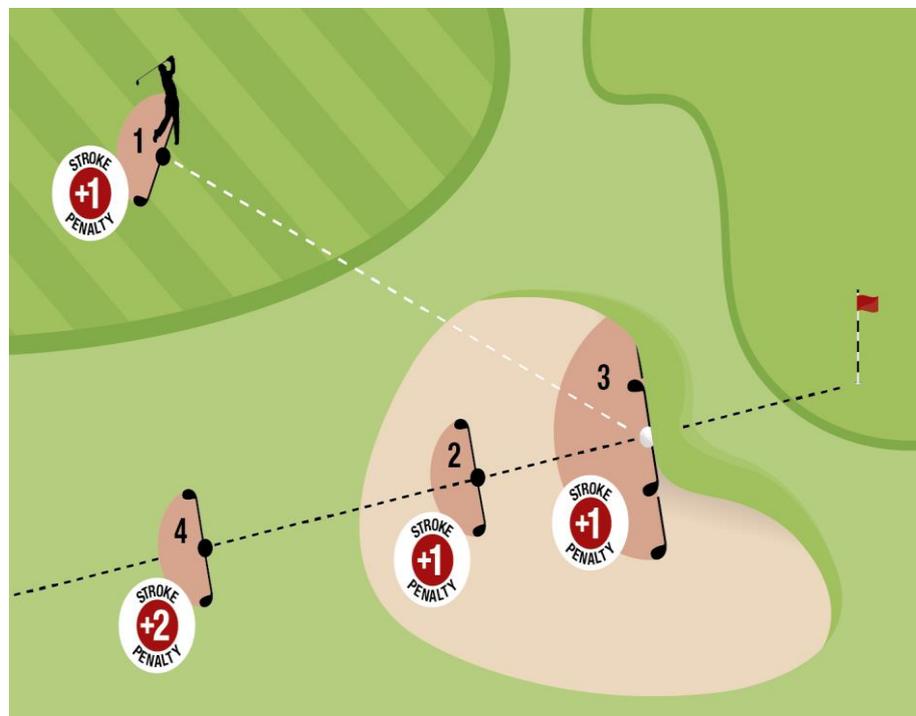


19.1 Player May Decide to Take Unplayable Ball Relief Anywhere Except Penalty Area

A player is the only person who may decide to treat his or her ball as unplayable by taking penalty relief under Rule [19.2](#) or [19.3](#).

- Unplayable ball relief is allowed anywhere on the course, **except** in a penalty area.
- If a ball is unplayable in a penalty area, the player's only relief option is to take penalty relief under [Rule 17](#).

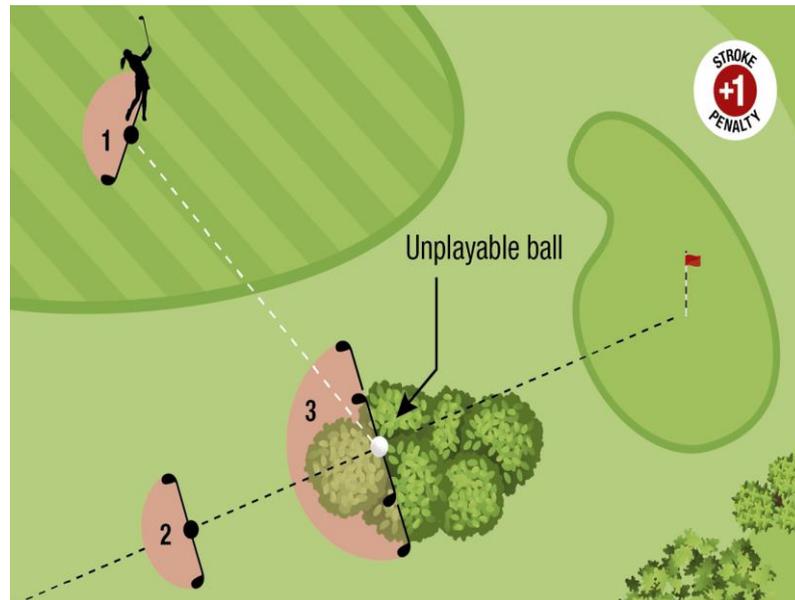
DIAGRAM 1: RELIEF OPTIONS FOR BALL UNPLAYABLE IN BUNKER



A player decides that his or her ball in a bunker is unplayable. The player has four options:

- 1) For one penalty stroke, the player may take stroke-and-distance relief.
- 2) (2) For one penalty stroke, the player may take back-on-the-line relief in the bunker.
- 3) (3) For one penalty stroke, the player may take lateral relief in the bunker.
- 4) (4) For a total of two penalty strokes, the player may take back-on-the-line relief outside the bunker based on a reference line going straight back from the hole through the spot of the original ball.

DIAGRAM 2: RELIEF OPTIONS FOR BALL UNPLAYABLE IN GENERAL AREA



A player decides that his or her ball in a bush is unplayable. The player has three options, in each case adding one penalty stroke:

- 1) The player may take stroke-and-distance relief by playing the original ball or another ball from a relief area based on where the previous stroke was made (see Rule 14.6 and Diagram 14.6).
- 2) The player may take back-on-the-line relief by dropping the original ball or another ball in a relief area based on a reference line going straight back from the hole through the spot of the original ball. The reference point is a point on the course chosen by the player that is on the reference line and is farther from the hole than the spot of the original ball. There is no limit on how far back on the line the reference point may be. The relief area is one club-length from the reference point, is not nearer to the hole than the reference point and may be in any area of the course. In choosing this reference point, the player should indicate the point by using an object (such as a tee).
- 3) The player may take lateral relief. The reference point is the spot of the original ball. The relief area is two club-lengths from the reference point, is not nearer to the hole than the reference point and may be in any area of the course.