

Do you ever witness these.....

.....bad practices on the golf course?

Undoubtedly you have seen players in your group clean mud off their ball by rubbing it on the green or mark their ball with their putter head while adjusting the alignment line to the hole. There are a number of things like this we witness people do on the golf course that do not incur a penalty but they should be discouraged from doing as they are bad practices.

1. A player can clean the mud off their ball by rubbing it on the putting green but not for the purpose of testing the surface of the green. They should always clean their ball by some other method to avoid this possibility.



2. It is legal to use a putter head or a leaf to mark a ball on the green but this should be discouraged because if they move the putter head or the leaf blows away they will incur a 1-stroke penalty for moving their mark.



3. All players should have recognizable identification marks on each ball they play to be able to distinguish their ball from the others in their group or other balls found on the course.



4. It is not required that a player mark the spot of their ball before lifting it to take relief if they are not going to put it back in the same spot or mark the parameters of club lengths when taking relief. But it makes sense to always do this to ensure that it is obvious the drop was made within the permitted limits.



THE KEEPERS



(You can find further information on these issues in the USGA Rules Handbook)