

The Rules of the United States Golf Association govern play.

Abnormal Course Conditions

Ground Under Repair Areas marked with white paint are ground under repair and relief without penalty is available pursuant to Rule 16.1. 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. Temporary hole plugs on putting greens are ground under repair.

Flower Beds The flower beds around the Deer Creek clubhouse 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 must take relief under Rule 16.1.

Edging Grooves The edging grooves around the aprons or fringes of putting greens are ground under repair. If a player's ball lies in or touches a groove or a groove interferes with the area of intended swing:

- a. Ball in General Area on Deer Creek. The player may take free relief under Rule 16.1b.
 - b. Ball on the Putting Green. The player may take free relief under Rule 16.1d.
- But interference does not exist if the edging groove only interferes with the player's stance.

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 red penalty area is defined by the water's edge: Deer Creek Hole Nos. 5 and 8; 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. A ball which comes to rest beyond the water's edge is out of bounds.

Lightning Prediction System

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.

Mole Crickets

Casts or heaps made by insects such as mole crickets or worms are considered loose impediments and may be removed in the general area. 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 16.1. On the other hand, coquina and crushed limestone areas are not immovable obstructions, but are integral objects 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. 9, and the crushed limestone areas around trees for landscaping.

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 16.1, but you may be dropping your ball on the coquina cart path.

Sprinkler Heads Near Putting Greens Relief from interference by an immovable obstruction may be taken under Rule 16.1. The player also has these extra options to take relief when such immovable obstructions are close to the putting green and on the line of play:

- Ball in General Area. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b if an immovable obstruction is:
- On the line of play, and is:
 - Within two club-lengths of the putting green, and
 - Within two club-lengths of the ball.

Exception – No Relief If Line of Play Clearly Unreasonable. There is no relief under this Local Rule if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable.

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 16.1. As an additional relief option, the ball may be dropped within the nearby Dropping Zones. Relief is mandatory if the ball lies within either gravesite.

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 16.1. 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 16.1 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 16.1c (2).

Preferred Lies (Winter Rules)

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 from this relief area:

- Reference Point: Spot of the original ball.
- Size of Relief Area Measured from Reference Point: One club-length from the reference point, but with these limits:
- Limits on Location of Relief Area:
 - Must not be nearer the hole than the reference point, and
 - Must be in the general area.

In proceeding under this Local Rule, the player must choose a spot to place the ball and use the procedures for replacing a ball under Rules 14.2b(2) and 14.2e.

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 bunkers. 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 integral objects and there is no relief without penalty. Players may ground their club at address and may remove loose impediments.

Penalty Areas Yellow penalty areas are defined by yellow lines and identified by yellow stakes. Red penalty areas are defined by red lines and identified by red stakes. In the absence of stakes and/or lines, the margin of the penalty area is defined by the break in the slope of the ground.

See Course Boundaries for locations where the opposite margin of a red penalty area 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).

If a player does not know whether his or her ball is in a salt marsh penalty area the player may play a provisional ball under Rule 18.3, which is modified in this way:

In playing the provisional ball, the player may use the stroke-and-distance relief option (see Rule 17.1d(1)), the back-on-the-line relief option (see Rule 17.1d(2)) or, if it is a red penalty area, the lateral relief option (see Rule 17.1d(3)). If a dropping zone is available for this penalty area, the player may also use that relief option.

Once the player has played a provisional ball under this Rule, he or she may not use any further options under Rule 17.1 in relation to the original ball.

In deciding when that provisional ball becomes the player's ball in play or if it must or may be abandoned, Rule 18.3c(2) and 18.3c(3) apply except that:

- When Original Ball Is Found in Penalty Area Within Three-Minute Search Time. The player may choose either to:
 - Continue to play the original ball as it lies in the penalty area, in which case the provisional ball must not be played. All strokes with that provisional ball before it was abandoned (including strokes made and any penalty strokes solely from playing that ball) do not count, or
 - Continue to play the provisional ball in which case the original ball must not be played.
- When Original Ball Is Not Found Within Three-Minute Search Time or Is Known or Virtually Certain to Be in Penalty Area. The provisional ball becomes the player's ball in play.

Alternative to Stroke and Distance For Lost Ball or Ball Out of Bounds When a player's ball has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds, the player may proceed as follows rather than proceeding under stroke and distance. For two penalty strokes, the player may take relief by dropping the original ball or another ball in this relief area (see Rule 14.3):

Two Estimated Reference Points:

- Ball Reference Point: The point where the original ball is estimated to have:
 - Come to rest on the course, or
 - Last crossed the edge of the course boundary to go out of bounds.
- 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).

But with these limits:

Limits on Location of Relief Area:

- Must be in the general area, and
- Must not be nearer the hole than the ball reference point.

Once the player puts a ball in play under this Local Rule:

- The original ball that was lost or out of bounds is no longer in play and must not be played.
- This is true even if the ball is found on the course before the end of the three-minute search time (see Rule 6.3b).

But the player may not use this option to take relief for the original ball when:

- That ball is known or virtually certain to have come to rest in a penalty area, or
- The player has played another ball provisionally under penalty of stroke and distance (see Rule 18.3).

A player may use this option to take relief for a provisional ball that has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds.

RULES COMMITTEE

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