



## TOMGC Rules and Greens      December 2020

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Ok, I don't know how many of you happened to see a video going around of a young lady whose golf ball had come to rest behind a tree, which was standing between her and the hole. What the video showed, was the young lady using the rule, or actually the lack there of, to play her ball towards the hole. The rule, was the double hit rule, which used to be rule 14-4, which provided a one stroke penalty if the golf ball were struck more than once during a stroke. Well, this rule has been removed, so there is now, no penalty for striking the ball twice. So, what the young lady did, was hit the ball up in the air out to the right of the tree, and then while still in the air, using more of a baseball sort of swing, she hit the ball toward the hole. In essence, she had struck the ball twice, for which there is now no penalty for doing so! Well, some may say, isn't it against the rules to break a rule intentionally? Yes, there is, but in this case, there is no rule to break, so it can't be intentional, now can it? If you've not seen the video, it is pretty cool. Of course, if it were me, I wouldn't be able to hit the bloody ball while it was in the air, so nothing gained. Truth is, I have enough trouble hitting the stupid thing while it's sitting completely still!

Another question was sent my way by one of members, for something that probably happens more than you might think; that is, someone picking up another player's ball not realizing that the ball was in play. In this case the way it was explained to me was that a ball had been hit from the 15<sup>th</sup> tee and having been hit rather poorly, landed up near the edge of the 12<sup>th</sup> green. Having just finished play of the 12<sup>th</sup> green, one of the players walking off the green saw the ball, and thinking someone had lost it, picked the ball up and dropped it in his pocket! When the player from the 15<sup>th</sup> tee came up to find his ball, he was told by one of the maintenance staff working at the hole that a player in the previous group had picked the ball up and driven off with it? The question was, are either or both of the players involved penalized? The answer, in this case, appears to be no. This used to be covered by Rule 18-1, but in the new rules, is covered under Rule 9.6, Ball lifted or moved by Outside Influence. This rule says, "If it is known or virtually certain that an outside influence (including another player in stroke play or another ball) lifted or moved a player's ball: There is no penalty. In this case, it is known or virtually certain that the ball was moved, thanks to the maintenance man. As such, the player must replace the ball as near as possible to the place where it had been and play on without penalty. Now, there are cases in which the player who picked up the ball can be penalized, so you might want to review the rule for your own edification. Good day, and good golf.