



# How to Make a Proper Drop



A ball to be dropped must be dropped by the player himself.

There are three things to remember when making a proper drop:

- **Must stand erect**
- **Hold the ball at shoulder height**
- **Hold the ball at arm's length**

And then go ahead and drop it.....

If the ball is dropped by any other person or in any other manner, and the error is not corrected, the player incurs a one stroke penalty.

If the ball touches the player, his partner, either of their caddies or their equipment before or after it strikes a part of the course, the ball must be re-dropped without penalty. There is no limit to the number of times a ball must be re-dropped in these circumstances.



**The Florida State Golf Association thanks you for being a GHIN Club Member!**

By being a member of the GHIN Handicap System you and your club are supporting the efforts of the FSGA and the USGA. The FSGA supports junior golf, provides college scholarships and generally protects the game of golf in the state of Florida. The FSGA was formed in 1913 and is a non-profit organization with over 400 volunteers serving the game of golf. Please feel free to contact the FSGA or visit our website at [www.fsga.org](http://www.fsga.org).



# Abnormal Ground Conditions



## What is an Abnormal Ground Condition?

- Any casual water, ground under repair or hole, cast or runaway on the course made by a burrowing animal, a reptile or a bird.

## When do you have Interference?

- **Stance:** If any part of your stance lies on the abnormal ground condition.
- **Area of Intended Swing:** If your club could contact the abnormal ground condition at address or during any part of your swing. (No relief when your **ball** lies in a **water hazard**)
- **Lie of Ball:** If your ball lies in or on the abnormal ground condition.

## How do you take relief?

- Find your nearest point of relief and without penalty drop the ball **within one club length** no closer to the *hole*. You **must** achieve complete relief from the obstruction.

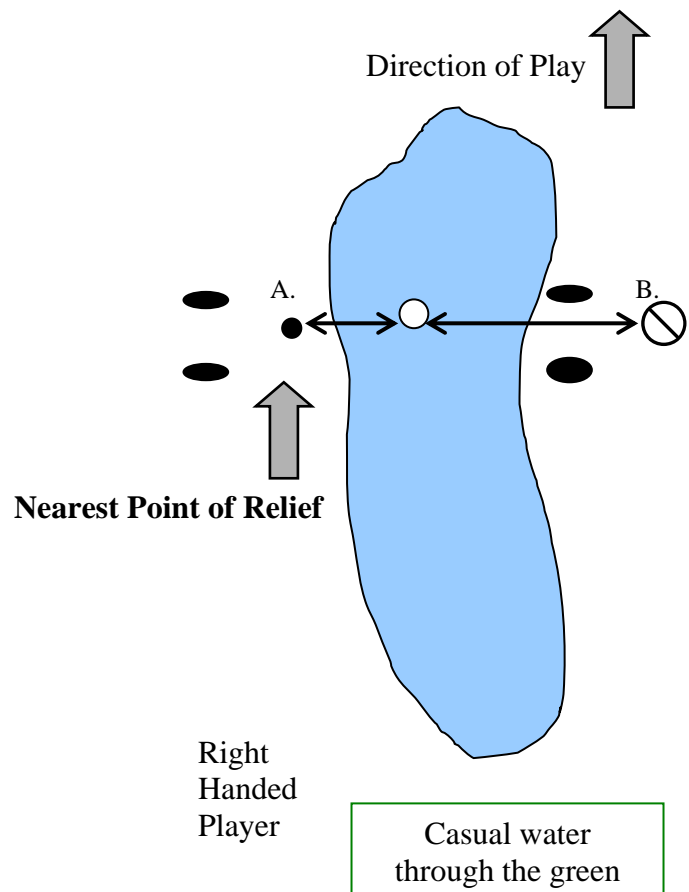
## How to Proceed

**Step 1:** Find **Nearest Point of Relief** (not nearer the hole) so abnormal ground condition does not interfere with:

- Swing
- Stance
- Lie of Ball
- **See Diagram:** Point A is **nearest** to the ball's original position, so it is the nearest point of relief.

**Step 2:** Drop the ball within **one club length** of the **Nearest Point of Relief**:

- Not Nearer the Hole
- Take **complete relief** where there is no interference for lie, stance, and area of intended swing (not in a hazard or on a putting green.)



