
The Rules of the United States Golf Association govern play.

Abnormal Ground Conditions

- Ground Under Repair** Areas marked with white paint are ground under repair and relief without penalty is available pursuant to Rule 25-1. Staked trees and French drains on the course should be played as ground under repair. Newly mulched areas are considered ground under repair only if white lines are present. Newly-sodded areas are ground under repair and mandatory relief must be taken even if white lines are not present. During the winter months, temporary hole plugs on putting greens are ground under repair.
- Embedded Ball** Through the green, i.e., not in a hazard, a ball that is embedded in its own pitch-mark may be lifted without penalty, cleaned and dropped as near as possible to where it lay but not nearer the hole.
- Flower Beds** Maintained flower beds on the courses are ground under repair. If a player's ball lies in the area, or it interferes with the player's stance or area of his intended swing, the player may take relief under Rule 25-1.
- Edging Grooves** If a ball lies in or on an edging groove around the putting green, or if the groove interferes with the area of the player's intended swing, the ball may, without penalty, be lifted, cleaned, and placed in the nearest position to where it lay that is not nearer the hole and avoids interference by the condition, whether on or off the putting green.

Course Boundaries

The out of bounds line is determined by the nearest inside (course side) points of white stakes or fence posts at ground level. Fence posts determine the out of bounds line on portions of the following holes: Deer Creek Hole Nos. 4, 6, 15 & 16; Magnolia Hole Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 11 & 13.

Any ball which lies on, or crosses over an artificially surfaced road, is out of bounds, even though it may lie on another part of the golf course.

On the following holes, the opposite margin of the lateral water hazard is defined by the water's edge: Deer Creek Hole Nos. 5, 8 and 14; Magnolia Hole Nos. 5, 6, 8, 16, 17 and 18; Oakridge Hole Nos. 7, 13 and 18; Palmetto Hole Nos. 2, 5, 6, 14, 17 and 18; and Plantation Hole Nos. 2, 6, 14 and 17. On these holes, the water's edge is also the course boundary. A ball which comes to rest beyond the water's edge is out of bounds.

Dangerous Situations

Under equity a player is permitted, without penalty, to drop a ball within one club-length and not nearer the hole than the nearest spot not nearer the hole which is not dangerous when confronted with a dangerous situation such as an alligator, snake or fire ants (Rule 1-4). If the ball is in a hazard, the ball must be dropped in the same hazard or if not possible, in a similar nearby hazard. In either case, the ball must be dropped in the hazard not nearer the hole. If it is not possible for the player to drop the ball in the hazard, he may drop it, under penalty of one stroke, outside the hazard, keeping the point where the ball lay between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped.

- Lightning** In the event of lightning in the area, the ThorGuard system will emit a continuous 15 second horn blast to warn golfers to vacate the course. When it is safe to resume play, the ThorGuard System will emit three (3) successive 5 second horn blasts.

Distance Measuring Devices

Distance measuring devices may be used to determine distances. However, the use of devices that gauge or measure other conditions that might affect a player's play (e.g. wind, temperature, or elevation changes) are not permitted.

Mole Crickets

Casts or heaps made by mole crickets are considered loose impediments and may be removed through the green. On the putting green, they may be removed or tamped down.

Obstructions

- Cart Paths** All concrete or asphalt surfaced paths are immovable obstructions and relief without penalty is available pursuant to Rule 24-2. On the other hand, coquina and crushed limestone areas are not immovable obstructions, but are "through the green" which means that you may ground your club when addressing the ball, but no relief without penalty is permitted from such areas, e.g., the coquina cart paths on Plantation Hole No. 14, Marshwood Hole Nos. 12, 13 and 17, and Magnolia Hole No. 18, and the crushed limestone areas around trees for landscaping.
- Electric Fences** Electric fences located within the course boundaries are immovable obstructions. Relief without penalty is available pursuant to Rule 24-2.
- Railroad Ties** The railroad ties bordering the coquina cart path on Plantation Hole No.14 are immovable obstructions. Relief without penalty is available pursuant to Rule 24-2, but you will be dropping your ball on the coquina cart path.

