

SITUATION: Chip's making his practice swing too close to the ball ...



QUESTION: What's the correct procedure if a player accidentally strikes their ball during a practice swing?

ANSWER: A practice swing doesn't count as a stroke and can't be declared as such. According to the rules, Chip accidentally caused his ball at rest to move. He incurs 1 penalty stroke and must replace his ball on the original spot. (If the same happens on the green, the ball must again be put back but there's no penalty.) Rule 9.4b and definition "Stroke."

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