

## STATUS OF BALL



### A BALL MAY BE:

In Play	<a href="#">In Play</a>
Provisional Ball	<a href="#">Provisional Ball</a>
Second Ball	<a href="#">14.7b(1)</a>
Substituted Ball	<a href="#">Substitute</a>
Wrong Ball	<a href="#">Wrong Ball</a>

### **In Play**      [In Play](#)

- A ball is **In Play** when a stroke has been made at it from inside the teeing area **or** from outside the teeing area in match play when the opponent does not cancel the stroke.
- A ball that has been marked and not yet lifted or a ball that has been replaced with the ball-marker still in place is **In Play**.
- A ball is **In Play** even when it is replaced, placed, or dropped in a wrong way or **wrong place**.
- A ball is not **In Play** when it has been lifted, is lost or out of bounds, or has been holed.
- A ball that is not **In Play** is a **Wrong Ball**.

### **Provisional Ball**      [Provisional Ball](#)

- A ball that the player plays in case the original ball is lost or out of bounds.
- A provisional ball becomes the player's ball In Play when the original ball is **lost** or the provisional ball is played from a location nearer to the hole than the **estimated** location of the original ball [[18.3c\(2\)](#)].
- The provisional ball **must be abandoned** when the original ball is **known** to be in a penalty area [[18.3c\(3\)](#)].

### **Second Ball Rule**      [14.7b\(1\)](#)

- A ball played when the player believes they may have played from a wrong place [[14.7b\(1\)](#)].
- A ball played when a player is uncertain of a Rule [[20.1c\(3\)](#)].
- The player should announce which ball is to count. If the player does not announce which ball is to count, the first ball played will count if allowed by the Rules [Clarifications: [20.1c\(3\)](#)].

### **Substituted Ball**      [Substitute](#)

- A ball has been substituted when it replaces the player's ball **In Play**.
- A substituted ball is **In Play** even when it is not allowed to replace the original ball.
- The penalty for playing an incorrectly substituted ball is **1 penalty stroke** (new in 2023) [[6.3b\(3\)](#)].

### **Wrong Ball**      [Wrong Ball](#)

- A wrong ball is any ball other than the ball In Play, a Provisional Ball, or a Second Ball.
- A **wrong ball** could be another player's ball, a stray ball, the player's own ball when lifted or **out-of-bounds**.

