

APRIL 2008 RULES REMINDER

Submitted by Ginger Babb

What to do when your ball may be lost or out of bounds---

If a ball may be lost outside a water hazard or may be out of bounds, to save time the player should play another ball "provisionally" in accordance with Rule 27-1. The player must inform her fellow competitors that she intends to play a **provisional ball**, and she must play it before she or her fellow competitors go forward to search for the original ball.

You may play your **provisional ball** until you reach the place where your original ball is likely to be. **Now is the time to look for your original ball that may be lost or out of bounds.** If you find your original ball in bounds you pick up your **provisional ball** and continue playing the original ball.

If the original ball is indeed lost or out of bounds then your **provisional ball** becomes the ball in play. To figure your correct score at this point let's assume you are playing hole # 10 on Tucson. Your second shot goes left and you think it is out of bounds. You drop a ball and announce that you are hitting a **provisional**. When you hit this shot you would be hitting your 4th stroke. (penalty of stroke and distance)

It is **not** within the Rules of Golf to just drop a ball at the point where you can't find your original ball. If you have not played a **provisional** you would have to go back to the spot you originally played from and play another ball with the penalty. Just think how long this would take and how many golfers you would be holding up. **ALWAYS HIT A PROVISIONAL.**