



# LOCAL RULES – Complete version effective 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

(This supersedes any rule printed on a scorecard)

## 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 18<sup>th</sup> hole are treated as a single penalty area
- Opposite side relief available for the penalty areas behind the 5<sup>th</sup> and to the left of the 12<sup>th</sup> 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

- 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

## Abnormal Course Conditions (ACC)

- Ground under repair (GUR) is any area bounded by white or blue lines or blue stakes, it also includes self-evident GUR identified by a blue stake
- Young trees identified by green topped or green tagged stakes. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1
- The bridle road and a club-length from and beyond an adjoining fence are GUR
- Holes and scars on the closely mown aprons and surrounds of putting greens in the general area, interference excludes stance
- Areas and objects surrounded by an immovable obstruction are a single ACC

## Integral Objects

- Bunker liners in their intended position
- Penalty area & GUR stakes physically attached to boundary objects
- Stakes & sleeves adjacent to trees other than those with green tops or tags

## Flooded Bunkers

The flooded bunkers defined on a list in the professional's shop which may be identified by a blue stake 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 5<sup>th</sup> or to the left of the 12<sup>th</sup> putting greens.

If the ball last crossed the edge of the *red penalty area* behind the 5<sup>th</sup> *putting green* or left of the 12<sup>th</sup> 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.