

The Level 2 Golf Greenkeeper Learning Materials

The GTC learning materials that come with the GTC Training Manual have recently been updated to reflect the changes made this year by the R&A to the Rules of Golf. A copy of the newly revised learning materials pdf book has been sent to your Training Provider. You may have the learning materials on a GTC USB stick which your tutor will need to upload with the new version, or you may use them on your Training Provider e-learning platform.

Please can you check with your Training Provider Tutor to ensure that you have access to these revised materials.

The text below explains where the changes have been made in the level 2 learning materials.

Content that has been changed (Please note the page numbers are as seen in the pdf book and may not be the same numbers if you have the learning materials on an e-platform.):

New Rules: Penalty areas replace water hazards, and you can move loose impediments, ground your club and take practice swings in penalty areas without penalty, just as you can on the fairway or in the rough

Page 208 Rolling turf – removal of the word ‘hazard’ so that the 7th bullet point under ‘Rollers should be used safely, ensuring the surface is in a suitable condition’ reads:

- Care should be taken near bunkers, water and steep slopes (risk of sliding into a bunker/water or down a slope).

Under the new Rules of Golf 2019 the term ‘hazards’ are no longer used. Hazards are now called ‘penalty areas’ to better reflect conditions found on golf courses around the world. Penalty areas now include not only ponds, lakes and streams but also deserts and jungles etc.

Page 302 – Course Preparation – Marking for golf areas

Marking	Colour used	Meaning
4. Yellow penalty area	Yellow lines or posts	A penalty area can now include any area of the course the Committee wishes to mark as such, not just areas of water etc.
5. Red penalty area	Red lines or posts	Red penalty areas give the player the extra option of lateral relief, in addition to the two relief options available for yellow penalty areas. If a penalty area is not marked, under the Rules it is a red penalty area

Page 303

Above the golf course diagram, the following text should be inserted:

Red and yellow markings may continue to be used but Committees may, if they wish, mark all penalty areas as a red area, so the additional lateral relief is always available. It is encouraged that

red is used in all cases except where yellow is needed to maintain the challenge of the shot intended.

In the text under the golf course diagram:

Red posts - Delete lateral water hazards and replace with penalty areas (i.e. ponds, lakes, streams etc. to the side of play)

Yellow posts – Delete water hazards and replace with penalty areas (i.e. ponds, lakes, streams etc. in line with play)

Page 313 – Maintaining and renovating bunkers

Introduction

Bunkers are an important feature on golf courses and exist for a variety of reasons and not just to punish golfers playing poor or unwise shots.

Delete:

“They are defined as hazards but should be fair in the penalty they provide.”

Replace this sentence with:

“They are one of the five defined areas on the course, but they are not penalty areas.”

New Rules: Abnormal Course Conditions (Including Immovable Obstructions)

This Rule covers free relief that is allowed from interference by animal holes, ground under repair, immovable obstructions or temporary water:

New Rule: In bunkers you can move loose impediments

Page 313

Delete text: The only rule required is that the bunker edges are clearly defined. Players get no relief from damage caused by pests (e.g. rabbits) which is a good reason why golfers like to have bunkers raked regularly.

Insert text: Players do get free relief from holes made by rabbits etc. Loose impediments like pine cones, leaves etc. can be removed by golfers without penalty and are no longer a requirement for golf greenkeepers to remove, although it is still desirable that greenkeepers remove all the debris they can when raking bunkers.