

# The Golf Rules Review

An Intermittent Communique by the WWGA Golf Rules Maven

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## Ask the Golf Rules Maven – Questions from our WWGA Members

### Am I on the fringe of the green or not?

*Yesterday I was playing Mountain View and my ball landed on the green and rolled off to the right. It landed on a bare spot in an area where it was difficult to determine whether the ball was on the fringe. Some of the grass near the ball looked like fringe grass but the grass closest to my ball looked like fairway grass. Because of the grass near my ball, I played it as it lies. Was I on the fringe or not?*



Last year because of the fungus damage to the fringe, there were just too many areas to identify as ground under repair. Ron Springer, the Director of Golf, consulted with the USGA about this damage. USGA said he could allow players to move their ball to the closest area where the damage did not interfere with the ball and the area in front of the ball. Ron was allowed to announce this to the players, but not make it a local rule. This rule is still in effect.

This year some areas have recovered, but in other areas, non-fringe grass has encroached onto the fringe. That is what has happened here. The fringe is still there, but you need to look around the fringe near your ball and draw an imaginary line (yellow line) where the fringe should be. Yes, it is a judgement call and usually a player will consult another player in their group to help. In your case the ball was on the fringe and you could have moved the ball, no closer to the pin to an undamaged fringe area.

This rule is in effect for all play including Tournaments and will stay in effect until rescinded by Ron Springer.