**The Florida State Golf Association thanks you for being a GHIN Club Member!**

By being a member of the GHIN Handicap System, you and your club are supporting the efforts of the FSGA and the USGA. The FSGA supports junior golf, provides college scholarships and protects the game of golf in Florida. The FSGA was formed in 1913 as a non-profit volunteer-based organization. Please visit our website at [www.fsga.org](http://www.fsga.org).

## **Ball at Rest Moved**

What happens if your ball at rest is moved by wind on the putting green **before you address it**? The answer is very simple, yet we seem to see a lot of players getting the answer wrong. Since wind is not an “outside agency”, you should simply play the ball where it comes to rest at its new position.

(Definition: **Outside Agency** - An “outside agency” is any agency not part of the match or, in stroke play, not part of the competitor’s side, and includes a referee, a marker, an observer and a forecaddie. Neither wind nor water is an outside agency.)

For some reason, most players feel like they have to replace their ball. You would even play the ball from its new position if you had left your ball marker behind the ball when you step back to read your putt. The ball marker is just a moveable obstruction. If the ball happens to run down a hill into a nearby water hazard - that is bad luck, but if the ball rolls down the hill into the hole - you have holed out with your last shot.....all skill.

However, if your ball **moves after address** (you have grounded your club immediately in front of or immediately behind the ball, whether or not you have taken a stance) you receive a one-stroke penalty for causing your ball to move and you must replace it back in its original position or suffer a total penalty of two-strokes or loss of hole in match play.

**EXCEPTION:** If it is known or virtually certain that you did not cause your ball to move, Rule 18-2b does not apply.

### **Decision: 18-1/12 Ball Replaced and at Rest Is Thereafter Moved by Wind**

Q. A player replaces his ball on the putting green and the ball is at rest. **Before the player addresses the ball**, a sudden gust of wind blows the ball farther from the hole. The player plays the ball from its new position. Is that correct?

A. Yes. Wind is not an outside agency — see Definition of “Outside Agency.” Accordingly, Rule 18-1 does not apply.

### **Decision: 18-2a/7 Ball Moved by Wind Replaced**

Q. In stroke play, a competitor’s ball was moved by wind. Since wind is not an outside agency (see Definition of “Outside Agency”), he should have played it from where it came to rest, but he replaced it. What is the ruling?

A. The competitor incurred one penalty stroke under Rule 18-2a, and, before playing his next stroke, he should have replaced the ball on the spot where it came to rest after being moved by the wind. If he did not do so, he incurred a total penalty of two strokes — see penalty statement under Rule 18.

**The Florida State Golf Association thanks you for being a GHIN Club Member!**

By being a member of the GHIN Handicap System you and your club are supporting the efforts of the FSGA and the USGA. The FSGA supports junior golf, provides college scholarships protects the game of golf in Florida. The FSGA was formed in 1913 as a non-profit organization volunteer based organization. Please visit our website at [www.fsga.org](http://www.fsga.org).



# Obstructions



## **What is an Obstruction?**

An obstruction is anything artificial (rakes, cart paths, sprinkler heads, cans or papers, etc.), including the artificial surfaces and sides of roads and paths and manufactured ice except:

- Objects defining out of bounds, such as walls, fences, stakes and railings;
- Any part of an immovable object that is out of bounds;
- Any construction declared by the Committee to be an integral part of the course.

## **There are Two Kinds of Obstructions - Movable and Immovable**

An obstruction is a movable obstruction if it may be moved without unreasonable effort, without unduly delaying play and without causing damage. Otherwise it is an immovable obstruction.

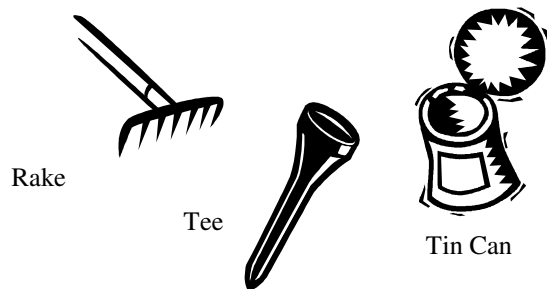
### **A Movable Obstruction may be moved anywhere on the course without penalty**

- This includes in a bunker or a water hazard
- If the balls move as a result of moving the obstruction; No penalty and replace the ball. If the ball is not replaced, there is a penalty.  
(loss of hole in match play or two strokes in stroke play)

