



Local Rules

Alternative to Stroke and Distance for Out of Bounds or Lost Ball:

Defined by the nearest inside points of white stakes or fence posts at ground level. When out of bounds is defined by a white line on the ground, the line itself is out of bounds.

When a player's ball has not been found or is *unknown or virtually certain* to be *out of bounds*, for **two penalty strokes**, the player may take relief by *dropping* the original ball or another ball in the relief area as defined in rule 14.3.

Two Estimated Reference Points:

- a. **Ball Reference Point:** The point where the original ball is estimated to have:
 - a. Come to rest on the *course*, or
 - b. Last crossed the edge of the *course* boundary to go *out of bounds*
- b. **Fairway Reference Point:** The point of fairway of the *hole* being played that is nearest to the ball reference point, **but** is not nearer the *hole* than the ball reference point.

For purposes of this Local Rule, “fairway” means any area of grass in the *general area* that is cut to fairway height or less. If a ball is estimated to be lost on the course or last crossed the edge of the course boundary short of the fairway, the fairway reference point may be a grass path or a teeing ground for the hole being played cut to fairway height or less.

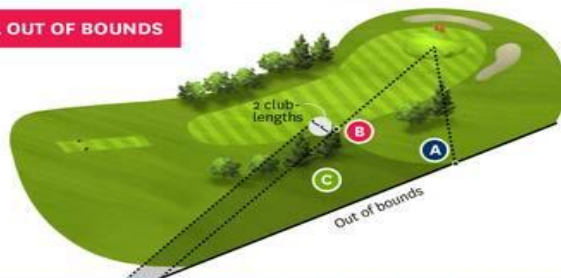
Size of Relief Area Based on Reference Points: Anywhere between:

- A line from the *hole* through the ball reference point (and within two *club-lengths* to the outside of that line), and
- A line from the *hole* through the fairway reference point (and within two *club-lengths* to the fairway side of that line).

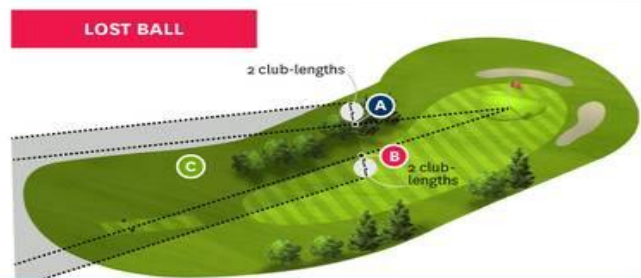
GOLF'S NEW RULES: STROKE AND DISTANCE

A new Local Rule provides an alternative to stroke-and-distance relief for a ball that is lost outside a penalty area or out of bounds, effective January 1, 2019.

BALL OUT OF BOUNDS



LOST BALL



If the Local Rule is in effect, you can still take stroke-and-distance relief, but you now have the following additional option that comes with a penalty of two strokes:

A DETERMINE SPOT where your ball went out of bounds (left diagram) or is likely to be lost (right diagram).

B FIND NEAREST FAIRWAY EDGE no closer to the hole.

C DROP YOUR BALL IN SHADED AREA as defined on one side by a line from the hole through point A and on the other side by a line from the hole through point B, and not nearer the hole. The relief area is extended on both sides by two club-lengths.

This Local Rule is not intended for higher levels of play, such as professional or elite amateur level competitions.



Local Rules

New Trees

Free relief from newly planted trees. Newly planted trees are considered trees with stakes, ribbons, or below the standard length of a driver. Nearest point of relief. No closer to the hole.

Pea Gravel on Golf Course:

The pea gravel areas between fairways where the grass has not grown in, are being played as Ground Under Repair (GUR), also called Abnormal Ground Conditions according to Rule 16.1.

- Interference by the Abnormal Ground Condition (pea gravel) with the player's stance is deemed not to be, of itself, interference under this local rule.
- The nearest point of relief will be deemed to be any surface through the green, no closer to the hole, where the ball can rest without touching the Abnormal Ground Condition (pea gravel).

The intention is that the player may lift, clean and place the golf ball on a grass or dirt area close to where the ball originally came to rest, **without** taking it back to their respective fairway.

Ant Hills:

Ant hills will be deemed to be an "Abnormal Ground Condition" as defined by Rule 16.1

Stones in Bunkers:

Stones in bunkers are movable obstructions (Rule 15.1 applies).

Summer Rules:

Summer Rules are in effect when conditions permit. Proshop will post date seasonally. Ball to be played as it lies tee to green with the exception of relief for pea gravel.

Immovable Obstructions:

(Rule 24-2) Free relief from all logs, outhouses, pump house, sprinkler control boxes and sprinkler heads - Relief is granted only when there is interference with stance or swing. A player shall drop at the nearest point of relief within one club-length. (Not in a hazard or on a putting green and no nearer the hole)

Obstructions:

(Rule 24-1) Free relief from all flowerbeds - A player shall, upon discovery of their ball, drop at the nearest point of relief within one club-length of the point of relief. (No closer to the hole)



Local Rules

Roads and Pathways:

All artificially surfaced roads and pathways are considered dangerous and relief without penalty may be taken - A player shall drop within one club-length of the nearest point of relief. (Not in a hazard or on a putting green and no nearer the hole)

Temporary Immovable Obstruction:

When playing # 7, if a player's swing, stance or line of sight are interfered with by the fence alongside # 7 green, a player may elect to drop his/her ball in the drop area provided behind # 7 green.

Ground Under Repair:

Areas enclosed by white lines are ground under repair. The white lines are in the GUR. French Drains (if gravel can be seen or felt by probing), trenches filled with rock, stones or the like are ground under repair whether or not marked.

Driving Range and Clubhouse:

Out of bounds.

Applicable rules are recommended when playing competitive golf, sanctioned events, and for accurate handicap tracking.

Golf Activities Committee.