RULE OF THE MONTH with Tom & Chip

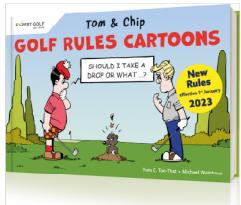
 $S \mid T \cup A T \mid O \mid N \mid$ Tom notices that a big clump of mud is stuck to the ball ...



QUESTION: Is Tom allowed to remove the mud from his ball?

ANSWER: Tom isn't allowed to clean his ball unless it's necessary for identification purposes. In that case, he must mark, then lift the ball and not clean it more than needed to identify it. Rules 9.1a, 7.3 and 14.1c.

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