



LOCAL RULES – Complete version effective 10th November 2025

The course boundary is defined by:

- Lines, white stakes, boundary fence posts and boundary hedges in this priority order. A ball is out of bounds if it is beyond a boundary hedge.
- The practice ground area enclosed by white stakes and the brook
- The edges of the car park and paved areas around the club house

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
- 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 putting 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 a club-length from the edge of the road with an adjoining fence are GUR
- Bare patches and scars on putting greens, no relief if interference only relates to stance
- The self evident sand filled drainage channels between the 11th & 12th holes
- Areas of damage in the general area caused by badgers
- Holes and scars on the closely mown aprons and surrounds of putting greens in the general area, interference excludes stance
- 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 lie, stance or swing

Compulsory Use of Fairway Mats

When a player's ball lies in part of the general area cut to fairway height or less and a putter is not being used for the stroke, the player must take free relief by lifting the original ball and placing a ball on an artificial mat and play it from there. The mat must be placed on top of the spot where the ball came to rest.

If a ball when placed rolls off the mat, the player must try to place it a second time. If the ball again does not stay on the mat. The mat must be moved to the nearest spot, not nearer the hole, where the ball will come to rest on the mat when placed.

If the ball on the mat is accidentally moved before a stroke is made, there is no penalty, and the ball must be placed again on the mat.

The mat can be secured using a tee peg, but the ball cannot be placed on a tee.

Cleaning Ball

When a player's ball lies in part of the general area cut to fairway height or less and a putter is being used for the stroke 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.