

**HERON LAKES MEN'S CLUB LOCAL RULES
AND RULES REMINDERS**

(Adopted by the Board 3/27/13; and as modified by the Board: 4/24/13; 5/29/13; 2/26/14)

In addition to the USGA Rules of Golf, the following local rules apply in all Men's Club play, including tournaments.

PERMANENT LOCAL RULES

(In Effect At All Times)

1. Water Hazards; Ball Played Provisionally Under Rule 26-1.

If there is doubt whether a ball is in or is lost in a water hazard, the player may play another ball provisionally under any of the applicable options in Rule 26-1 (regarding the place from which the next shot may be played after a ball is lost in a water hazard), including from any dropping zone.

If the original ball is found outside the water hazard, the player must continue play with it.

If the original ball is found in the water hazard, the player may either play the original ball as it lies or continue with the ball played provisionally under Rule 26-1.

If the original ball is not found or identified within the five-minute search period, the player must continue with the ball played provisionally.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE:

Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.

Note: except as provided by local rule, the Rules of Golf do not allow a player to play a ball provisionally for a ball possibly lost in a water hazard. This rule allows a provision ball to be played because it often unreasonably delays play to first determine if the ball is outside the hazard, or in the hazard but playable, before playing the next shot from the tee, the red stone, etc.

2. Relief for Embedded Ball.

Through the green, a ball that is embedded in its own pitch-mark in the ground may be lifted, without penalty, cleaned and dropped as near as possible to where it lay but not nearer the hole. The ball when dropped must first strike a part of the course through the green.

Exceptions:

1. A player may not take relief under this Local Rule if the ball is embedded in sand in an area that is not closely mown.

2. A player may not take relief under this Local Rule if interference by anything other than the condition covered by this Local Rule makes the stroke clearly impracticable.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE:

Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.

Note 1: In the Rules of Golf, the embedded ball rule, Rule 25-2, applies only in “closely mown area[s],” which are areas mowed to “fairway height or less.” This local rule allows relief “through the green,” which is “the whole area of the course” except hazards and the teeing round and putting green of the hole being played.

Note 2: This rule applies year-round and is not to be confused with the seasonal “plugged ball rule” that allows a free drop for a ball *lost* in saturated turf.

3. Stones in Bunker.

Stones in bunkers are movable obstructions (and therefore may be moved under Rule 24-1).

4. Dropping Zones.

On the following holes, the dropping zone for a ball in a water hazard is the tee box that includes the red “stone” (the concrete plate designating the general teeing ground for the red tees): 3 and 16 on the Greenback course; 4 and 15 on the Great Blue course. In addition to other options available under Rule 26-1, the ball may be dropped, under penalty of one stroke, anywhere on the tee box that is not closer to the hole than the red stone.

5. Power Line on Great Blue Nos. 13, 14, 17

If a ball strikes the power line during play of the 13th, 14th or 17th hole of the Great Blue course, the stroke is canceled and the player must replay the shot from a place as near as possible to the place from which the original ball was played, in accordance with Rule 20-5 (Making Next Stroke from Where Previous Stroke Made).

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE:

Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.

6. Distance-Measuring Devices.

A player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. If, during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g., gradient, windspeed, temperature, etc.), and the player uses the device to gauge or measure such other condition, the player is in breach of Rule 14-3, for which the penalty is disqualification.

Note: Distance measuring devices violate Rule 14-3 unless there is a local rule to allow them. This local rule, approved by the Heron Lakes Men's Club Board, deviates from the form permitted by the USGA by allowing devices that also gauge or measure other conditions (e.g., a "smart phone" that also has a compass application), provided the device is not actually used to gauge or measure such other conditions. Ordinarily, even in competitions permitting distance measuring devices, a device that also could be used to gauge or measure other conditions is illegal, and using such a device will result in disqualification even if the device is not used to gauge or measure any other condition.

TEMPORARY LOCAL RULES

(In Effect Seasonally, Depending On Conditions, When Invoked By The Committee)

7. Aeration Holes.

When the Committee declares the "aeration" rule is in effect, a ball that comes to rest in or on an aeration hole, through the green, may be lifted, without penalty, cleaned and dropped, as near as possible to the spot where it lay but not nearer the hole. The ball when dropped must first strike a part of the course through the green.

On the putting green, a ball that comes to rest in or on an aeration hole may be placed at the nearest spot not nearer the hole that avoids the situation.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE:

Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.

8. Accumulation of Leaves ("Leaf Rule").

When the "leaf rule" is in effect, an accumulation of leaves in which a ball is known or virtually certain to be lost, if in an area where the ball is virtually certain to be found otherwise, is ground under repair. Rule 25-1c applies (allowing a ball to be substituted without penalty, except in a water hazard, at the point where the original ball last crossed the margin of the ground under repair). The ground under repair ends in each direction, from the location as near as possible to where the ball is believed to be lost, at the nearest point where a ball may be dropped without being entirely or partially obscured by leaves.

Note 1: If the ground under repair is in a bunker, the substituted ball generally must be dropped in the bunker. See Rule 25-1b(ii).

Note 2: If no person observed the path of the original ball that is lost, it cannot be "known or virtually certain" that the ball is lost in an accumulation of leaves. In that case, Rule 27-1 (the lost ball rule) applies.

Note 3: Ordinarily, a player should seek concurrence from other members of his group that his ball is known or virtually certain to be lost in the accumulation of leaves at a location where the ball would be virtually certain to be found otherwise.

