



# LOCAL RULES

## 1. General

1.1 The following Local Rules supersede those previously published. These Local Rules must be read in conjunction with the Rules of Golf Effective January 2023.

## 2. Out of Bounds (Rule 14.6 – Stroke and Distance Relief)

2.1 When a player's ball, played from the teeing area, is beyond the line between the coarse-side points, at ground level, of the boundary fence posts, the original ball or another ball may be teed and must be played from anywhere inside the teeing area under Rule 6-2b, for **one (1) penalty stroke**.

2.2 When a player's ball, played from the general area, a penalty area or a bunker, is beyond the line between the coarse-side points, at ground level, of the boundary fence posts, the player must drop the original ball or another ball in the relief area no nearer the hole and within one (1) club-length of the spot, either known or estimated, where the previous stroke was made under Rule 14.3, for **one (1) penalty stroke**.

## 3. Ball Out of Bounds (Model Local Rule E-5 - Regular Competitions with the exception of Tournaments, Championships, District Events and Match Play)

3.1 When a player's ball is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds, the player may take stroke and distance relief under Rule 14.6, or the player has the additional option to drop a ball in and play from the relief area described below for **two (2) penalty strokes**.

**BALL OUT OF BOUNDS**

<p><b>Reference Point</b></p> <p><b>A.</b> Ball reference point. The point where the original ball is estimated to have crossed the edge of the course boundary to go out of bounds (A).</p> <p><b>B.</b> Fairway reference point. The point of the fairway of the hole being played (B) that is nearest to the ball reference point (A), but is not nearer the hole than the ball reference point (A).</p>	<p><b>Size of Relief Area</b></p> <p>Anywhere between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A line from the hole through the ball reference point (A) and within two (2) club lengths to the outside of that line but still on the course; and</li> <li>A line from the hole through the fairway reference point (B) and within two (2) club lengths to the fairway side of that line.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Limits on Relief Area</b></p> <p>The relief area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must not be nearer the hole than the ball reference point (A); and</li> <li>Must be in the general area.</li> </ul>
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**Player Note:** As the relief area is likely to be very large, the ball could roll a considerable distance from the spot where it first strikes the ground and not need to be dropped again.

## 4. Ball Not Found (Model Local Rule E-5 – Regular Competitions with the exception of Tournaments, Championships, District Events and Match Play)

4.1 When a player's ball has not been found, the player may take stroke and distance relief under Rule 14.6, or the player has the additional option to drop a ball in and play from the relief area described below for **two (2) penalty strokes**.

**BALL NOT FOUND**

Reference Point	Size of Relief Area	Limits on Relief Area
<p><b>A.</b> Ball reference point. The point where the original ball is estimated to have come to rest on the course (A).</p> <p><b>B.</b> Fairway reference point. The point of the fairway of the hole being played (B) that is nearest to the ball reference point (A), but is not nearer the hole than the ball reference point (A).</p>	<p>Anywhere between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A line from the hole through the ball reference point (A) and within two (2) club lengths to the outside of that line; and</li> <li>• A line from the hole through the fairway reference point (B) and within two (2) club lengths to the fairway side of that line.</li> </ul>	<p>The relief area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must not be nearer the hole than the ball reference point (A); and</li> <li>• Must be in the general area.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Player Note:</b> As the relief area is likely to be very large, the ball could roll a considerable distance from the spot where it first strikes the ground and not need to be dropped again.</p>		

**5. Ball not Found or Out of Bounds Close to a Green (Model Local Rule E-5 – Regular Competitions with the exception of Tournaments, Championships, District Events and Match Play)**

**5.1** When a player's ball has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds, the player may take stroke and distance relief under Rule 14.6, or the player has the additional option to drop a ball in and play from the relief area described below for **two (2) penalty strokes**.

**BALL NOT FOUND OR OUT OF BOUNDS CLOSE TO GREEN**

Reference Point	Size of Relief Area	Limits on Relief Area
<p><b>A.</b> Ball reference point. The point where the original ball is estimated to have come to rest on the course (A).</p> <p><b>B.</b> Fairway reference point. The point of the fairway of the hole being played (B) that is nearest to the ball reference point (A), but is not nearer the hole than the ball reference point (A).</p>	<p>Anywhere between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A line from the hole through the ball reference point (A) and within two (2) club lengths to the outside of that line; and</li> <li>• A line from the hole through the fairway reference point (B) and within two (2) club lengths to the fairway side of that line.</li> </ul>	<p>The relief area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must not be nearer the hole than the ball reference point (A); and</li> <li>• Must be in the general area.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Player Note:</b> As the relief area is likely to be very large, the ball could roll a considerable distance from the spot where it first strikes the ground and not need to be dropped again.</p>		

**6. Immoveable Obstructions (Rule 16)**

**6.1** Distance markers, hoops, bollards, ropes, protective screens, tee banners, penalty area stakes and posts (excluding out of bounds posts) and signs are defined as immoveable obstructions and **must not be removed**. When a player's ball is at rest in the general area and an immoveable obstruction interferes with a player's stance or area of intended swing, free relief may be taken under Rule 16.1a.