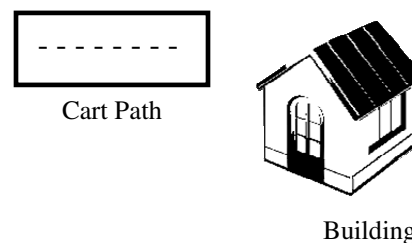
### **An Immovable Obstruction must not be moved (you move the ball away instead)**

- If the immovable obstruction interferes with the lie of the ball, your stance or your area of intended swing, you get free relief as long as your ball does not lie in a water hazard
- Find the nearest point on the course that avoids interference from the immovable obstruction that is not nearer the hole and drop the ball within one club-length of that point.

### **Movable Obstructions**



### **Immovable Obstructions**



### **The Florida State Golf Association thanks you for being a GHIN Club Member!**

By being a member of the GHIN Handicap System you and your club are supporting the efforts of the FSGA and the USGA. The FSGA supports junior golf, provides college scholarships and generally protects the game of golf in the state of Florida. The FSGA was formed in 1913 and is a non-profit organization with over 400 volunteers serving the game of golf. Please feel free to contact the FSGA or visit our website at [www.fsga.org](http://www.fsga.org).

## Rule 13-4 Ball in Hazard; Prohibited Actions

When your ball is in a bunker, water hazard or lateral water hazard, you may NOT:

- Test the condition of the hazard or any similar hazard
- Touch the ground in the hazard or water in a water hazard with your hand or a club
- Touch or move a loose impediment lying in or touching the hazard

There are some **exceptions** provided nothing is done that constitutes testing the condition of the hazard or improving the lie of the ball:

You may smooth sand or soil in a hazard at any time, (even before making a stroke) provided this is for the sole purpose of caring for the course and nothing is done to improve your lie, stance or line of play for the next stroke.

- As a result of or to prevent falling (you slip going down a steep bunker face),
- In removing an obstruction (rake, cigarette butt, etc),
- In measuring (moving your ball over one or two putter heads if your ball interferes with someone else),
- In retrieving, lifting, placing or replacing a ball under any Rule (ball deemed unplayable or someone played your ball by mistake), or
- In placing your clubs in the bunker (you select one of the three clubs that you carried into the bunker to hit the shot and toss the other two in the bunker behind you)

**The Florida State Golf Association thanks you for being a GHIN Club Member!**

By being a member of the GHIN Handicap System you and your club are supporting the efforts of the FSGA and the USGA. The FSGA supports junior golf, provides college scholarships protects the game of golf in Florida. The FSGA was formed in 1913 as a non-profit organization volunteer based organization. Please visit our website at [www.fsga.org](http://www.fsga.org).



# Immovable Obstructions



## What is an Immovable Obstruction?

- An artificial or man-made object that you can't move. (Ex: cart-paths, sprinklers, rain shelters, drains, equipment, boxes).

## When do you have Interference?

- **Stance:** If any part of your stance lies on the obstruction.
- **Area of Intended Swing:** If your club could contact the obstruction at address or during any part of your swing. (No relief when your **ball** lies in a **water** hazard)
- **Lie of Ball:** If your ball lies in or on the obstruction.

## How do you take relief?

- Find your nearest point of relief and without penalty drop the ball **within one club length** no closer to the *hole*. You **must** achieve complete relief from the obstruction.

