

## FHGC Local Rules 2019 – Full Text

Please check the Local Rules Board for temporary local rules. Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for a breach of a Local Rule is the general penalty (stroke play – two strokes, match play – loss of hole).

All penalty areas are Red penalty areas.

DISTANCE MARKERS: Blue stakes (150m) and sprinkler head markers indicate the distance to the centre of the green being played.

Bunker rakes should be placed in the flat area of the bunker aligned with the direction of play.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Hole Dropping Zone

The general area between the 7th southern tee block and the red tee block is a no play zone that is to be treated as an abnormal course condition. Free relief must be taken from interference by the no play zone under Rule 16.1f, by dropping the original ball or another ball in the dropping zone comprising the closely mown area of the red tee block. If the player's ball is known or virtually certain to be in the penalty area, relief may be taken under rule 17.1, or from the drop zone, for a penalty of 1 stroke. The dropping zone is a relief area under Rule 14.3.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Hole Penalty Area - Provisional Ball

If a player does not know whether his or her ball is in, or is unplayable in the penalty area of the 7<sup>th</sup> hole, the player may play a provisional ball under Rule 18.3, which is modified in this way:

In playing the provisional ball, the player may use any of the relief options under rule 17.1d, or the drop zone on the red tee block for a penalty of 1 stroke. Once the player has played a provisional ball under this Rule, he or she may not use any further options under Rule 17.1 in relation to the original ball.

In deciding when that provisional ball becomes the player's ball in play or if it must or may be abandoned, Rule 18.3c(2) and 18.3c(3) apply except that:

**If the original ball is found outside the penalty area** it is in play.

#### **When Original Ball Is Found in Penalty Area Within Three-Minute Search Time.**

The player may choose either to:

Continue to play the original ball as it lies in the penalty area, in which case the provisional ball must not be played. All strokes with that provisional ball before it was abandoned (including strokes made and any penalty strokes solely from playing that ball) do not count, or

Continue to play the provisional ball in which case the original ball must not be played.

#### **When Original Ball Is Not Found Within Three-Minute Search Time or Is Known or Virtually Certain to Be in Penalty Area.**

The provisional ball becomes the player's ball in play.

### 16<sup>th</sup> Hole No Play Zone

The area to the left-hand side of the 16th fairway, demarcated with white stakes with black tops is Out Of Bounds and is a no play zone. The player must take free relief under Rule 16.1f(2) if his or her ball is on the course and anything in the no play zone interferes with the player's area of intended stance or swing. The player must not play the ball as it lies.

### Ball deflected by Power Lines

If it is known or virtually certain that a player's ball hit an overhead cable or supporting structure, the stroke does not count. The player must play a ball without penalty from where the previous stroke was made (see Rule 14.6).

### Protective Screen 15<sup>th</sup> hole

During play of the 15<sup>th</sup> hole, if the protective fence adjacent to the 18<sup>th</sup> tee is on a player's line of play:

The player may take free relief by dropping a ball in and playing it from the dropping zone defined with orange bricks. But this relief is allowed only if the ball is in play nearer the hole than the dropping zone (see Rule 14.3).

## Alternative to Stroke and Distance

When a player's ball has not been found or is out of bounds, the player may drop a ball under penalty of two strokes in this relief area (see Rule 14.3):

A. Anywhere on a line FROM:

- the 'ball reference point' (the 'ball reference point' is the spot where the ball is estimated to have come to rest on the course or gone out of bounds) TO
- the closest point on the hole being played that has grass cut to fairway height or less, and which is not nearer the hole than the 'ball reference point'.

This line must be the most direct line between the two points with the condition that no part of it may be nearer the hole than the 'ball reference point'.

B. On a line starting at any spot that meets the requirements of A and then which goes directly away from the hole from that spot (with no limit on how far back).

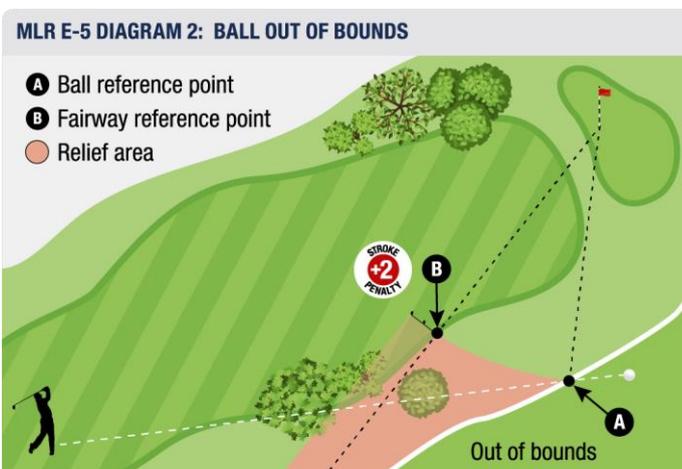
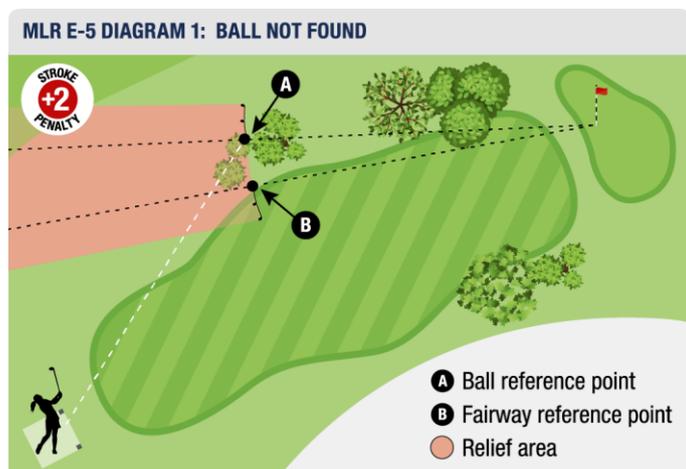
C. Anywhere within two club-lengths of any spot that meets the requirements of A or B, but not nearer the hole than the 'ball reference point'.