9. Saturated Turf (“Plugged Ball Rule”).

When the “plugged-ball rule” is in effect, saturated turf that is not casual water but in which a ball is known or virtually certain to be lost, if in an area where the ball is virtually certain to be found otherwise, is ground under repair. Rule 25-1c applies (allowing a ball to be substituted without penalty, except in a water hazard, at the point where the original ball last crossed the margin of the ground under repair). The ground under repair ends in each direction, from the location as near as possible to where the ball is believed to be lost, at the nearest point where a ball may be dropped without being lost in the saturated turf.

Note 1: If the ground under repair is in a bunker, the substituted ball generally must be dropped in the bunker. See Rule 25-1b(ii).

Note 2: If no person observed the path of the original ball that is lost, it cannot be “known or virtually certain” that the ball is lost in saturated ground. In that case, Rule 27-1 (the lost ball rule) applies.

Note 3: Ordinarily, a player should seek concurrence from other members of his group that his ball is known or virtually certain to be lost in saturated ground at a location where the ball would be virtually certain to be found otherwise.

10. Winter Rules.

When “winter rules” are in effect, a ball lying through the green (everywhere in bounds except a hazard, the teeing ground of the hole being played or the green of the hole being played), and not within one club-length (using the player’s shortest club other than a putter) of the base of any tree, shrub or the like, may be lifted, without penalty, and cleaned. Before lifting the ball, the player must mark its position. Having lifted the ball, the player must place it on a spot within six inches (one club length in Wednesday games) of where it originally lay, provided that the ball may not be placed closer to the hole, in a hazard, or on a different type of surface (e.g., long grass to rough, rough to fairway, fairway to 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 is placed, Rule 20-3d applies (replace if possible without penalty). If the ball when placed comes to rest on the spot on which it is placed and it subsequently moves, there is no penalty and the ball must be played as it lies, unless the provisions of any other 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.

*PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE (except as stated above and subject to Rule 20-7 (Playing From Wrong Place)):

Match play – Loss of hole; Stroke play – Two strokes.

*If a player incurs the general penalty for a breach of this Local Rule, no additional penalty under the Local Rule is applied.

Note: The Club's "winter rules" are not the same as the USGA model local rules for playing in winter conditions, meaning that "winter rules" may mean something different at other courses and events. The model USGA rules (to be used alone or in combination) are known as the "cleaned ball" and "preferred lies" rules. The "cleaned ball" rule allows a ball to be lifted and cleaned, but requires that the ball be replaced in its original location and lie after cleaning. The "preferred lies" rule allows the ball to be lifted, cleaned and placed within a specified distance (e.g., six inches or a club length), but only if the ball is in a "closely mown" area (fairway height or shorter).

II. DESIGNATIONS UNDER RULES

The Committee.

For decisions regarding any temporary local rules in effect for an event, the Committee, as used in the Rules of Golf, is the captain or captains responsible for that day's game, or the tournament co-chairs if for a major tournament. Otherwise, the Committee is all Board members present at the time any issue arises that requires a decision by the Committee.

The Committee may consult with other knowledgeable persons as it deems appropriate.

III. RULES REMINDERS

1. If relief (under penalty of one stroke) is taken from a regular water hazards (yellow stakes), the ball must be dropped behind hazard even if the ball crossed completely over the hazard and came back. The drop for a ball in a regular water hazard (yellow stakes) is generally behind the water hazard, even if the original ball travelled to a point beyond the hazard and bounced or rolled back into the hazard. See Rule 26-1. The procedure whereby a ball is dropped within two club lengths of the point where the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard is available only for lateral water hazards (red stakes). Thus, for example, if a tee shot on Hole 4 of the Great Blue course hits the bank in front of the green outside of the hazard stakes and rolls back into the hazard, the next shot (if the ball is not played from the hazard) must be played: (a)

from the place where the original ball was played (the tee box in this case); (b) from the dropping area (the red tee box); or (c) at a point behind the hazard keeping the point where the ball last crossed the margin of hazard between the player and the hole. Also for example, if a shot played from a back bunker on Hole 4 crosses the green and goes into the hazard, the possible drop locations would be the same except that option (a) would be the bunker instead of the tee box. The same approach applies on holes 3 and 16 of the Greenback course and Hole 15 of the Great Blue course.

2. Long grass is not a lateral hazard. Although the recreational scorecard and some past tournament rules sheets have directed players to play the long grass on the Great Blue course as a lateral hazard if a ball in the long grass cannot be found, the Rules of Golf do not allow that option as a local rule. A ball lost in long grass that is not part of a water hazard marked with red or yellow stakes or lines (and meeting the definition of a water hazard) must be played as a lost ball under rule 27-1, requiring the player to play the next shot, under penalty of one stroke, from the place where the original ball was played, or to play a ball played provisionally from the place where the original ball was played.

3. Only water visible on the surface during an ordinary stance is casual water. A player may take relief from an “abnormal ground condition,” which includes “casual water.” However, to qualify as casual water, the water must be visible “before or after the player takes his stance.” That means water appearing only after a player presses his foot into the ground, with pressure in excess of the pressure resulting from a normal stance, is not casual water and is not a condition from which relief may be taken.

4. Dew is not a “loose impediment” that can be swept from the line of a putt. A player may of course move “loose impediments” on the putting green (as well as elsewhere, although the definition of “loose impediment” does not include sand or soil off the putting green). However, dew is not a “loose impediment.” Thus, sweeping dew from the line of a putt violates the rule against touching the line of a putt (Rule 16-1(a).)