

Update on Rules of Golf

Ball in flower bed

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Our Club's local rule states that all areas of Flower Bed (FB) specially marked with an FB sign are regarded as Ground Under Repair (GUR). In this instance, Rule 25 applies if your ball is near to, inside or lost in it. It also states that 'play is prohibited' when your ball is in the FB areas. If the FB sign is not displayed in the planted area, you will have to play the ball as it lies and Rule 13-1 applies.

To apply this GUR rule, you must know for a fact or be virtually certain that the ball is in the FB, i.e. it is indisputable. If the FB is situated near high rough (D* 25-1c/1), water hazard or out of bound area, your flight mate may not be convinced and agree that your ball is indeed in it.

When your ball is struck towards any FB area, you should play a provisional ball under Rule 27-2, to speed up play. If it is indisputable that your ball is lying in the FB, Rule 25-1b applies if you can find it and Rule 25-1c applies if you cannot find the ball. You may take relief without penalty in both situations but the relief procedures for 1b and 1c are not the same.

If you are unsure, you must find the ball. In such an instance, Rule 25-1b applies if you can find it. Otherwise it is considered as a lost ball and Rule 27-1 applies and you shall continue your game with your provisional ball.

In conclusion, if you cannot find your ball, it will not be considered a lost-ball situation as long as it is indisputable that the ball is indeed inside the FB (D* 27-2c/1).

* 'D' refers to 'Decisions on the Rules of Golf'