

Rule Tip of the Week Trick or Treat?

On this Halloween, while you are munching on all of the leftover trick or treat candy, see if you can identify the “trick” (incorrect) statements versus the “treat” (correct) statements involving match play situations:

1. The penalty for dropping in a wrong place is loss of hole. 
2. Two players, who have until the end of the month to play their match, may agree to suspend play after nine holes in order to watch the final game of the World Series.
3. While on the way to the 5th teeing ground, a player who has won the first two holes and has halved the second two holes, discovers that he has been carrying (but has not used) a non-conforming club in his bag from the beginning of the match. The state of the match is now “all square.” 
4. A player, who is not playing very well, may not concede the match while his opponent’s ball is in motion on the 13th putting green.
5. Two low handicap players, who know the Rules, agree in advance to concede all putts within 18” of the hole because they know that neither of them will miss a putt from that distance. The result of the match stands. 
6. A player shanks his ball off his opponent’s bag, and it ends up out of bounds. The player may replay the stroke without penalty.

Answers:

1. *Trick* *There is no penalty for dropping in a wrong place provided the player corrects his or her mistake per Rule 20-6 [Lifting Ball Incorrectly Substituted, Dropped or Placed]. However, if a player drops a ball in a wrong place and then plays the ball, the penalty in match play is loss of hole.*
2. *Treat* *The Exception to Rule 6-8 [Discontinuance of Play; Resumption of Play] says, “Players discontinuing match play by agreement are not subject to disqualification, unless by so doing the competition is delayed.”* 
3. *Trick* *The penalty statement for Rule 4-1 [Form and Make of Clubs] states in part, “At the conclusion of the hole at which the breach is discovered, the state of the match is adjusted by deducting one hole for each hole at which a breach occurred; maximum deduction per round – Two holes. ... If a breach is discovered between the play of two holes, it is deemed to have been discovered during the play of the next hole and the penalty must be applied accordingly.”*
4. *Trick* *Rule 2-4 [Concession of Match, Hole or Next Stroke] advises, “A player may concede a match at any time prior to the start or conclusion of that match.” However, when it comes to conceding your opponent’s next stroke, the opponent’s ball must be at rest.*
5. *Trick* *Decision 1-3/2 [Agreement to Concede Short Putts] points out that, if the players were aware that they were excluding the operation of a Rule [in this case, Rule 2-4 which only allows the concession of the “next stroke” and does not permit an advance agreement to concede putts within a specified length], then they are both disqualified under Rule 1-3 [Agreement to Waive Rules].* 
6. *Treat* *According to Rule 19-3 [Ball in Motion Deflected or Stopped by Opponent, Caddie or Equipment in Match Play], if a player’s ball is accidentally deflected by an opponent’s equipment, the player may, before another stroke is made by either side, cancel the stroke and play a ball, without penalty, as nearly as possible at the spot from which the original ball was last played.*