

TEMPORARY LOCAL RULES

Effective from Sunday 1st January 2017

Accidental Movement of a Ball on the Putting Green

Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1 are modified as follows :-

When a player's ball lies on the putting green, there is no penalty if the ball or ball-marker is accidentally moved by the player, his partner, his opponent, or any of their caddies or equipment. The moved ball or ball-marker must be replaced as provided in Rules 18-2, 18-3 and 20-1.

This Local Rule applies only when the player's ball or ball marker lies on the putting green and any movement is accidental.

Note: If it is determined that a player's ball on the putting green was moved as a result of wind, water or some other natural cause such as the effects of gravity, the ball must be played as it lies from its new location. A ball-marker moved in such circumstances is replaced.

Preferred Lies

A ball lying on a "closely mown area" through the green may, without penalty, be MARKED, lifted, cleaned and replaced within 6 inches of where it originally lay, but not nearer the hole and not in a hazard or 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 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 subsequently moves, there is no penalty and the ball shall 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 the club head), he incurs a penalty of one stroke.

"Closely mown area" means any area on the course, including paths through the rough, cut to fairway height or less.

Embedded Ball

Through the green, a ball which is embedded in its own pitch-mark in the ground, other than sand, may be lifted, cleaned and dropped, without penalty, 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 course through the green.

Exception - A player may not obtain relief under this Local Rule if it is clearly unreasonable for him to play a stroke because of interference by anything other than the condition covered by this Local Rule.

17th Hole

The area at the front of the green has been declared as Ground Under Repair and players MUST take relief.

Relief is available under R&A Rule 25-1 b. As an addition, the player may opt to drop the ball in the Drop Zone without penalty.

Drainage Channels

There are several areas on the course where drainage channels have been installed which are too extensive to mark out.

These channels are Ground Under Repair. Free relief may be obtained as defined in R&A Rule 25-1.

Artificial Teeing Areas

When an artificial teeing area is in play, under the requirements of Rule 11-1, the “Teeing Ground” is the artificial surface. A ball MUST be played from the artificial surface. A ball may not be played from outside the artificial surface, even if this would be within the rectangular area two club-lengths in depth, the front and the sides of which are defined by the outside limits of the two tee markers.

Tending the Flagstick

Until further notice, the requirement to tend the flagstick when the ball is played from the putting green has been rescinded. R&A Rule 17-3(c) is not applicable.

Temporary Greens

A ball lying on a temporary green which is not in play must be (a) played with a putter or (b) lifted and relief taken as detailed in R&A Rule 25-3.

A ball lying on the temporary green in play may be marked, lifted, cleaned and replaced within 6 inches of where it originally lay, but not nearer the hole.

Flooded Bunkers

Any bunker that is completely flooded shall be defined as Ground Under Repair and classified as “through the green”. Free relief from casual water is available under R&A Rule 25-1.

Penalty for breach of Local Rule :-

Match Play – Loss of hole

Stroke Play – Two strokes

David Reach

Chairman, Competitions Committee