

Rule 13 – Ball Played as it Lies

13-1 General

The ball must be played as it lies, except as otherwise provided in the Rules.

Penalty for breach of rule.

Match Play – loss of hole; Stroke Play – Two strokes.

Scenarios:

1 - Veronica breaks a branch off a tree because it interferes with her intended swing path.

2 – Betty repairs a pitch mark on the fringe that is between her ball and the hole.

3 – Angela repairs a pitch mark on the green when her ball is in a bunker.

4 – Vicki sops up the dew on the green on her line of putt.

Using the rule above, see if you can determine penalties, if any, each player would receive on this hole. *Rule 13 is much longer than the General statement above, you may have to reference your rule book or the rules online at USGA.org.*

Answers:

1 – 2 stroke penalty. Cannot improve the intended line of swing Rule 13-2

2 – 2 stroke penalty. Cannot “eliminate irregularities of surface.’ Rule 13-2

3 – No penalty. May repair damage on the green. Rule 16-1

4 – 2 stroke penalty. Cannot remove dew, frost, or water. Rule 13-2

Go To – [usga-rules.com](https://www.usga.org/rules) and click on “Play the Course as You Find It” parts 1 & 2 for awesome video demonstration of Rule 13.