

# NEW LOCAL RULE IN EFFECT FOR ALL PLAY: *Accidental Movement of a Ball on the Green*



**Golf Australia**

*“When a player’s ball is at rest on (or has been lifted from) the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved by the player, partner, opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment. The moved ball or ball-marker must be replaced. (Note: If the ball was moved as a result of wind, water or some other natural cause such as the effects of gravity, the ball must be played as it lies from its new location with no penalty.)”*

## HOW IT WORKS

The following are examples where the Local Rule would apply:



**If:** When preparing to make a stroke on the green, a player accidentally causes the ball to move...

**Answer:** No penalty, and the ball must be replaced.



**If:** On the green, a player accidentally drops the ball on the ball-marker...or drops a ball-marker on the ball...

**Answer:** No penalty, and if the item was moved it must be replaced.



**If:** On the green, a player accidentally drops their club, which hits and moves the ball...

**Answer:** No penalty, and the ball must be replaced.



**If:** A player accidentally kicks and moves his/her ball on the green...

**Answer:** No penalty, and the ball must be replaced.

## HOW IT DOESN'T WORK

The following are examples where the Local Rule would not apply:

**If:** A player intentionally moves or lifts his/her ball on the putting green without first marking its location (eg because they mistakenly think they have used all their strokes in Stableford or Par)...

**Answer:** One-stroke penalty, and the ball must be replaced.

**If:** A player accidentally moves his/her ball that is lying on the fairway, in the rough or in a bunker...

**Answer:** One-stroke penalty, and the ball must be replaced.