

## **THE USGA RULES OF GOLF SHALL GOVERN ALL PLAY WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FOLLOWING LOCAL RULES**

**Embedded Ball:** Anywhere “through the Green” a ball which is embedded in its own pitch mark in the ground may be lifted without penalty, cleaned and dropped as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the hole. “Through the Green”, now called “General Area”, is the whole area from the Tee to the Putting Surface, except all Bunkers and Hazards.

**The Boundaries of the Water Hazards:** All Water Hazards are defined as Lateral Water Hazards and marked with Red Stakes or Red Painted Lines. If the ball lies in or touches the Hazard, it is in the Hazard. Cypress trees on hole #8 are considered a lateral hazard. If a player is unsure if the ball is in or out of the hazard the player may hit a provisional ball from the tee or the drop area. If the original ball is found outside the hazard line that ball must be played. If the ball is found inside the hazard line the player has the option to play the original ball or the provisional ball.

**Lateral Water Hazard and Red Stake Area Options (including Holes 5 & 13):** If the ball is hit into or comes to rest in the Lateral Water Hazard, now called “Penalty Areas”, the player has the following options with a one stroke penalty:

1. Player may hit another ball from where the original ball was hit, or
2. Player may drop a ball within two club lengths from the “last point of entry” (where the ball last crossed the Hazard Boundary), but not nearer the hole or,
3. Player may take a drop as far back as she likes keeping the point of entry and the pin in a straight line.
4. Player may go to the drop area if one is provided.

Player may play the ball as it lies from the hazard without penalty. (Player may ground the club or move loose impediments in a penalty area)

**Out of Bounds:** Out of Bounds defined by White Stakes, White Lines and/or the street curbs (on #6, #7 & #12). On Hole #3 Out of Bounds is the far-right edge of the cart path. No Penalty if the original ball is “In Bounds”. If any part of the ball is on the course, it is not out of bounds.

Options under a one stroke penalty:

1. Tee Shots: Player may re-tee and hit again from the tee
2. All other “Out of Bounds” shots must be played from where the original ball was last hit.

Option under a two-stroke penalty:

Player may take a two-stroke penalty and drop in the fairway from a position no closer to the pin from where the ball last crossed the OB stakes and two club lengths.

However, if a provisional ball has been played, the player cannot use the two-shot penalty drop in the fairway.

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**Drop Areas:** Player may only use the drop areas when you have hit a ball into a lateral hazard. Player may place the ball.

**Lost Ball:** Go back to where ball was hit from and take a one stroke penalty. Player may choose to hit a provisional ball.

**Coquina Shell Cart Paths:** Free Relief, one club length from nearest point of relief and no closer to the hole. NO Penalty.

**Flower beds and new plantings:** All flower beds are to be played as ground under repair, nearest point of relief no closer to the hole and one club length (No Penalty) This includes the plantings on the right side of the cart path on #18, flower bed right of the green behind the bunker on #17, all plantings on the left side of the fairway on #16 and #13 beyond the green, and the flower bed to the right side of #12 green.

**Pine Straw:** Free relief from pine straw, one club length from nearest point of relief and no closer to the hole without penalty, if it is **not in a hazard**. If ball is in a hazard, hazard rules apply.

**Ball lost in Fairway:** If all in group agree that the ball is lost in the fairway in an area where conditions of soft mud or casual water exist and the ball is assumed to be embed the player may drop another ball without penalty as near as possible to the agreed location but not nearer to the hole.

Holes that are roped off tee to green are **CART PATH ONLY**, you will be allowed to lift, clean and place the ball (within 6 inches of the original lie) not nearer to the hole. All other times, you must play the ball as it lies.

**Unusually Wet Areas:** There are a few areas that stay wet year-round (Example #1, #3, #10, #11, #15, #16, #17, & #18). When a ball is hit into an area where there is no casual water, but the area is soft/muddy the player may move the ball during league play with consent from the other players in the group (if it is outside red or white stakes) to an area no closer to the hole where the ground is firm/normal, without penalty.

