Hedsor Beautiful Golf Club

SECTION: 6 Local Rules

ISSUE DATE: 1th April, 2024

Version: 3. 3rd May 2026

TITLE: 6 (a) Local Rules

SUBJECT MATTER: Local Rules (incl. 'Winter Rules')

OBJECTIVE(S): To formally document the Local Rules that apply for all competitions at Hedsor GC as approved by the Members. Note, these rules apply even if they are in conflict with the local rules published by the HGCL Course management.

1. **Out of Bounds.**
   A ball is out of bounds when it comes to rest:
   a. Outside the boundaries of the course. Note, boundary ditches are lateral water hazards and inside the course boundary.
   b. On the 1th (10th) hole on or beyond the white stakes to the right hand side of the fairway.
   c. On the 4th (13th) hole on or beyond the white stakes, to the left hand side of the fairway.
   d. On the 6th (15th) green, over ditch to the left hand side. Note, the ditch beyond the green, is deemed a lateral water hazard.
   e. On the 9th (18th) hole, beyond the pond or over the ditch beyond the pond, to the right hand side of the fairway and beyond the ditch on the 1st fairway projected through to the left boundary of the 1st fairway.[1]
   f. On the 9th (18th) hole, ditch behind the 9th (18th) green parallel to the driving range.
   g. If your ball lands beyond any OOB markers that are not specifically excluded in the Bylaws for the hole you are playing, then you are out of bounds. E.g. crossing the 4th fairway OOB markers whilst playing the 3rd hole.[2]

Note – The bylaws adoption of R&A Model Rule E-5 (section 8 below) regarding TWO stroke penalty relief for a ball (original or provisional) that is out of bounds.

2. **Water Hazards.**

[1] Consideration was given to matching our Local OOB rule for the 9th with that indicated on our 18 hole scorecards. ***It was agreed to match the Local rule with our 18 hole scorecard***.
Rule e. will now read " On the 9th (18th) hole, over the ditch and pond, to the right hand side of the fairway"

[2] Issue to members on the Competition Whatsapp platform

All ditches, ponds and water channels, whether dry or containing water, are water hazards.

a. All lateral ditches, ponds or water channels are deemed to have red stakes, whether there or not.
b. All other ditches, ponds or water channels are deemed to have yellow stakes, whether there or not.

3. Ground under repair.

a. Areas enclosed by white lines or marked 'GUR'.
b. All vehicle marks, newly turfed areas or unfinished grounds keeping work (e.g. pile of cut branches left for collection later).
c. Ball lying on a putting green other than that in play, must be lifted and dropped away from that green, no nearer the hole being played, without penalty.
d. Any covered ditch or water channel (aka 'land drains') crossing the fairway.
e. A ball known, or virtually certain, to have landed and stayed on the fairway, which cannot subsequently be found due to significant leaf fall, animal holes or soft ground, will be deemed lost in GUR, for which free relief will be given under Rule16.1.

4. Greenside sprinklers

Line of play relief is available for a ball lying within two club lengths of a greenside sprinkler which itself is within two club lengths of the green being played. The ball may be lifted but not cleaned and moved to a place as close to its original spot, not nearer the hole, but with a clear line of play to the green unobstructed by the sprinkler.

5. Pre-round practice on course.

Playing a practice round (or part thereof) on the day of and prior to a competition round is permitted.

6. Ready golf

With the exception of Matchplay rounds, ready golf is encouraged and players may tee off, play or putt-out in any order without penalty, whilst taking due care not to endanger or cause injury to anyone.

7. Preferred lies (aka 'Winter rules').

A ball lying on a closely mown area, through the green, may without penalty, be moved or lifted, cleaned and placed within six inches of where it originally lay, not nearer the hole and not in a hazard or on a putting green. A player may move or place the ball once, and after the ball has been so moved or placed, it is in play. In all other areas, a plugged ball may be lifted and placed, within six inches, but not cleaned.

a. Preferred lies will apply from 1 October to the following 31 March inclusive. Application of preferred lies outside of these dates will be at the discretion of the Handicap Committee. Notification of which will be posted on the Members noticeboard in the clubhouse.
b. 'Winter Rules' prescribed by the HGCL Course Management outside of the dates in a) above will also be adhered to.

8. Out of Bounds R&A Model Rule E-5

"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:

(a) 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.

(b) 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 part of the general area 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 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).

