



**NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT GOLF ASSOCIATION**  
**86<sup>th</sup> LADIES' ANNUAL OPEN AMATEUR**  
**THREE-DAY TOURNAMENT**  
**LOCAL RULES**



**1. General**

- 1.1** The following New England District Golf Association Tournament Local Rules supersede those previously published. These Local Rules must be read in conjunction with the Rules of Golf Effective January 2023.

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

- 2.1** Distance markers, hoops, bollards, ropes, protective screens, tee banners, penalty area stakes, abnormal course condition stakes, posts (excluding out of bounds posts) and signs are defined as immoveable obstructions and **must not be removed**.
- 2.2** 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 by dropping the ball within one (1) club length of the nearest point of complete relief from the immoveable obstruction, but no nearer the hole.

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

- 3.1** All roads and artificially surfaced paths on the course are defined as immoveable obstructions.
- 3.2** When a player's ball is at rest in the general area and a road or artificially surfaced path interferes with a player's stance or area of intended swing, free relief may be taken by dropping the ball within one (1) club length of the nearest point of complete relief from the road or path, but no nearer the hole.

**4. Greenkeeper's Shed (Rule 16)**

- 4.1** The area marked by white stakes near the greenkeeper's shed is defined as an abnormal course condition.
- 4.2** If the player's ball is found in the abnormal course condition, the player has these relief options:
- The player may take free relief by dropping the ball within one (1) club length of the nearest point of complete relief, but no nearer the hole; or
  - As an extra option, the player may take free relief by dropping the original ball or another ball in dropping zone located between the road on the 12<sup>th</sup> fairway and the practice nets.
- 4.3** If a player's ball is not found in or on the abnormal course condition, and it is known or virtually certain that the ball came to rest in or on the abnormal course condition, the player has these relief options:
- The player may take free relief by dropping the ball within one (1) club length of the nearest point of complete relief, no nearer the hole using the estimated point where the ball last crossed the line of white stakes on the course as the spot of the ball for the purpose of finding the nearest point of relief. Once a player puts another ball in play to take relief under this option, the original ball is no longer in play and must not be played even if then found on the course before the end of the three (3) minute search time.
  - As an extra option, the player may take free relief by dropping a ball in dropping zone located between the road on the 12<sup>th</sup> fairway and the practice nets.

- 4.4 If a player's ball is not found in or on the abnormal course condition, 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 by adding one (1) penalty stroke and playing another ball from where the previous stroke was made.

## 5. Waste Vegetation and Soil Storage Area (Rule 16)

- 5.1 The waste vegetation and soil storage areas marked by white stakes on the left of the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> fairways are defined as an abnormal course condition.
- 5.2 If the player's ball is found in the abnormal course condition, the player may take free relief by dropping the ball within one (1) club length of the nearest point of complete relief from the abnormal course condition, but no nearer the hole.
- 5.3 If the player's ball is not found in or on the abnormal course condition, 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 using the estimated point where the ball last crossed the line of white stakes at 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 and dropping a ball within one (1) club length of the nearest point of complete relief from the abnormal course condition, but no nearer the hole.
- 5.4 Once a player puts another ball in play to take relief, the original ball is no longer in play and must not be played even if then found on the course before the end of the three (3) minute search time.
- 5.5 If a player's ball is not found in or on the abnormal course condition, 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 by adding one (1) penalty stroke and playing another ball from where the previous stroke was made.

## 6. Fixed Sprinkler Heads Close to a Putting Green (Rule 16)

- 6.1 Fixed sprinkler heads close to a putting green are defined as immovable obstructions and free relief may be taken.
- 6.2 As an extra option, the player may take relief if the player's ball is in the general area and a sprinkler head:
- is on the line of play and is,
  - within two (2) club-lengths of the putting green and is,
  - within two (2) club-lengths of the ball.
- 6.3 Complete relief must be taken, which includes both physical and line of play interference.
- 6.4 **Exception.** There is no relief under this Local Rule if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable.

## 7. Garden Beds (Rule 16)

- 7.1 Cultivated garden beds are defined as no play zones in an abnormal course condition from which play is prohibited.
- 7.2 If the player's ball is found in a cultivated garden bed, free relief may be taken 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 and dropping a ball within one (1) club length of the nearest point of complete relief from the abnormal course condition, but no nearer the hole.
- 7.3 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 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 and dropping a ball within one (1) club length of the nearest point of complete relief from the abnormal course condition, but no nearer the hole. Once a player puts another ball in play to take relief under the option, 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.

- 7.4** 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 by adding one (1) penalty stroke and playing another ball from where the previous stroke was made.
- 7.5** 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 by dropping a ball within one (1) club length of the nearest point of complete relief from the garden bed, but no nearer the hole.

## **8. Protection of Young Trees (Rule 16)**

- 8.1** Trees which are staked or guarded are defined as no play zones.
- 8.2** 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 by dropping a ball within one (1) club length of the nearest point of complete relief from the no play zone, but no nearer the hole.

## **9. Tree Roots in the Fairway (Rule 16)**

- 9.1** 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 dropping a ball within one (1) club length of the nearest point of complete relief from the exposed tree roots, but no nearer the hole.

## **10. Preferred Lies – When Authorised by the Match and Handicap Committee**

- 10.1** When a player's ball lies in a part of the general 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 it within one (1) scorecard length from the spot of the original ball, no nearer the hole and in the general area.

## **11. Cleaning the Ball - When Authorised by the Match and Handicap Committee**

- 11.1** 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 and the ball must be replaced on its original spot.

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

- 12.1** 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, for **one (1) penalty stroke**.
- 12.2** 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, for **one (1) penalty stroke**.

### **13. Bare Area on a Putting Green (Rule 16)**

- 13.1** A bare area on a putting green is an abnormal course condition defined as ground under repair.
- 13.2** When a player's ball at rest lies in or touches the ground under repair, the player may take free relief by placing the original ball and playing it within one (1) scorecard length from the nearest point of complete relief, no nearer the hole, and must either be on the putting green or in the general area.
- 13.3** Relief is not allowed if the ground under repair only interferes with the player's stance.

#### **PENALTY FOR BREACH OF A LOCAL RULE – GENERAL PENALTY**

**Match Play – Loss of hole**

**Stroke Play – Two strokes**