When a ball is put into play under this Local Rule it is not a provisional ball, it has become the ball in play.

But, the player may not use this Local Rule when:

- It is known or virtually certain that the original ball came to rest in a penalty area, or
- The player has already played a provisional ball.

Illustration: Refer to web page [www.golf.org.au/LR-oob-lostball](http://www.golf.org.au/LR-oob-lostball) and the diagrams below:



When a player's ball has not been found, the player may take stroke-and-distance relief, or when Model Local Rule E-5 is introduced, the player has the additional option to drop a ball in and play from the relief area described below for two penalty strokes:

Reference Points	Size of Relief Area	Limits on Relief Area
<b>A. Ball Reference Point:</b> The point where the original ball is estimated to have come to rest on the course (point A)	Anywhere between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A line from the hole through the ball reference point (point A) (and within two club-lengths to the outside of that line), and</li> <li>• A line from the hole through the fairway reference point (point B) (and within two club-lengths to the fairway side of that line)</li> </ul>	The relief area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must not be nearer the hole than the ball reference point, and</li> <li>• Must be in the general area</li> </ul>
<b>B. Fairway Reference Point:</b> The point of fairway of the hole being played (point B) that is nearest to the ball reference point, but is not nearer the hole than the ball reference point		

**Player Notes:**

As the relief area is likely to be very large, the ball could roll a considerable distance from the spot where it first strikes the ground and not need to be dropped again.

When a player's ball is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds, the player may take stroke-and-distance relief, or when Model Local Rule E-5 is introduced, the player has the additional option to drop a ball in and play from the relief area described below for two penalty strokes:

Reference Point	Size of Relief Area	Limits on Relief Area
<b>A. Ball Reference Point:</b> The point where the original ball is estimated to have last crossed the edge of the course boundary to go out of bounds (point A)	Anywhere between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A line from the hole through the ball reference point (point A) (and within two club-lengths to the outside of that line but still on the course), and</li> <li>• A line from the hole through the fairway reference point (point B) (and within two club-lengths to the fairway side of that line)</li> </ul>	The relief area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must not be nearer the hole than the ball reference point, and</li> <li>• Must be in the general area</li> </ul>
<b>B. Fairway Reference Point:</b> The point of fairway of the hole being played (point B) that is nearest to the ball reference point, but is not nearer the hole than the ball reference point		

**Player Notes:**

As the relief area is likely to be very large, the ball could roll a considerable distance from the spot where it first strikes the ground and not need to be dropped again.

## Immovable Obstructions

All hoses and sprinklers on the course, and spray there-from are treated as immovable obstructions from which free relief is allowed under Rule 16.1. Relief is not allowed to be taken under Rule 15.2.

All roads and paths on the course including tracks worn by maintenance vehicles, even if not artificially-surfaced, are treated as immovable obstructions from which free relief is allowed under Rule 16.1.

If an immovable obstruction within two club-lengths of the green is on the line of play from a ball that is in the general area and within two club-lengths of the obstruction, relief may be taken under Rule 16.1b, unless the line of play is clearly unreasonable

## Ground Under Repair

Ground under repair is defined by any area encircled by a white line or marked by white stakes.

Ground under repair includes the following conditions, whether marked or not:

- Greenkeepers shed area.
- Deep furrows from water damage in bunkers or residential water runoff in the general area.
- Deep wheel ruts made by maintenance vehicles.
- Root pruning grooves.
- Exposed tree roots or rocks in areas cut to fairway height or less or within four club-lengths of the edge of an area cut to fairway height or less.
- A fallen tree branch may be treated as GUR or a loose impediment.

Garden beds adjoining tee blocks and the practice putting green are GUR and are No Play Zones, relief MUST be taken under rule 16.1b.

Any bunker marked with a single white stake in it is out of play and is treated as GUR in the general area and a no play zone, relief MUST be taken under rule 16.1b.

The young trees and shrubs identified by white stakes are no play zones:

If a player's ball lies anywhere on the course other than in a penalty area and it lies on or touches such a tree or such a tree interferes with the player's stance or area of intended swing, the player must take relief under Rule 16.1f.

If the ball lies in a penalty area, and interference to the player's stance or area of intended swing exists from such a tree, the player must take relief either with penalty under Rule 17.1e or with free relief in the penalty area under Rule 17.1e(2).

## Stopping and resuming play:

A suspension of play for a dangerous situation will be signaled by one prolonged note of the siren. All other suspensions will be signaled by three consecutive notes of the siren. In either case, resumption of play will be signaled by two short notes of siren. See Rule 5.7b.