

Do you know the rule.....

.....grounding your club in a hazard

After the final shooting of the movie *Bagger Vance* Matt Damon and Director Robert Redford are mixing it up in a serious grudge match at the Colleton River Plantation Club. Early in the front nine Matt failed to realize his ball was between the yellow line of a water hazard and the marsh water when he took a practice swing touching the ground inside the hazard. After pitching it to 2 feet and a sure birdie Robert called him for a loss of hole for grounding his club in the hazard.

Is he right?

According to the changes to the rules in 2019 this is no longer a penalty. Nor is it a penalty grounding a club or removing loose impediments within a penalty area.



(www.superiorpics.com)

Under the new rules a “player may move loose impediments, touch the ground with hand or club, or ground the club in a penalty area when the ball is in a penalty area.

In a bunker a player may now remove loose impediments around their ball. Touching the sand in a bunker with a club is not a penalty any longer unless they are testing the conditions of the bunker, making a practice swing, touch the area right behind or right in front of their ball, or touch sand during their backswing of the real stroke.

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