

The Rules Applied – May 2022

Part of the joy of DeBell is finding your ball in a place from which it simply cannot be played . . .

So on 13 tee, I hit a big tee shot, with just a bit too much draw, and I find it in a bush to the left of the cart path. No one likes difficult shots more than me, but this is just unplayable. What are my options?

Of course, you can always try to play the ball out of the bush. Best of luck.

Alternatively, with a penalty of 1-stroke, you have three options: First, you may measure 2 club lengths (no closer to the hole), mark your spot with a tee, and drop within that 2-club length distance. Your ball must come to rest within that area. (If it does not, then re-drop; and if the ball does not come to rest within the area on the second drop, then place your ball where your second drop had landed.)

Suppose my ball rolls into another unplayable lie, do I get to redrop?

Sorry, no. If your ball stays within the relief area, it is in play. If you believe it is unplayable and want to make a second drop, you will incur a second penalty.

Ok, so what other options are there?

The second option is to take line of sight relief, going backward (away from the hole) on a straight line from the hole to your ball. There is a problem here, in that you cannot see the green from the left of the cart path. So you may have to eyeball your line from the right side of the fairway, or you may enlist another player in your group to line you up as you stand at your ball and attempt to point at the flag. Once you have your line, you may walk backward (away from the hole) as far as you want, on that line. You may have to walk 75 or 100 yards back, but this might lead you to the right side of the cart path. Once you have identified your point of relief, you may drop within 1 club length of that point.

And there is a third option, which is to go back to the place of your previous shot (in this case, your tee shot), and re-hit.

If I hit a provisional shot, can I simply use that one?

No, we talked about this last month – once your first shot is found and identified, your provisional is out of play. If you want to use the third option, you will need to go back to the tee and re-hit.