**7. Fixed Sprinkler Heads Close to a Green (Rule 16)**

**7.1** Fixed sprinkler heads close to a putting green are defined as immoveable obstructions. If the sprinkler head is on the line of play, is within two (2) club-lengths of the putting green and within two (2) club-lengths of the ball, free relief may be taken under Rule 16.1b.

**Exception.** There is no relief under this Local Rule if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable.

**8. Roads and Paths (Rule 16)**

**8.1** All roads and artificially surfaced paths on the course are defined as immoveable obstructions from which, free relief may be taken under Rule 16.1a.

**9. The Greenkeeper's Shed and Waste Vegetation and Soil Storage Area (Rule 16)**

**9.1** The areas marked by an oil line near the greenkeeper's shed and around the waste vegetation and soil storage on the left of the 12<sup>th</sup> fairway are defined as an abnormal course condition.

**9.2** If the player's ball is found in the abnormal course condition near the greenkeeper's shed, free relief may be taken under Rule 16.1b using the dropping zone located between the road and the practice nets.

**9.3** If the player's ball is found in the abnormal course condition near the waste vegetation and soil storage area, free relief may be taken under Rule 16.1b using the estimated point where the ball last crossed the edge of the abnormal course condition on the course as the spot of the ball for the purpose of finding the nearest point of relief.

**9.4** If a player's ball is not found in or on the abnormal course condition near the greenkeeper's shed, and it is known or virtually certain that the ball came to rest in or on the abnormal course condition, free relief may be taken under Rule 16.1b using the dropping zone located between the road and the practice nets.

**9.5** If the player's ball is not found in the abnormal course condition near the waste vegetation and soil storage area, and it is known or virtually certain that the ball came to rest in or on the abnormal course condition, free relief may be taken under Rule 16.1b using the estimated point where the ball last crossed the edge of the abnormal course condition on the course as the spot of the ball for the purpose of finding the nearest point of relief.

**9.6** If a player's ball is not found in or on either of these abnormal course conditions, and it is not known or virtually certain that the ball came to rest in or on the abnormal course condition, the ball is lost and the player must take stroke and distance relief under Rule 18.2.

**9.7** Once the player puts another ball in play, the original ball is no longer in play and must not be played even if it is then found on the course before the end of the three (3) minute search time (Rule 6.3b).

**10. Garden Beds (Rule 16)**

**10.1** Cultivated garden beds are defined as no play zones in an abnormal course condition from which play is prohibited.

**10.2** If the player's ball is found in a cultivated garden bed, free relief may be taken under Rule 16.1f using the estimated point where the ball last crossed the edge of the abnormal course condition on the course as the spot of the ball for the purpose of finding the nearest point of relief.

**10.3** If the player's ball is not found in the cultivated garden bed and it is known or virtually certain that the ball came to rest in or on the abnormal course condition, free relief may be taken under Rule 16.1b using the estimated point where the ball last crossed the edge of the abnormal course condition on the course as the spot of the ball for the purpose of finding the nearest point of relief.

- 10.4** If a player's ball is not found in or on the cultivated garden bed, and it is not known or virtually certain that the ball came to rest in or on the abnormal course condition, the ball is lost and the player must take stroke and distance relief under Rule 18.2.
- 10.5** Once the player puts another ball in play, the original ball is no longer in play and must not be played even if it is then found on the course before the three (3) minute search time (Rule 6.3b).
- 10.6** If a player's ball is at rest outside a cultivated garden bed in the general area, and the garden bed interferes with the player's stance or area of intended swing, the player must take free relief under Rule 16.1b.
- 11. Protection of Young Trees (Rule 16)**
- 11.1** Young trees which are staked or guarded are defined as no play zones.
- 11.2** 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, stake or guard interferes with the player's stance or area of intended swing, the player **must** take free relief under Rule 16.1f.
- 12. Tree Roots in the Fairway (Rule 16)**
- 12.1** If a player's ball is at rest in a portion of the general area cut to fairway height or less and there is interference from exposed tree roots that are in part of the general area cut to fairway height or less, the tree roots are treated as ground under repair and the player may take free relief under Rule 16.1b.
- 13. Preferred Lies – When Authorised by the Match and Handicap Committee**
- 13.1** When a player's ball lies in a part of the general area cut to fairway height of less, the player may take free relief once by placing the original ball or another ball in and playing it one (1) scorecard length from the spot of the original ball, not nearer the hole and in the general area.
- 14. Cleaning the Ball - When Authorised by the Match and Handicap Committee**
- 14.1** When a player's ball has mud stuck to it and the ball lies in a part of the general area cut to fairway height or less, the ball may be lifted, cleaned and replaced without penalty. The player must mark the spot before lifting the ball (Rule 14.1) and the ball must be replaced on its original spot (Rule 14.2).

**PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE**  
**Match Play – Loss of hole : Stroke Play – Two Strokes**