

LOCAL RULES – COMPETITION PLAY

These Local Rules are in effect for all competitions and are to be read in conjunction with the Rules of Golf.

1. BALL OUT OF BOUNDS (Rule 18.2a)

A ball is out of bounds when **all of it** lies beyond any fence, wall or hedge defining the boundary of the course, or beyond the direct line between white stakes.

Out of bounds is defined by the **inside edge at ground level** of any fence, wall, hedge or white stakes and extends vertically upward and downward.

2. PENALTY AREAS (Rule 17)

a) Penalty areas are marked by red or yellow stakes or lines.

Where both are present, **the line defines the margin.**

The margin is defined at ground level and extends vertically upward and downward.

Stakes defining a penalty area are **movable obstructions.**

b) Bridges and artificially surfaced paths within penalty areas are integral objects.

Free relief is **not allowed.**

3. ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS (Rule 16.1)

Including Immovable Obstructions

a) Immovable Obstructions

Free relief may be taken anywhere on the course, except in a penalty area, under Rule 16.1 from:

- Fairway distance markers
 - Artificial surfaces
 - Ball washers
 - Winter tee boxes
 - Rubbish bins
 - Benches and bases
 - Manhole covers and drains
 - Artificial hole covers
 - Fixed and pop-up sprinkler heads
 - Irrigation house (5th hole) & Shelter base (13th hole)
 - Fence right of 18th tee
 - Sides of paths and tracks
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b) Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Greens

(Model Local Rule F-5)

When a ball lies in the general area, free relief may be taken if an immovable obstruction:

- Is on the player's line of play.
- is within two club-lengths of the putting green and within two club-lengths of the ball.

Relief is under Rule 16.1b.

c) Protective Fence – 17th & 18th Holes

(Model Local Rule E-6)

If the protective fence interferes with a player's line of play when playing the 17th or 18th hole, free relief may be taken at the nearest point of relief, no nearer the hole, on either side of the fence.

d) Ground Under Repair (GUR) (Rule 16.1)

The following are GUR:

- Areas defined by white lines
- Areas surrounded by stakes and ropes
- Areas marked with GUR signs
- Deep ruts made by a tractor or other heavy machinery
- Declared drainage channels

Free relief may be taken under Rule 16.1.

4. NO PLAY ZONES (Rule 16.1f)

Relief MUST Be Taken

The following are No Play Zones:

- Areas marked with white lines and/or stakes and ropes and NPZ signs
- Young protected trees
- Newly turfed areas
- Seeded areas
- Temporary greens

Relief **must** be taken under Rule 16.1f, or Rule 17.1e when ball is in penalty area.

5. TEMPORARY LOCAL RULES

Temporary Local Rules will be displayed online and on official noticeboards.

6. PENALTY FOR BREACH OF A LOCAL RULE

Match Play: Loss of hole

Stroke Play: General Penalty (Two Strokes)