



LOCAL RULES – Complete version effective 16th April 2024

Out of bounds is defined by:

- The course-side points at ground level of white stakes and fence posts. Any course boundary hedge line. Any course boundary white line. Where lines and boundary objects relate to the same boundary edge it is the line that defines the boundary.
- The practice ground area enclosed by white stakes and the brook
- The car park and paved areas around the clubhouse

Penalty Areas

- Yellow penalty areas are defined by yellow stakes. Red penalty areas are defined by red stakes or red lines. When both stakes and lines are used, the stakes identify the penalty area and the lines define the edge. Any part of a penalty area defined or identified by green topped stakes is a no play zone as are any bird's nests.
- Unmarked or undefined penalty areas may be treated as red and their edge is where the ground breaks
- The edge of the penalty area between holes 12 & 13 is the bridle road. No part of the road is in the penalty area
- The pond and brook on the 18th hole are treated as a single penalty area
- Opposite side relief available for the penalty areas behind the 5th and to the left of the 12th putting greens (appendix A)
- Relief without penalty is not available from abnormal course conditions when the ball is within a penalty area
- Bridges, artificial retaining walls and linings within a penalty area are immovable obstructions / abnormal course conditions

Putting Greens

- The double putting green of the 4th & 13th holes shall be considered as one putting green
- If a player's ball lies in or touches an aeration hole on the putting green the player may take relief under Rule 16.1d but interference does not exist if the aeration hole only interferes with the player's stance or line of play
- Wrong greens are treated as including part of the general area within 3 club-lengths around the wrong green. When a player has interference from a wrong green under Rule 13.1f, including this expanded area, the player must take free relief

Protection of Young Trees

Trees identified by stakes are no play zones:

- If a player's ball lies anywhere on the course other than in a penalty area and it lies on or touches such a tree or such a tree interferes with the player's stance or area of intended swing, the player must take relief under Rule 16.1f
- If the ball lies in a penalty area, and interference to the player's stance or area of intended swing exists from such a tree, the player must take relief under Rule 17.1e

Abnormal Course Conditions (ACC) and Integral Objects

- Ground under repair (GUR) is any area bounded by white or blue lines or blue stakes, **it also includes self-evident repairs identified by a blue stake**
- The road crossing the 11th hole and behind the 12th green is an immovable obstruction
- Penalty area and GUR stakes physically attached to boundary objects are integral objects
- Bunker liners in their intended position are integral objects
- The bridle road and adjoining fence may be treated as a single abnormal course condition
- The granite blocks and small stone surrounds located near teeing pads are immovable obstructions
- **GUR includes areas where heavy vehicles have altered the ground surface materially. This does not include light damage caused by golf trolleys but covers deep indentations or contours clearly affecting the stance or swing**

Preferred Lies

When a player's ball lies in the general area and touches part of this area cut to fairway height or less, the player may take free relief once by placing the original ball or another ball in and playing from this *relief area*:

- Reference point: Spot of the original ball
- Size of the *relief area* measured from the reference point: 6 inches, with these limits:
 - Must not be nearer the *hole* than the reference point, and
 - Must be in the *general area*

In proceeding under this Local Rule, the player must choose a spot to place the ball and use the procedures for *replacing* a ball under the Rules 14.2b(2) and 14.2e. The spot is considered chosen, for the purpose of Rule 14.2e, once the ball has been set down and the player has let go of it

For the purpose of this rule a ball lying in the general area within 2 club-lengths of the putting green is considered to be touching fairway height grass

Cleaning Ball

When a player's ball lies in the general area the ball may be lifted, cleaned and replaced without penalty. The player **MUST** mark the spot of the ball before lifting it (see Rule 14.1) and the ball **MUST** be replaced on its original spot (see Rule 14.2)

Embedded Balls

Rule 16.3 is modified in this way: Free relief is not allowed when a ball is embedded in soil faces above bunkers

Flooded Bunkers

The flooded bunkers defined on a list in the professional's shop which may be identified by a blue post are ground under repair (GUR) in the general area. They are not treated as a bunker during the round. The player may take free relief under Rule 16.1b.

All other bunkers on the course, whether they contain temporary water or not, are still bunkers for all purposes under the Rules.

Penalties **Penalty for playing a ball from a wrong place in breach of local rule: General penalty under Rule 14.7a**

Appendix A

Model Local Rule B-2.1. Extra relief option for ball in penalty area behind the 5th or to the left of the 12th putting greens.

If the ball last crossed the edge of the *red penalty area* behind the 5th *putting green* or left of the 12th hole, as an extra relief option for **one penalty stroke**, the player may drop a ball on the opposite side of the *penalty area*:

- Reference point: The estimated point on the opposite edge of the *penalty area* that is the same distance from the *hole* as the estimated point where the original ball last crossed the edge of the *red penalty area* such that a straight line between these two estimated points does not cross outside the penalty area
- Size of the *relief area* measured from the reference point: **Two club-lengths**, but with usual limits:
 - Not be nearer the *hole* than the reference point; Not in the penalty area

Scorecards / Electronic scoring

For the purpose of the rules the *scorecard* is the physical scorecard. A marker is responsible for marking a player's scorecard and should certify the scores by signature. The player must get the marker to correct any mistakes and also certify the scores by signature before returning to the committee.

Failure to enter scores accurately into a computer system within an allowed time frame may result in a player's handicap index being withdrawn.