

Local Rules

General

Out of Bounds (Rule 2.1):

Beyond any fence or hedge bounding the course.

Beyond white posts bounding the course.

Any golf ball that enters the netted driving range area is out of bounds. (Under no circumstances must a golf ball be retrieved from this area).

Posts, Netting Tracks, Paths, & Astroturf (Rule 16.1):

All artificially surfaced roads and paths are Immovable Obstructions from which relief may be taken. The posts and netting of the driving range are immovable obstructions (holes 10 & 18), You are entitled to full relief, find your reference point, find your nearest point of complete relief no nearer to the hole, drop within one club length of this point. No penalty is incurred.

Penalty Areas:

Red penalty areas are marked with red stakes (holes 5 & 18).

Ball played provisionally under Rule 6.4c or 6.4d

If the original ball is found outside the penalty area, the player must continue to play with it.

If the original ball is found in the penalty area the player may either play the original ball as it lies or continue with the ball played provisionally under Rule 6.4c or 6.4d

Relief from ball in a penalty area Rule 17.1d or play from original position where the ball was played rule 14.6.

Dropping Zones:

If a player's ball comes to rest in the penalty area on hole 5 (red staked), the ball can be played as it lies, alternatively the player may drop another ball with a penalty shot in the dropping zone. The dropping zone is classed as a relief area according to Rule 14.3.

Practicing on the courses:

Until further notice Model local rule I-1.2. Rule 5.2b is modified in this way: A player may practice on the competition courses before or between rounds (H&C Committee 07/03/2024)

Wrong Green:

Temporary greens are wrong greens when not in use and relief must be taken under Rule 13.1f.

Ground Under Repair:

If a player's ball lies in an area of "ground under repair" from which play is prohibited, or if it interferes with the player's stance or intended area of swing, the player must take relief. A deep rut, tractor mark is deemed "ground under repair" a player may take relief in accordance with Rule 16.1.

Areas where trees have been taken out are also GUR.

If the ball lies "through the green", the player must lift the ball and drop it, without penalty, within one club length of the nearest point of relief. The ball may be cleaned.

Relief for Embedded ball:

“Through the green” (Except Hazard), a ball that is embedded in its own pitch-mark in the ground may be lifted, without penalty, cleaned and placed as near as possible to where it lay but no nearer the hole.

Abnormal Ground Condition:

Areas severely damaged by non-borrowing animals will be ground under repair without marking them as such.

Rule 16.1a(3) also deals with some types of insect, animal or bird that can create damage on a golf course that can result in unreasonable playing conditions. The area does not need to be marked with white lines.

All players in the group will need to agree that an unreasonable playing surface is indeed insect or chafer grub damage, and normal GUR rules will apply.

In the general area, areas of damage caused by birds, moles, badgers, foxes and rabbits are treated as ground under repair from which relief is allowed under Rule 16.1b but interference does not exist if the damage only interferes with the player’s stance.

Winter Rules:

When a player's ball lies in a part of the general area cut to fairway height or, the player may take free relief once by placing the original ball or another ball in play and playing it from:

- The reference point, the spot where the original ball comes to rest.
- 6 inches from the reference point, but with these limits;

Limits on Location of Relief Area:

- o Must not be nearer the hole than the reference point, and
- o 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.

Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.”

Immovable Obstructions:

Out of bounds marker stakes are an integral part of the course for the hole to which they apply, but they are immovable obstructions for other holes for which relief may be taken Rule 16.

Fallen trees and dead wood are immovable obstructions for which relief may be taken Rule 16.1.

“Winter” Rules: The following are classified as immovable obstructions where Rule 16 applies:

Staked trees including trees with animal guards.

Areas where trees have been taken out are also GUR.

Shelters.

Driving range supports and netting.

Benches and seats.

Ball washers and fixed rubbish bins.

Distance markers embedded in the fairways.

Fixed sprinkler heads.

When a player's ball lies in a part of the general area cut to fairway height or, the player may take free relief once by placing the original ball or another ball in play and playing it from:

- The reference point, the spot where the original ball comes to rest.
- 6 inches from the reference point, but with these limits;

Limits on Location of Relief Area:

o Must not be nearer the hole than the reference point, and

o 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.

Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.

If a ball lies in the general area and a fixed sprinkler head is within two club-lengths of the putting green and within two club-lengths of the ball and the fixed sprinkler head intervenes on the line of play between the ball and the hole, the player may take relief under Rule 16.1b.

Under Model Local rule I-1.3 The temporary fencing installed at the rear of the 5th green to prevent the Muntjac from eating the lower shoots is classed as a Temporary Immovable Obstruction and free relief can be taken in the designated drop zone. When the temporary fence is removed, the area will return to a red staked penalty area where relief may be taken in the designated dropping zone incurring one penalty stroke.

Loose Impediments in Bunkers (Rule 12.2a):

Removing loose impediments in bunkers are Movable Obstructions (Rule 12.2a, 15.1 & 15.2).

Distance-Measuring Devices:

“The use of Distance Measuring Devices including Mobile telephones.

For all play at Bury St Edmunds Golf club 18 hole and 9 hole golf course, a player may obtain distance information by use of a distance-measuring device. If, during a competition, a player uses a distance-measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g. elevation changes, wind speed, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 4.3.

Penalty for Breach of rule 4.3.

Matchplay – Loss of hole: Stroke play – two shots. - For subsequent offence – Disqualification.

In the event of a breach between two holes, the penalty applies to the next hole.

To clarify this local rule please note the following:

As provided in the Etiquette Section, players should ensure that any electronic device taken onto the course does not distract other players.

The use of an electronic device such as a mobile phone, hand-held computer, calculator, television or radio is not of itself a breach of Rule 4.3. For example, the following uses of an electronic device during a stipulated round are not a breach of the Rules:

- Using the device for matters unrelated to golf (e.g. to call home);
- Using the device to access information on advice-related matters that was produced prior to the start of the player's round (e.g. an electronic yardage book, swing tips);
- Using the device to access (but not interpret or process) playing information from previous rounds (e.g. driving distances, individual club yardages, etc.); or
- Using the device to obtain information related to the competition being played (e.g. the leader board or projected 'cut').

However, the following are examples of uses of an electronic device during a stipulated round that might assist the player in his play and therefore are in breach of Rule 4-3a.

- Using the device (e.g. a television or radio) to watch or listen to a broadcast of the competition being played;

- Using the device to ask for or give advice in breach of Rule 25.2 (e.g. calling a swing coach);
- Using the device to access information on advice-related matters that was not produced prior to the start of his round (e.g. analysis of strokes made during that round); or

Using the device to interpret or process any playing information obtained from current or previous rounds (e.g. driving distances, individual club yardages, etc.) or to assist in calculating the effective distance between two points (i.e. distance after considering elevation changes, wind speed and/or direction or other environmental factors).

Preferred Lies:

Please be advised that from *(date) Preferred Lies will be in operation until further notice.

A ball lying through the green (Except Hazard Area) may be lifted without penalty and cleaned. Before lifting the ball the player must mark its position. Having lifted the ball he must place it on a spot within six inches of and not nearer the hole than where it originally lay, that is not in a hazard and not 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 is placed, Rule 20-3d applies. 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:

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

It is the responsibility of all players to be familiar with the Rules of Golf.

Thunder and Lightning:

In the event of thunder and lightning the golf course will close with immediate effect.

If klaxon is sounded you MUST leave the course immediately. Players are advised to leave the course or take shelter in the event of a storm even if you do not hear the klaxon.

Recommended Speed of Play:

TARGET TIME: 2-Ball 2¾ hrs 3-Ball 3¼ hrs 4-Ball 3¾ hrs

Penalties:

PENALTY FOR OUT OF BOUNDS: Stroke and Distance.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF ANY LOCAL RULE: General penalty.

Health and Safety:

The Health and Safety Policy of the Club is displayed on the Notice Boards

Emergency contact: Office: 01284 755979 Pro Shop 01284 755978 Location: IP28 6LG