

# Raking a Bunker

At any time, the player may smooth sand in a hazard provided it is for the sole purpose of caring for the course and nothing is done to improve the lie, area of intended stance or swing, or line of play.



If the consequences of raking the bunker were to improve (change for the better) the lie of the ball or the area of intended stance or swing *with respect to his next stroke*, thereby creating a potential advantage, the player would be in breach of the rules.

To determine if a player has breached rule 13.4 with *respect to his next stroke* ask the questions...

Has the action improved or allowed to be improved?

- a. The position of the ball
- b. The area of intended stance or swing
- c. Line of play or an extension of that line beyond the hole
- d. The area in which he is to drop or place a ball

In a large flat fairway bunker, the player is unlikely to gain an advantage raking a few feet in front of the ball prior to playing a long shot over that area. However, in a greenside bunker, the chance of the ball landing in or falling back into the bunker must be considered before raking anywhere in the bunker.