



Ball overhanging the hole June 2026

If your ball overhangs the hole, be aware:

- 1) You are allowed a reasonable time to reach the hole. This will include the natural or spontaneous reaction to the ball not going in the hole, in the first place. The player may have some distance to walk to the ball, including changing clubs if the shot was from off the green. The player is also permitted to allow time for other players to play their shots, or to avoid the line of another player's ball
- 2) Once at the hole, you are permitted only ten more seconds to allow the ball to drop. If it does drop in that time, you have holed out with the previous stroke. If not, the ball is treated as being at rest, even if still physically moving. Therefore, even if the ball appears to still be moving after the ten second wait, there will be no penalty for hitting that moving ball. This avoids the possible argument about potential, or actual movement causing unreasonable delays
- 3) If the ball actually drops after the ten second wait, but before it is played, the player has holed out with the previous stroke but gets a one shot penalty
- 4) If the ball overhanging the hole, has been lifted or moved, the ball is treated as having come to rest, and the waiting time no longer applies
- 5) If the ball is moved within the ten second wait time:
 - By an opponent in matchplay, there is no penalty to the opponent and the ball is treated as having been holed with the previous stroke
 - By another player in strokeplay, the general penalty (two strokes) will apply to that player