## How to Proceed

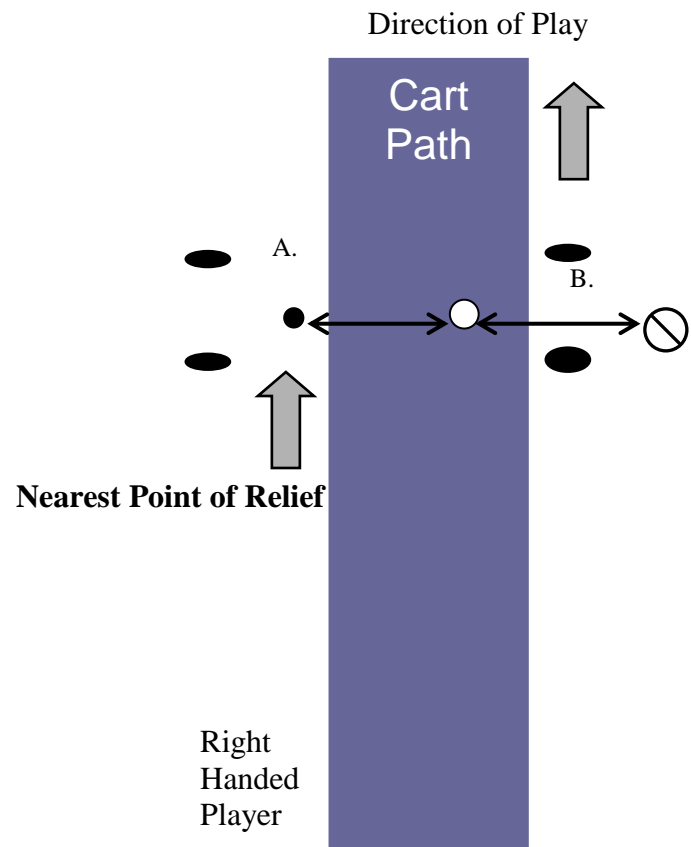
**Step 1:** Find **Nearest Point of Relief** (not nearer the hole) so obstruction does not interfere with:

- Swing
- Stance
- Lie of Ball

- **See Diagram:** Point A is **nearest** to the ball's original position, so it is the nearest point of relief.

**Step 2:** Drop the ball within **one club length** of the **Nearest Point of Relief**:

- Not Nearer the Hole
- Take **complete relief** where there is no interference for lie, stance, and area of intended swing (not in a hazard or on a putting green.)



**The Florida State Golf Association thanks you for being a GHIN Club Member!**

By being a member of the GHIN Handicap System you and your club are supporting the efforts of the FSGA and the USGA. The FSGA supports junior golf, provides college scholarships protects the game of golf in Florida. The FSGA was formed in 1913 as a non-profit organization volunteer based organization. Please visit our website at [www.fsga.org](http://www.fsga.org).



