



LOCAL RULES – Effective 5 March 2020

These Local Rules are to be read in conjunction with the Rules of Golf.

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, THE PENALTY FOR BREACH OF A LOCAL RULE IS THE GENERAL PENALTY: Stroke Play - Two Strokes and Match Play - Loss of Hole

1. PREFERRED LIES

1.1. When a player's ball lies in the general area cut to fairway height or less the player may take free relief once by placing the original ball or another ball in and playing it from this relief area:

- Reference point: spot of the original ball
- Size of relief area measured from reference point: ONE CLUB LENGTH but with these limits:
- Limits on location of relief area:
 - Must not be nearer the hole than the reference point, and
 - 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 14.2c.

2. OUT OF BOUNDS (Rule 18)

- 2.1. Beyond the inside points, at ground level, of the perimeter fence that defines the boundary of the property
- 2.2. Beyond the inside points, at ground level, of any line of white and black stakes

3. PENALTY AREAS (Rule 17)

- 3.1. Penalty Areas are defined by red stakes or lines

4. IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS (Rule 16)

- 4.1. Bordered paths or paths with an artificial surface. All other roads, paths and tracks are integral (play as lies or take penalty relief under Rule 19 Unplayable ball)
- 4.2. Stakes marking penalty areas (red), GUR (white) and marking staked trees
- 4.3. Fences behind the 8th, 12th and 16th greens. (Note: there is no relief for interference with line of play only)

5. GROUND UNDER REPAIR (Rule 16)

- 5.1. Areas marked by white stakes or lines
- 5.2. Ground in the general area impacted/damaged by machinery including course works, wheel tracks, stump holes and soil piles
- 5.3. Bird damage in the general area, except where the damage interferes with stance only
- 5.4. Greenkeeper's repairs and bare patches on all putting greens – relief is by placing the ball at the nearest point of complete relief (which must be on the putting green or in the general area) that is not nearer the hole – Rule 16.1d has further detail. (Note: relief available includes for line of play interference for a ball on the putting green)

6. ABNORMAL COURSE CONDITION – NO PLAY ZONE (Rule 16.1f/16.1e) (Relief – free – is compulsory)

- 6.1. Bordered garden beds
- 6.2. Staked trees
- 6.3. The former 3rd green

7. MOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS (Rule 15.2)

- 7.1. Ropes and stakes that guide traffic (after relief is taken, replace the ropes/stakes after the stroke)

8. IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS (EG SPRINKLER HEADS) CLOSE TO PUTTING GREENS – LINE OF PLAY INTERFERENCE

8.1. For a ball in the general area a player may take relief under Rule 16.1b if an immovable obstruction is on the line of play and is:

- Within 2 club-lengths of the putting green
- And within 2 club-lengths of the ball

Exception – there is no relief under this rule if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable.

9. POWER LINES, TOWERS, POLES AND WIRES

- 9.1. If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball hit the power lines, towers, poles or wires, the stroke does not count. The player must play a ball without penalty from where the previous stroke was made (see Rule 14.6 for what to do)

10. RELIEF FROM AERATION HOLES OR GROOVES (Position of ball only, not stance or line of play on putting green)

- 10.1. If a player's ball lies in or touches an aeration hole or groove in the general area, the player may take relief under Rule 16.1b. If the ball comes to rest in another aeration hole or groove the player may take relief again under this local rule.
- 10.2. If a player's ball lies in or touches an aeration hole or groove on the putting green, the player may take relief under Rule 16.1d.

11. SECOND HOLE

- 11.1. If a player's tee shot carries the dam on the right-hand side of the fairway, the ball may go out of bounds, so players are requested to play a provisional ball to speed up play.

12. BALL LOST OR OUT OF BOUNDS ON ANY HOLE [Note that play in accordance with this local rule is not an option available during Pennants matches at Magpies Belconnen Golf Course]

When a player's ball has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds, rather than proceeding under penalty of *stroke and distance*, the player may proceed as follows.

Under *general penalty* (ie two stroke penalty – see definitions), the player may take relief by dropping the original 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 area of grass in the general area that is 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 that was lost or out of bounds 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 also 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.

The Match Committee