Rules 24-2 and 25-1 in the case of a right-handed player. The following diagram illustrates the term “nearest point of relief” in bunker under penalty of one stroke.

If your ball is in a bunker, you may take relief from the condition by dropping the ball outside and behind the bunker under penalty of one stroke. As an additional option when your ball is in a bunker, you may take relief, which may be off the putting green.

If your ball is in a lateral water hazard (red stakes and/or lines), in addition to the options for a ball in a water hazard (see above), under penalty of one stroke, you may drop a ball within two club-lengths of, and not nearer than the point where the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard and the spot on which the ball is dropped.

If your ball is on the putting green, you place it at the nearest point of relief, which may be off the putting green.

If your ball is lost outside a water hazard or out of bounds you must play another ball from the spot where the last shot was played, under penalty of one stroke, i.e. stroke and distance.

If your ball is lost (other than in a water hazard) or out of bounds you must continue with the provisional ball, under penalty of one stroke. If the original ball is lost (other than in a water hazard) or out of bounds, you should play a provisional ball. You must announce that it is a provisional ball and play it before you go forward to search for the original ball.

If a ball is lost in a water hazard and you do not wish to play it as it lies, you must proceed under the water hazard Rule – the unplayable ball Rule does not apply. Elsewhere on the course, if you believe your ball is unplayable, you may, under penalty of one stroke:

• play a ball from where your last shot was played, or
• drop a ball any distance behind the point where the ball lay keeping the point on which the ball was dropped, or
• play another ball from teeing ground under penalty of one stroke:

If your ball is in a water hazard or out of bounds you should play a provisional ball. You must announce that it is a provisional ball and play it before you go forward to search for the original ball.

If the original ball is lost (other than in a water hazard) or out of bounds, you must continue with the provisional ball, under penalty of one stroke. If the original ball is found within the next 5 minutes, you must continue play of the hole with it, and must stop playing the provisional ball.

If it is not found within 5 minutes, it is lost. If after playing a shot, you think your ball may be lost outside a water hazard or out of bounds you should play a provisional ball. You must announce that it is a provisional ball and play it before you go forward to search for the original ball.

Water Hazards (Rule 26)

If your ball is in a water hazard (yellow stakes and/or lines) you may play it as it lies, or, under penalty of one stroke:

• play a ball from where your last shot was played, or
• drop a ball any distance behind the point where the ball lay keeping the point on which the ball was dropped, or
• play another ball from teeing ground

If your ball is lost outside a water hazard or out of bounds you must play another ball from the spot where the last shot was played, under penalty of one stroke, i.e. stroke and distance. You are allowed 5 minutes to search for a ball. If it is not found within 5 minutes, it is lost. If after playing a shot, you think your ball may be lost outside a water hazard or out of bounds you should play a provisional ball. You must announce that it is a provisional ball and play it before you go forward to search for the original ball.

If the original ball is lost (other than in a water hazard) or out of bounds, you must continue with the provisional ball, under penalty of one stroke. If the original ball is found within 5 minutes, you must continue play of the hole with it, and must stop playing the provisional ball.

Unplayable Ball (Rule 28)

If your ball is in a hazard in which there is no danger or relief (see diagram below), relief is available by dropping a ball on a line between the hole, the point where the ball lay and the point on which the ball was dropped. Relief does not apply. Elsewhere on the course, if you believe your ball is unplayable, you may, under penalty of one stroke:

• play a ball from where your last shot was played, or
• drop a ball any distance behind the point where the ball lay keeping the point on which the ball was dropped, or
• play another ball from teeing ground

If your ball is lost (other than in a water hazard) or out of bounds you must continue with the provisional ball, under penalty of one stroke. If the original ball is lost (other than in a water hazard) or out of bounds, you should play a provisional ball. You must announce that it is a provisional ball and play it before you go forward to search for the original ball.

If the original ball is lost (other than in a water hazard) or out of bounds, you must continue with the provisional ball, under penalty of one stroke. If the original ball is found within the next 5 minutes, you must continue play of the hole with it, and must stop playing the provisional ball.
The game of golf should be played in the correct spirit and in accordance with the Rules of Golf, which should be consulted for more detailed information on the points covered. Please refer to the relevant Rule.

General Points

The Rules of Play

Tee Shot (Rule 11)

You may not play your tee shot before your partner is ready. You may not play your tee shot from outside the line of the tee-markers. If you play your tee shot in front of the tee-markers, your stroke does not count and you must play a new ball from within the correct area.

Play the Ball as it Lies (Rule 12)

In stroke play, you must not improve your lie. The area of your intended stroke does not include any area that is unplayable (Rule 19). If your ball in motion is deflected or stopped by another ball at rest, you can move your ball without penalty (Rule 19-5a).

If your ball in motion is deflected or stopped by you, your caddie, your partner, your partner's caddie, or by equipment belonging to you or your partner, you incur a penalty of two strokes (Rule 19).

Loose Impediments (Rule 23)

You may move a loose impediment (i.e. natural loose objects such as sand, mud, pebbles, etc.) located anywhere on the course. Loose impediments that are on or near the line of the hole must be replaced without penalty (Rule 19-5a).

Movable Obstructions (Rule 24-1)

An Abraham ground condition is a natural ground condition where water under ground is available from immovable obstructions and abnormal ground and where the ground is covered with a hard layer of soil or other material. When playing the ball from a natural hazard, play the ball as it lies. However, in stroke play only, if both balls lay on the putting green before you make your stroke, you incur a two-stroke penalty (Rule 19-5a). Lifting, Dropping and Placing the Ball (Rule 20)

To play through a hole that has been lifted for a second time, you must play the ball as it lies (Rule 12-2). When dropping, stand erect, hold the ball at shoulder height and drop it from almost arm's length and drop it.

A ball that is lifted for bouncing or interfering with play must not be cleaned, except when it is lifted from the putting green. Loose Impediments (Rule 23)

You may move a loose impediment (i.e. natural loose objects such as sand, mud, pebbles, etc.) located anywhere on the course. Loose impediments that are on or near the line of the hole must be replaced without penalty (Rule 19-5a).

Movable Obstructions (Rule 24-1)