

Unplayable Lie for Camilo Villegas—he had options

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Camilo Villegas had some adventures in the sand on the driveable 12th at Chambers Bay yesterday. His errant tee-shot landed in the thick fescue surrounding one of the bunkers and he chose to take a drop for an unplayable lie. Unfortunately for Villegas, it took him four attempts to escape the bunker giving him a triple-bogey.

For whatever reason, he chose to proceed under option C of Rule 28 which took him only two club lengths away from where his ball lay no closer to the hole. After

two drops that rolled more than two club lengths, he placed his ball in the long fescue where it hit after the re-drop.

It seems that option B might have served him better. He could have dropped the ball on the line between where the ball lie and the flagstick and gone back as far as he wanted and could even drop in the hazard if he chose. Under option A he could have even gone back and played under stroke and distance which seems extreme but in retrospect it may have saved him from a triple.

Another unfortunate part of that event was that his ball when hit rolled back into his footprints in the bunker and he was stuck with that lie. Had he chosen to rake the footprints in the bunker before he hit between the subsequent shots, he would have been able to as long as he didn't improve his lie or stance under 13-2.

Knowing the rules can save players strokes.