

## *Do you know the rule.....*

### *.....OB, Lost Balls, and Provisional Balls*

Tom hits his tee ball way right where there is heavy woods and then Out of Bounds further into the trees. To save time he announces he is hitting a provisional ball in case the ball is not found in the woods or ends up OB.

Out of Bounds is defined as ground that is beyond the boundaries of the course and is usually marked by fencing, white stakes, or white lines. The inside edge of the fencing, stakes, or line define the out of bounds line. Ball pictured is not OB because the ball is not totally on the OB line or beyond. Tom can stand out of bounds to play this ball that is in bounds but he cannot remove the OB stake if it is in his swing path-the stake is considered a fixed object.

1. If Tom's ball is OB he must play another ball at the spot from which he hit the original with a penalty of one stroke.
2. If his ball turns out to be in a water hazard or is found outside a water hazard and not OB he must abandon his provisional ball and deal with the penalty for a ball in a water hazard or options for an unplayable lie.
3. If Tom's ball is lost outside a water hazard or is OB he can add a penalty stroke and play the provisional ball. Tom, his partner, and their caddies have 5 minutes to search for his ball. After which it is considered lost.

The provisional ball becomes the ball in play when Tom plays a stroke with it from a point even with or closer to the hole than the original is likely to be.

(You can find further information on rule 27 in the USGA Rules Handbook)

**THE KEEPERS**