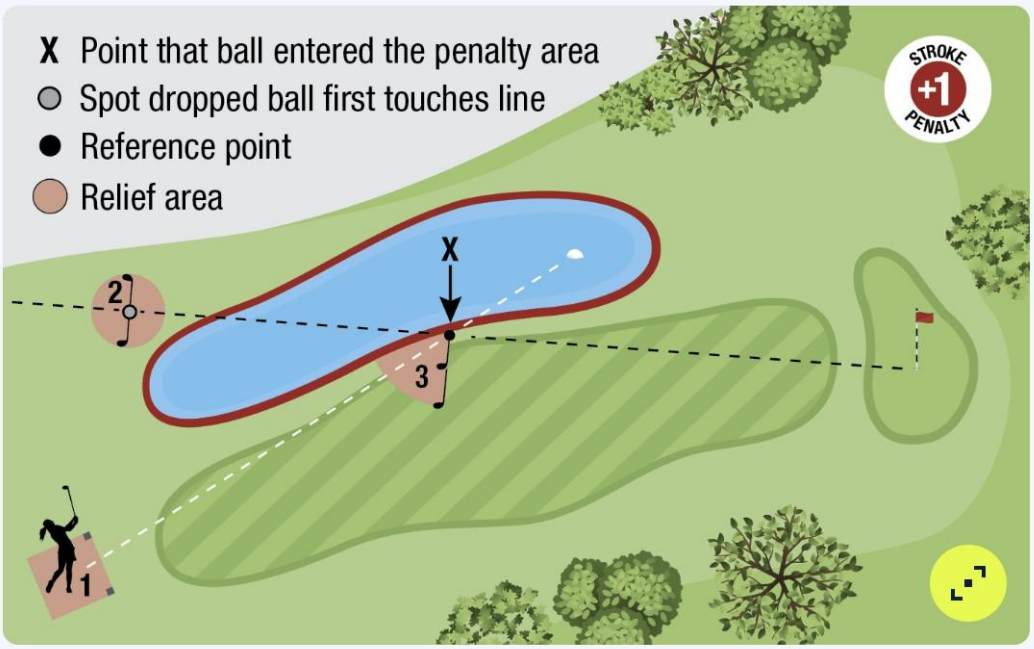
A player may use this option to take relief for a provisional ball that has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds."

9. Clarifications:

a. The former plantation to the left hand side of the 1st (10th) fairway is now a mixture of fairway height cut (first 5 tree lines from outer edge) and rough (from fairway height cut to course boundary).
b. Players are advised to play a provisional ball (by naming brand, model, ball number and any special markings) if it is known or virtually certain that their original ball is in the rough.

Supporting diagrams relating to Out of Bounds, Red and Yellow markers follow:

DIAGRAM #2 17.1D: RELIEF FOR BALL IN RED PENALTY AREA

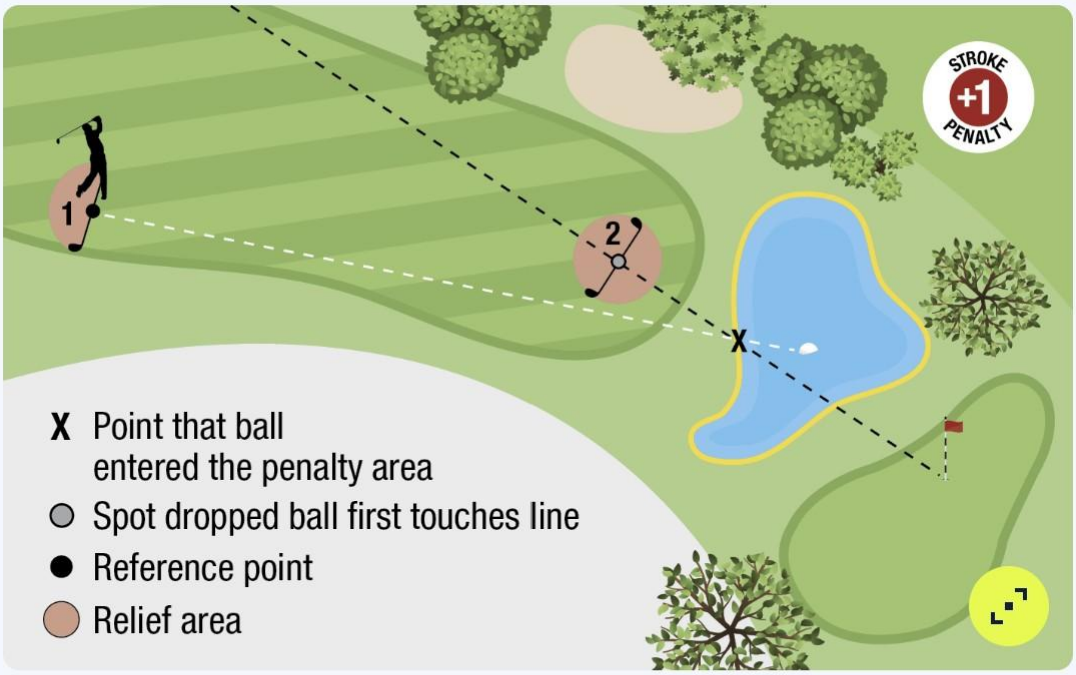


When it is known or virtually certain that a ball is in a red penalty area and the player wishes to take relief, the player has **three** options, each for one penalty stroke. The player may:

1. Take stroke-and-distance relief by playing a ball from a relief area based on where the previous stroke was made.
2. Take back-on-the-line relief by dropping a ball outside the penalty area, keeping point X between the hole and the spot where the ball is dropped.
3. Take lateral relief (red penalty area only). The reference point for taking relief is point X, and a ball must be dropped in and played from the two club-length relief area, which is no nearer the hole than point X.

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DIAGRAM #1 17.1D: RELIEF FOR BALL IN YELLOW PENALTY AREA



When it is known or virtually certain that a ball is in a yellow penalty area and the player wishes to take relief, the player has **two** options, each for one penalty stroke. The player may:

1. Take stroke-and-distance relief by playing a ball from a relief area based on where the previous stroke was made.
2. Take back-on-the-line relief by dropping a ball outside the penalty area, keeping point X between the hole and the spot where the ball is dropped.

See attached graphic illustration of each hole