

WORST-CASE SCENARIO®

HOW TO PLAY OUT OF HIGH SAW GRASS

Saw grass is a large plant (between four and ten feet tall) with flat, stiff, narrow leaf blades that have small, sharp sawteeth along the midribs. Often, dense saw grass will be out-of-bounds or in a hazard, but under some circumstances you may be able to play a ball that is nestled in saw grass.

- 1 Determine if you are in a hazard.**
Look for hazard markers. The rules are stricter when hitting out of a hazard.
- 2 Prepare to enter the grass.**
Wear gloves on both of your hands to avoid getting cut. Be sure to wear long pants to protect your legs. Spray any exposed areas on your arms and legs with bug repellent to avoid contact with insects (e.g., ticks, chiggers, etc.).
- 3 Identify your ball.**
Use your index finder and thumb to pick up the ball. Mark the location of the ball, turn the ball over to see the markings, and then place it back in the exact same position. Do not clean your ball when identifying it. If you are in a hazard, you must first hit the ball and then identify it. If it is not in fact your ball, there is no penalty, but you must return to the grass to find your ball (and return the ball you hit to the spot you found it).

- 4 Use a wedge.**
The heavy bottom of a sand wedge or pitching wedge will help the club head slice through the grass. Its open face will increase loft, so that the ball will land softly. Never hit a wood out of high grass.
- 5 Take a practice swing.**
Find a spot away from the ball that has a similar rough and lie. Get a feel for how the club will react to plowing through the grass.
- 6 Set up the club level with the ball.**
Since the ball may be propped up several inches above the ground, be careful not to align the club underneath the ball. In order to make up the distance that the higher grass has created, choke up on the club.
- 7 Stand so that the ball is forward of the center of your stance.**
Play the ball between your front ankle and the center of your stance.
- 8 Open your stance and the club face slightly.**
Take your club back in a V-shaped swing rather than a U-shaped swing. Do this by cocking your wrists more quickly as you take the club away from the ball.

- 9 If you are a right-handed golfer, the ball will have a tendency to go to the left.**
To prevent this, grip the club firmly with your left hand and normally with your right hand. If you are left-handed, grip the club firmly with your right hand and normally with your left. Also, open the club face to decrease the likelihood of it closing as it fights its way through the grass prior to impact. Open the face to between 25 and 30 degrees.
- 10 Accelerate the club head through the ball.**
Use the weight of the club and the added wrist cock to increase the club head speed down through impact.
- 11 Shift the weight in your lower body as you hit.**
Adding a more pronounced weight shift will help you develop enough speed on your club head to pop the ball out of the grass.

The Rules



A two-stroke penalty will be assessed if you use your hands, club, or feet to improve the lie around the ball. Matting down the grass around the ball is prohibited.



When you sole your club at address, you may inadvertently create an indentation in the grass into which your ball may roll. This incurs a one-stroke penalty. If the ball is in a hazard, the rules do not permit you to ground your club at all.