

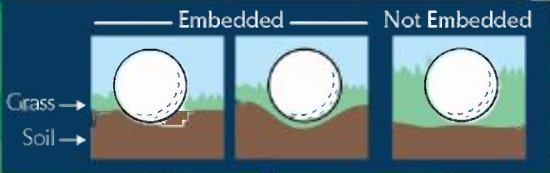
# EXAMINING CHANGES TO THE DECISIONS ON THE RULES OF GOLF



Working together, the USGA and The R&A have written and administered the Rules of Golf and Decisions on the Rules of Golf for more than 100 years, helping make the game more understandable for players, officials and others who participate. The Decisions are reviewed every two years, and several new, revised and withdrawn Decisions have been announced for 2014–2015.

## DECISION 25–2/0.5 When Ball Embedded in Ground

<p><b>WHAT'S NEW:</b> Illustrations were added to this Decision to clarify when a ball is, and is not, considered to be embedded in the ground.</p>	<p><b>WHY:</b> To help provide greater clarity in answering questions that have been raised at all levels of play, especially as they relate to a ball that is sitting in a grass-lined impression in which soil is not visible.</p>	<p><b>HOW IT AFFECTS THE GOLFER:</b> Provides a visual illustration to help players clarify the meaning of "embedded in the ground."</p>
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## DECISION 14–3/18 Weather Information Accessed on Multi-Functional Device

<p><b>WHAT'S NEW:</b> Allows players to use smartphones to obtain weather reports on temperature or other conditions. The player is still not permitted to actively measure or gauge weather-related conditions at his specific location.</p>	<p><b>WHY:</b> Because weather stations accessed by smartphones are often miles away from the player's location. Accessing such information does not provide a measurement of immediate conditions, any more so than what the player could gather from general observation.</p>	<p><b>HOW IT AFFECTS THE GOLFER:</b> Players can now access weather information or information on the threat of an impending storm in order to protect their own safety.</p>
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## DECISION 27–2a/1.5 Meaning of "Goes Forward to Search"

<p><b>WHAT'S NEW:</b> A player will be able to walk forward some distance before determining that it would be appropriate to play a provisional ball.</p>
<p><b>WHY:</b> The revised Decision reflects that oftentimes the player is not aware that his ball might be lost outside of a water hazard or out of bounds until he has proceeded a short distance forward.</p>
<p><b>HOW IT AFFECTS THE GOLFER:</b> Allows for the player to go forward up to approximately 50 yards and still be allowed to go back and play a provisional ball. (This may also help improve pace of play at all levels of the game.)</p>