

**ROUND 1 QUOTES**  
**February 1, 2024**



**STEPHEN COX**  
**Vice President, Tournament Administration**

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**Q. Just a little information. He was explaining to the media, but they're asking if they could get just an explanation of what happened on hole 7.**

**STEPHEN COX:** Seven, his 16th hole.

Well, it came to light through our video review group that by the fact that he took a club length out measuring that he may have not proceeded correctly under back-on-the-line relief.

The current rule, which was rewritten in January of 2023, requires the player to go back from where his ball was in line with the flag, this was certainly in his case, and then drop the ball on that line. The ball then, once dropped, can then roll up to a club length in any direction before a re-drop is required. That is the current rule.

Unfortunately, Rory proceeded under the rules as they were pre-2023, which was you go back on the line and then you would measure one club length off the line in either direction as long as it was no nearer the hole and drop it within that club length. So, in other words, you could drop it off the line.

And all of us within the game, including the governing bodies, were very uncomfortable once the rule was written, which was back in 2019 and we subsequently put sort of a bit of a Band-Aid on that one to try to protect the player. So there was always intentions to rewrite it, which happened, and they were introduced in Jan 2023.

I think in Rory's case, he was sort of operating in the old rules. As soon as I started talking to him about it, I think the penny dropped that he had proceeded under the old rules and he was totally accepting of the fact that he played from the wrong place and he got the two penalty strokes.

**Q. OK. So two strokes. And what is the rule number?**

**STEPHEN COX:** In his case, he was proceeding under 19-2, I believe, which was back-on-the-line relief for a ball which was unplayable.

