

## The Rules Applied - October 2022

Rule 6.3a states the player should put an identifying mark on the ball to be played. According to this rule the mark must be unique to the player and shown to his playing partners before they tee off. Company logos and/or golf course logos are not considered to be unique in and of themselves. The following are a few situations to emphasize this rule.

*I take my favorite ball, a Titleist 3 with no identifying marks, and hit my tee shot slightly left on hole 1. We see the ball land in the fairway and gently roll into the rough. I drive down the left rough and lo and behold I find a Titleist 3 with no marks. I tell my playing partners that I found my ball. Before I hit it, I notice another ball 10 feet further up the rough and see that it too is a Titleist 3 with no marks. Wow, what are the odds and what do I do? Unfortunately, since you cannot positively identify which ball is yours, you must declare your tee shot lost and proceed back to the tee to hit your third shot.*

*I hit my unmarked Callaway 1 right on hole 3, possibly lost on the hillside. I declare a provisional and hit another unmarked Callaway 1 into some heavy rough on the left. We search the hillside and find my first ball, and so I bang it out, only to have it roll into the left rough, within a few feet of my provisional. I can't really tell which ball is which, and neither ball has an identifying mark. OK, you're not going to like this – but in clear conscience, you cannot identify either your provisional (which you therefore must deem lost), or your second shot from the hillside (which must also be deemed lost). Accordingly, you must now go back to the hillside, where you hit your second shot and take a penalty drop. With your first tee shot, your shot from the hillside, and a lost ball penalty, you're now hitting your 4<sup>th</sup> shot.*

So that you do not think these scenarios too far-fetched, we must disclose that the first scenario actually happened to a long standing member, who will remain anonymous. (Editor's Note: It was Don Pell.) As this was not in a tournament, the member in question simply Xed the hole, and deemed himself a bit wiser for the experience.