# How Do I Drop From an Unplayable Lie?

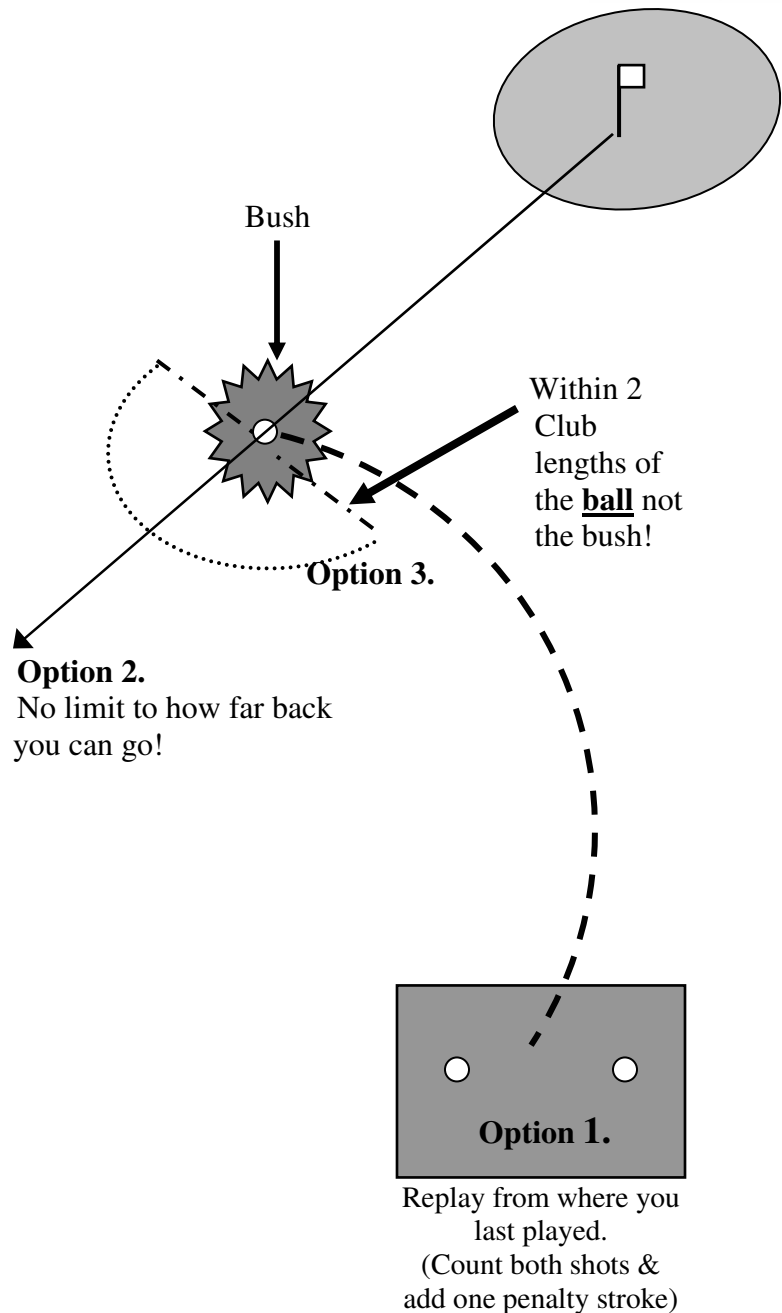


## Rule 28

If the player deems his ball to be unplayable, he must under **penalty of one stroke**:

1. Play from the spot from which the original ball was last played; or
2. Drop behind the point where the ball lies, keep that point between the ball and the *hole* with no limit to how far behind that point the ball may be dropped; or
3. Drop within two club-lengths of **where the ball lies**, not nearer the *hole*.

If the unplayable ball is in a *bunker*, the player may proceed under 1, 2, or 3. If the player elects 2 or 3, a ball must be dropped in the *bunker*.



## The Florida State Golf Association thanks you for being a GHIN Club Member!

By being a member of the GHIN Handicap System you and your club are supporting the efforts of the FSGA and the USGA. The FSGA supports junior golf, provides college scholarships and generally protects the game of golf in the state of Florida. The FSGA was formed in 1913 and is a non-profit organization with over 400 volunteers serving the game of golf. Please feel free to contact the FSGA or our website at [www.fsga.org](http://www.fsga.org).





# RULE 8: ADVICE



Be careful what you say on the golf course, the advice you give or receive.....  
may cost you a PENALTY!

## DO'S

- You may ask any type of advice from your partner or caddie.
- You may discuss distances between any two objects on the golf course with **anyone**...this includes the distance from your ball to the hole. (New in 2006)
- You may obtain information on matters of public information from **anyone**. (Example: position of hazards, or the flagstick.)
- You may give or receive information on the Rules from **anyone**.
- You may look into another player's bag to see which club was used.
- Caddies can give their players swing advice or show them how to play a shot.
- When play is suspended, you may ask advice from **anyone**.

## DON'T

- You may **not** ask or offer advice about the following to **anyone** other than your partner or caddie:
- What club someone is playing. ("I think you should hit the 5 iron." or "What club did you hit?")
- How to play a shot or make a swing.
- Do not make any comments about how someone should correct a swing error. ("Keep your head down")
- Which option under a Rule would be best to use. ("I think you should declare it unplayable and drop it back there.")
- Do not move towels or clubs to see which club the player has selected.

### **Penalty:**

Violation of the "Advice Rule" results in:

**Stroke Play:** Two strokes

**Match Play:** Loss of hole

**Example** – If you ask another player (other than your partner) what club to hit – and they answer, who gets penalized? In Stroke Play, both players would be penalized two strokes. In Match Play, the player who asked loses the hole immediately and the other player's response does not matter.

**The Florida State Golf Association thanks you for being a GHIN Club Member!**

By being a member of the GHIN Handicap System you and your club are supporting the efforts of the FSGA and the USGA. The FSGA supports junior golf, provides scholarships and protects the game of golf in Florida. The FSGA was formed in 1913 as a non-profit volunteer based organization. Please visit our website at [www.fsga.org](http://www.fsga.org).