Obstructions (cont.)

Sprinkler Heads Near Putting Greens	Relief from interference by an immovable obstruction may be taken under Rule 24-2. In addition, if a ball lies off the putting green but not in a hazard and an immovable obstruction on or within two club-lengths of the putting green and within two club-lengths of the ball intervenes on the line of play between the ball and the hole, the player may take relief as follows: The ball must be lifted and dropped at the nearest point to where the ball lay that (a) is not nearer the hole, (b) avoids intervention and (c) is not in a hazard or on a putting green
Stone Fences	The stone fences, outlined with blue paint and marking the gravesites on Oakridge Hole No. 15 and Palmetto Hole No. 13, are immovable obstructions. Relief without penalty is available pursuant to Rule 24-2. As an additional relief option, the ball may be dropped within the nearby Dropping Zones. <i>Relief is mandatory if the ball lies within either gravesite.</i>
Stones in Bunkers	Stones in bunkers are movable obstructions and may be removed pursuant to Rule 24-1.
Wooden Fences	The wooden fences surrounding the gravesites on Oakridge Hole No. 15 and Palmetto Hole No. 13 are immovable obstructions. Relief without penalty is available pursuant to Rule 24-2. Relief without penalty may also be taken using the nearby Dropping Zones.
Wooden Steps	The steps in the bunkers on Oakridge Hole Nos. 3 and 18 are immovable obstructions, and relief without penalty is available pursuant to Rule 24-2 by dropping the ball in the bunker within one club-length of the nearest point of relief no closer to the hole. Under penalty of one stroke, the ball may be dropped outside the bunker pursuant to Rule 24-2(ii)(b).

Preferred Lies

When conditions warrant that preferred lies are necessary, a “winter rules” sign will be posted. If a player’s ball lies on a closely mown area through the green, the player may mark, lift, and clean his ball without penalty. Before lifting, he must mark the position of the ball. The player must then place the ball on a spot within one club length of and not nearer the hole than where it originally lay, that is not in a hazard or on a putting green. A player may place his ball only once and it is in play when it has been placed (Rule 20-4). If the ball fails to come to rest on the spot on which it was placed, Rule 20-3d applies. If the ball, when placed comes to rest on the spot on which it was placed and it subsequently moves, there is no penalty and the ball must be played as it lies, unless the provisions of another Rule apply. If the player fails to mark the position of the ball before lifting it or moves the ball in any other manner, such as rolling it with a club, he incurs a penalty of one stroke.

Waste Areas

The waste areas located on right side of the fairways on Oakridge Hole No. 6 and Palmetto Hole No. 7, the left side of Palmetto Hole No. 14, the left side of Deer Creek Hole No. 9 and the right side of Deer Creek Hole No. 18, are not hazards. These areas, as well as any coquina or crushed limestone covered areas, such as those on Plantation No. 6, Oakridge No. 15, and Marshwood Nos. 12 and 13 are considered through the green, i.e., there is no relief without penalty, and you may ground your club at address and you may remove loose impediments.

Water Hazards & Lateral Water Hazards

Water hazards are defined by yellow lines and identified by yellow stakes.

Lateral water hazards are defined by red lines and identified by red stakes.

In the absence of stakes and/or lines, the margin of the water hazard is defined by the break in the slope of the ground.

See Course Boundaries for locations where the opposite margin of a lateral water hazard is defined by the water’s edge.

At certain locations where it may be difficult to drop a ball without dropping closer to the hole, Dropping Zones have been provided on the following holes: Palmetto Hole No. 18 (located back left of the green); Oakridge Hole Nos. 7 and 15 (located back left of the green).

A ball may be played provisionally for a ball which may be in a salt marsh and it is impracticable to determine whether the ball is in the salt marsh, or to do so would unduly delay play. If the player elects to play a ball provisionally and the original ball is found in the salt marsh, the player has only two options: (1) play the original ball as it lies, or (2) abandon the original ball and continue play with the ball played provisionally. The player may not proceed under Rule 26-1.

RULES COMMITTEE

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