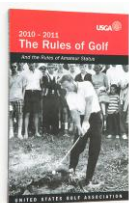


Review of “Golf Rules Quick Reference”

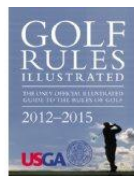
2/26/12 - By Dave D’Arche, Poplar Creek Golf Club, Rules Committee member

Golf has a complex set of rules. 34 rules to be precise but it seems like thousands.

Fact: the majority of golfers don’t know the rules very well. Reading them is akin to getting a root canal. They are complex, wordy and likely written by an 18th century nobleman and edited by a 21st century lawyer.



The USGA produces a nice pocket guide. It is comprehensive and precise but unfortunately even this small book has 182 pages. The USGA put a lot of effort into organizing it in a useable fashion; but by no means would it ever be considered “intuitive”. Anyone who has tried to look up a specific infraction will tell you how difficult, frustrating and time consuming it can be.



Over the years many private authors have developed “illustrated” rule books which are very good but are destined to become bookshelf dust collectors, certainly not something to use on the course. This soon-to-be-released paperback from the USGA will likely be a great learning tool but at 208-pages, oh pleeeeeeeze!

I recently discovered a fabulous product which does a masterful job of explaining the rules with excellent graphics AND it is easy to use, offering quick indexing and fast interpretation. Exactly what a golfer wants on the course, at the moment a rule is needed.

[Golf Rules Quick Reference](#) – for NEW USGA rule years 2012-2015. **Now the #1 selling golf book in the US.** It is available on the web and at many golf courses for under \$13. Written by Yves C. Ton-That, this 48-page book is nicely packaged with a spiral binding and plastic-coated pages. It features 170-plus full-color illustrations all packed into a very portable 4.1”x 5.8” (just right for your golf bag). It is also available for the iPhone under the name “Golf Rules Quick Reference” for under \$10 in the iTunes store.



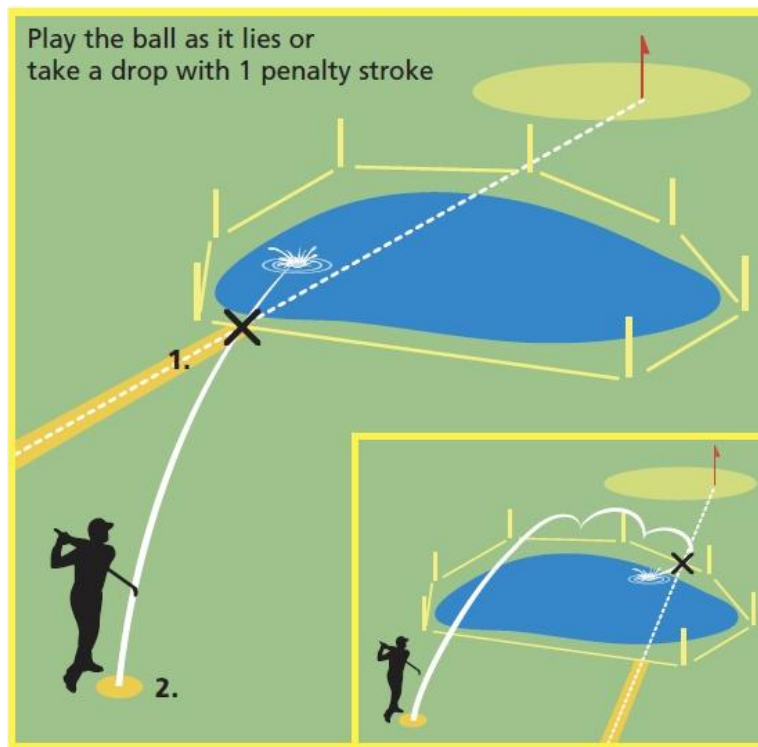
The design is very intuitive. It is arranged and organized by “*the-problem-you-are-currently-facing*” which is a remarkable design approach leading to quick advice when you only have a minute or so, between shots, to figure out how to proceed. The simple graphics convey hundreds of words.

So, let's compare a few scenarios, just to get the point across.

Here is the actual text from the USGA Rules of Golf, for taking a drop from a water hazard:

- a. Play a ball as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played (see Rule 20-5); or
- b. Drop a ball behind the *water hazard*, keeping the point at which the original ball last crossed the margin of the *water hazard* directly between the *hole* and the spot on which the ball is dropped, with no limit to how far behind the *water hazard* the ball may be dropped; or
- c. As additional options available only if the ball last crossed the margin of a *lateral water hazard*, drop a ball outside the *water hazard* within two club-lengths of and not nearer the *hole* than (i) the point where the original ball last crossed the margin of the *water hazard* or (ii) a point on the opposite margin of the *water hazard* equidistant from the *hole*.

Here is the advice from Golf Rules Made Easy, on the same subject.
































Note: this is the picture for a water hazard, note the stakes are yellow. I have omitted some of the text which explains option #1 and #2 as pictured. And this page is very quickly indexed by the colored tabs on the right edge of the book, titled "Water Hazard".

Note the smaller picture depicting if the ball goes into the hazard on the opposite side, you still must take a drop in front of the hazard. Pure genius.

"Part of the wonder of this little book is the author has magically focused on the most-frequently needed advice yet still does a fine job of covering most of the rules. "

Here is another very powerful illustration of “Relief procedures” which nicely summarizes a wide variety of likely situations, how to proceed, when it cost you a stroke and when it does not.

Overview of the relief procedures (For the exact procedure please refer to the relevant index tab.)	Fairway & rough 	Bunker 	Water hazard 	Green 
Loose impediments  Remove without penalty. If the ball moves:	 replace the ball, 1 penalty stroke			 replace the ball, no penalty
Movable obstructions  Remove without penalty. If the ball moves:	 replace the ball, no penalty	 replace the ball, no penalty	 replace the ball, no penalty	 replace the ball, no penalty
Immovable obstructions  Relief in case of interference of lie/ stance/ swing				 also if line of putt is interfered with
Abnormal ground conditions  Relief in case of interference of lie/ stance/ swing				 also if line of putt is interfered with
Declaring a ball unplayable (under penalty of 1 stroke!) 				

For those fellow golfers with an iPhone, their app” [Golf Rules Quick Reference](#)” is very nicely implemented within the same strategy as the book. It is available in the iTunes store for under \$10. I have been using it for a few days and it operates fast and has some nice navigation options as well as automatically alerting you if relief from certain situation is available. However, keep in mind the iPhone is not the most visible device in bright sunlight! Sometimes the old-tried-and-true solution is better.

Summary: GO BUY THIS! (PS, I have no financial involvement with this company.)