# Where do I drop from a Lateral Water Hazard?

(Red Stakes or Lines)



## OPTIONS:

1. Play the ball as it lies or;

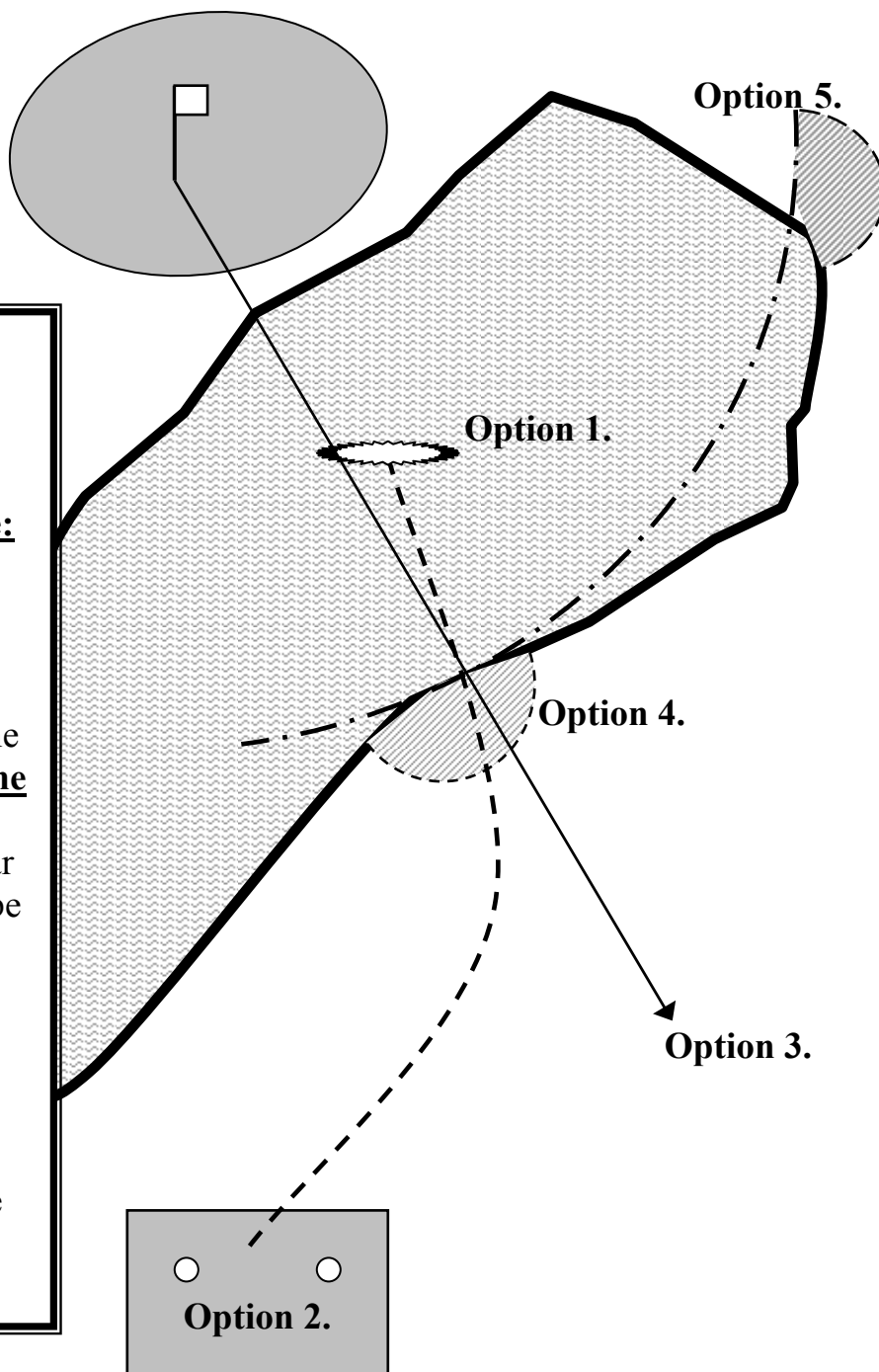
### Under a penalty of one stroke:

2. Play a ball under the *stroke and distance* procedure; or

3. Drop behind hazard where the ball **last crossed the hazard line** keeping that point in line with the *hole* with no limit to how far behind that point the ball may be dropped; or

4. Drop within 2 club lengths from the point of entry into the hazard; or

5. Drop 2 club-lengths from the opposite margin, equidistant from the hole.



**The Florida State Golf Association thanks you for being a GHIN Club Member!**

By being a member of the GHIN Handicap System you and your club are supporting the efforts of the FSGA and the USGA. The FSGA supports junior golf, provides college scholarships and generally protects the game of golf in the state of Florida. The FSGA was formed in 1913 and is a non-profit organization with over 400 volunteers serving the game of golf. Please feel free to contact the FSGA or visit our website at [www.fsga.org](http://www.fsga.org).