

# Rule 13-4 Ball in Hazard; Prohibited Actions

When your ball is in a bunker, water hazard or lateral water hazard, you may NOT:

- Test the condition of the hazard or any similar hazard
- Touch the ground in the hazard or water in a water hazard with your hand or a club
- Touch or move a loose impediment lying in or touching the hazard

There are some **exceptions** provided nothing is done that constitutes testing the condition of the hazard or improving the lie of the ball:

You may smooth sand or soil in a hazard at any time, (even before making a stroke) provided this is for the sole purpose of caring for the course and nothing is done to improve your lie, stance or line of play for the next stroke.

- As a result of or to prevent falling (you slip going down a steep bunker face),
- In removing an obstruction (rake, cigarette butt, etc),
- In measuring (moving your ball over one or two putter heads if your ball interferes with someone else),
- In retrieving, lifting, placing or replacing a ball under any Rule (ball deemed unplayable or someone played your ball by mistake), or
- In placing your clubs in the bunker (you select one of the three clubs that you carried into the bunker to hit the shot and toss the other two in the bunker behind you)

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