: Playing from Outside Bunker (Back-on-the-Line Relief).** For **one penalty stroke**, the player may *drop* the original ball or another ball (see Rule 14.3) outside that *bunker*, keeping the spot of the original ball between the *hole* and the spot where the ball is *dropped* (with no limit on how far back the ball may be *dropped*). The spot on the line where the ball first touches the ground when *dropped* creates a *relief area* that is one *club-length* in any direction from that point, **but** with these limits:

- **Limits on Location of Relief Area:**
 - » Must not be nearer the *hole* than the spot of the original ball, and
 - » May be in any *area of the course* except the same bunker, **but**
 - » Must be in the same *area of the course* that the ball first touched when *dropped*.

This diagram shows you your options for taking relief from **Abnormal Course Conditions**

(damage to bunker, water in bunker are a couple of examples)



- The diagram assumes a right-handed player.
- When there is interference from an abnormal course condition in a bunker, free relief may be taken in the bunker under Rule 16.1b or relief may be taken outside the bunker for one penalty stroke.
- Relief outside the bunker is taken by dropping a ball on a spot that keeps the spot of the original ball between the hole and that spot.
- The relief area is one club-length in any direction from the spot where the ball first touches the ground when dropped.

A Player may decide that they want to declare their ball unplayable. This may be a ball too far up the slope for them to play, embedded too deep in the sand are a few examples.

Rule 19.3 Relief Options for Unplayable Ball in Bunker

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a. Normal Relief Options (One Penalty Stroke)

When a player's ball is in a *bunker*:

- The player may take unplayable ball relief for **one penalty stroke** under any of the options in Rule 19.2, **except** that:
- The ball must be *dropped* in and come to rest in the *bunker* if the player takes either back-on-the-line relief (see Rule 19.2b) or lateral relief (see Rule 19.2c).

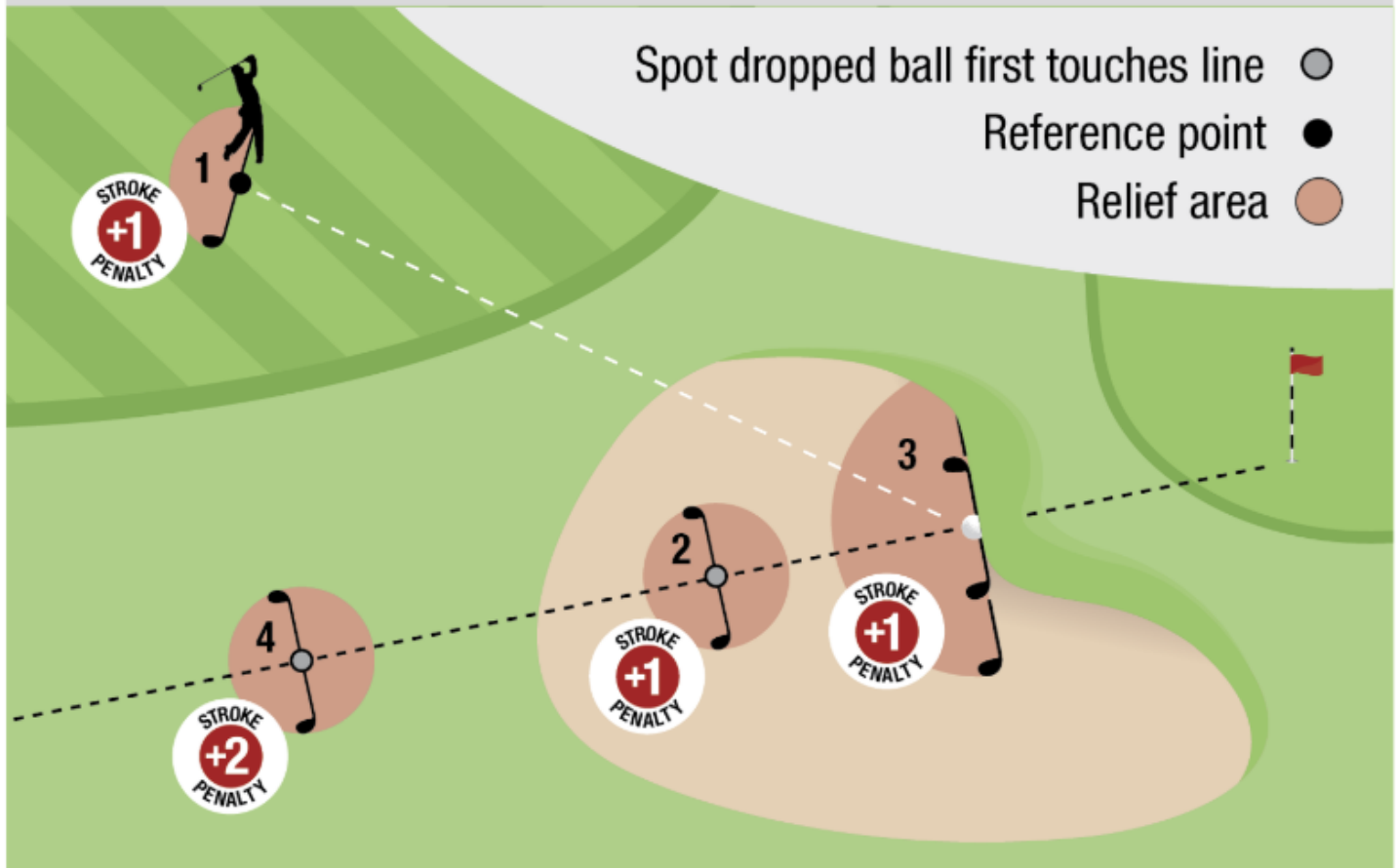
b. Extra Relief Option (Two Penalty Strokes)

As an extra relief option when a player's ball is in a *bunker*, for a **total of two penalty strokes**, the player may take back-on-the-line relief outside the *bunker* under Rule 19.2b.

The next diagram shows you what your options are for declaring your ball unplayable in a bunker and relief options you have to choose from.

IF you take the 4th option, remember you have to go **straight back** on the imaginary line between where your ball lies and the flag stick. Taking this option will get you out of the bunker but may still require you to chip OVER the bunker.

DIAGRAM 19.3: RELIEF OPTIONS FOR UNPLAYABLE BALL IN BUNKER



A player decides that their ball in a bunker is unplayable. The player has **four options**:

- (1) For one penalty stroke, the player may take stroke-and-distance relief.
- (2) For one penalty stroke, the player may take back-on-the-line relief in the bunker.
- (3) For one penalty stroke, the player may take lateral relief in the bunker.
- (4) For a total of two penalty strokes, the player may take back-on-the-line relief outside the bunker.

Any questions, please contact LWWGA Rules Chair: Terry Klatt