**Doubt as to procedure:** During a round a player may announce that she is going to play a second ball in case there is doubt on a ruling or local rule situation. The player must score both balls and then get a ruling from the rules committee before signing the card.

**Withdrawal** from an event, disqualifies you from the Event, Birdies, and Closest to the Pin. In Championship Play, if a player cannot play on the scheduled day, the match will be forfeited.

## RULE 16.1 ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITIONS (INCLUDING IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS)

General Area - If a man-made object (cart path, electrical equipment, OB stakes, etc.), an animal hole, ground under repair or temporary water interferes with your stance or swing, you may take relief with no penalty through the green. There is no relief from line of flight (exception: hole #7 electrical box for safety).

If you take relief:

Lift and drop the ball within one club length of the nearest point of complete relief and:

1. must not be nearer the hole
2. must be complete relief from all interference of the abnormal course condition
3. must be in the general area, not in a hazard or on a putting green

On the Green – interference with stance or line of putt: Player may take free relief by placing original ball on the spot of nearest point of complete relief, either on the putting area or in the general area.

In a Bunker – No penalty, but nearest point of relief and relief area must be in the bunker. For a one stroke penalty, player may drop the ball in a relief area outside the bunker based on a reference line going straight back from the hole through the original spot of the ball.

## RULE 19 UNPLAYABLE BALL

Player has the right to declare any ball unplayable except in a penalty area- 1 stroke penalty

Player can lift, clean and:

1. Play a ball, as nearly as possible, at the spot from which the original ball was hit, OR;
2. Drop within 2 club lengths, no closer to the hole, OR;
3. Keeping the playable lie (ball) between you and the hole, go back as far as you wish on a straight line, drop and play the ball.

If unplayable ball is in Bunker (sand trap), ball must be dropped and played from the Bunker if clause 'b' or 'c' is elected, OR with a 2-stroke penalty, keeping the playable lie (ball) between you and the hole, go back as far as you wish on a straight line outside of the bunker, drop and play the ball.

## THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. All strokes must be counted and recorded as gross score.
2. No moving the ball except for ant hills, sprinkler heads, or alligators (free relief), see Rule 16.1. PLAY BALL AS IT LIES, unless you declare an unplayable lie, then Rule 19 applies.
3. All putts must be holed out. No “Gimmies”. If you pick up in any game event, you are out of play.
4. Playing wrong ball- 2 stroke penalty.
5. All scores must be signed, adjusted, attested, dated and posted by the captain. All Birdies must be circled. The card is then turned-in to Pro Shop.
6. When you drop a ball, you drop from knee height and play it as it lies. You do not place the ball. Re-drop per USGA rule 14.3.
7. **Do Not** ground club in Bunker – 2 stroke penalty. There is no penalty for touching the sand incidentally or when removing loose impediment.
8. There is no casual water in Water Hazards, which are marked with red stakes.
9. If you are using a handicap flag, follow instructions as established by the Golf Committee,
10. There is no penalty if a player accidentally moves the ball during a search or on the putting green.
11. There is no penalty if a player accidentally hits the ball more than once during a stroke.
12. There is no penalty if a ball played from the putting green hits an unattended flag stick in the hole.
13. A player may repair almost any damage (including spike marks and animal damage but not natural imperfections) on the putting green and there is no penalty for merely touching the line of putt.
14. Club length used in measuring relief is defined as the longest club the player has during the round, other than a putter.

## **MAXIMUM HOLE SCORE FOR HANDICAP PURPOSES**

As of January 2020, the USGA has revised the way you must adjust your score for posting purposes.

The maximum hole score for each player is limited to a **NET DOUBLE BOGEY** – calculated as follows:

Double Bogey (2 strokes over par) + handicap strokes a player receives based on their course handicap for that hole.

If you are not sure how to calculate: When inputting your score into the computer, use the “Post Hole by Hole” tab. – The computer will automatically adjust according to your handicap.

**REMEMBER:** This adjusted score has nothing to do with your Tournament score, gross and net. **ADJUSTED SCORE IS FOR POSTING ONLY.**