

Do you know the rule.....

.....raking the bunker before playing

Frankie and Johnny were playing in the Bonanza Extravaganza. As Johnny entered a large bunker he grabbed the nearest rake and, while traversing the bunker to get to his ball, he raked a long string of foot prints left by a previous player. He then placed the rake down in the bunker before playing his shot.

Did Johnny violate any rule?

Under the rules changes adopted in 2012, if he raked the bunker “for the sole purpose of caring for the course”, there is no penalty.

However, if his purpose was to test the condition of the hazard or to improve the area of his intended stance or swing, then he incurs a 2-stroke penalty (or loss of hole in match play).

Same holds true for him setting the rake down in the bunker before playing his shot, it is fine as long as it was not done to test the condition of the sand in the hazard.



(You can find further information on Rule 13-4 in the USGA Rules Handbook)

THE KEEPERS

