

HERON LAKES MEN'S CLUB LOCAL RULES AND RULES REMINDERS

(Adopted 3/27/13; and as modified by the Board: 4/24/13; 5/29/13; 2/26/14; 1/30/19)

The USGA Rules of Golf and the Heron Lakes Course Local Rules govern all play, except when modified by the following Club Local Rules which will apply in all HLMC events.

I. PERMANENT LOCAL RULES

(In Effect At All Times)

1. Dropping Zones.

On the following holes, the dropping zone for a ball in a penalty area is the tee box that includes the yellow "stone" (the concrete plate designating the general teeing ground for the yellow tees): #3 and #16 on the Greenback course; #4 and #15 on the Great Blue course. In addition to other options available under Rule 17-1, the ball may be dropped, under penalty of one stroke, anywhere on the tee box that is not closer to the hole than the yellow stone.

2. Native Grass – Penalty Areas

On the Great Blue course, all "native grass" areas will be deemed as penalty areas. Even if not marked with stakes or lines, "native grass" is defined as including all long grass that is clearly outside of the cut lines for the normal rough. When a player's shot enters and/or is lost in a native grass area, in addition to the option of playing a provisional shot, they may choose to take relief, under a penalty of one stroke, using any of the options available under Rule 17-1.

Note: When in doubt if an area should be considered "native grass", player should seek consensus of their group. If there is still disagreement, play two balls and seek a ruling following play. Cell phones may be used to take a picture of the disputed area.

3. Power Line on Great Blue – Holes #13, #14, #17

If a ball strikes the power line during play of holes #13, #14 or #17 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 14-6 (Making Next Stroke from Where Previous Stroke Made). Note: this rule does not apply to the wooden post.

Note: Penalty for Breach of Local Rule – Match play - Loss of hole; Stroke play - Two strokes.

4. Use of Electronic Devices

During the course of a round, players are not permitted to use headphones, cell phones, portable speakers or any other electronic device to play music or watch videos. Used in such a manner, these electronic devices may both become a distraction to playing partners and may give the user a competitive advantage by providing a calming sense, helping to improve focus.

Exceptions to this rule include the allowance for cell phones to be used to:

- look up a rule/decision on the official USGA mobile app
- take a picture or record a video to document evidence during a disputed situation

Note: Penalty for Breach of Local Rule – Disqualification.

II. TEMPORARY LOCAL RULES

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

5. Aeration Holes.

When the Committee declares the “aeration” rule is in effect, a ball that comes to rest in or on an aeration hole, in the general area of the course, 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 general area of the course.

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.

Note: Penalty for Breach of Local Rule – Match play - Loss of hole; Stroke play - Two strokes.

6. 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 to be considered an “abnormal course condition” in addition to conditions defined under Rule 16-1. A ball may be substituted without penalty, except in a penalty area, at the point where the original ball last crossed the margin of the abnormal course condition. This area 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 abnormal course condition is in a bunker, the substituted ball generally must be dropped in the bunker.

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; therefore 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.

7. Winter Rules.

When “winter rules” are in effect, a ball lying in the general area of the course 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 in rough or one club length in fairway, of where it originally lay, provided that the ball may not be placed closer to the hole, in a penalty area, or on a different type of surface (e.g., long grass to rough, rough to fairway, fairway to green). Failure to mark the original spot, improper contact or movement of the ball after it has been placed and come to rest, is a violation of Rule 14-2.

Note: Penalty for Breach of Local Rule – Match play - Loss of hole; Stroke play - Two strokes

III. 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.

IV. RULES REMINDERS

1. If relief (under penalty of one stroke) is taken from a penalty area, the ball must be dropped behind penalty area even if the ball crossed completely over the penalty area and came back. The drop for a ball in a penalty area is generally behind the penalty area, even if the original ball travelled to a point beyond the penalty area and bounced or rolled back into the penalty area. See Rule 17. The procedure whereby a ball is dropped within two club lengths of the point where the ball last crossed the margin of the penalty area is available only for penalty areas. 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 penalty area stakes and rolls back into the penalty area, the next shot (if the ball is not played from the penalty area) must be played:

- from the place where the original ball was played (the tee box in this case);
- from the dropping area (the tee box of the yellow stones)
- at a point behind the penalty area keeping the point where the ball last crossed the margin of penalty area between the player and the hole.

Also for example, if a shot played from a back bunker on Hole #4 of the Great Blue, crosses the green and goes into the penalty area, the possible drop locations would be the same except that the first option 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. Only water visible on the surface during an ordinary stance is casual water. For casual water to qualify as an abnormal course condition, 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.

3. 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 throughout the rest of the course). 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 13-2)