

**Welcome to the first installment of the rules. Although this is not a rule it is found in the rule book. Its intent is to have people play in the manner in which the game was intended to be played.**

**Stay tuned. More rules will follow on a regular basis.**

Preferred Lies (Winter Rules)

One of the basic principles of golf is that the ball be “played as it lies”.

Preferred Lies (often referred to as Winter Rules) are common in Canada in early spring, late fall and throughout the winter in those parts of the country where winter golf is played, and should only be used when playing golf by the Rules would be unfair or the rule is necessary to protect the course from excessive damage. Winter Rules are commonly implemented for too long a period or when conditions do not warrant such a rule. Implementing Winter Rules when conditions do not warrant has the effect of artificially lowering players’ handicaps because it allows players to create a “perfect” lie for every stroke. This puts them at a disadvantage when playing at a course where no such rule is in effect.

Suggested wording:

“A ball lying on a closely-mown area through the green [or specify a more restricted area, e.g., at the 6th hole] 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 [specify area, e.g., six inches, one club-length, etc.] of and not nearer the hole than where it originally lay, that is not in a hazard and not on a putting green.

#### **14-1. GENERAL**

##### **a. Fairly Striking the Ball**

The ball must be fairly struck at with the head of the club and must not be pushed, scraped or spooned.

#### **(The Dougie Donnelle Rule) LOL**

##### **b. Anchoring the Club**

In making a *stroke*, the player must not anchor the club, either “directly” or by use of an “anchor point”.

Note 1: The club is anchored “directly” when the player intentionally holds the club or a gripping hand in contact with any part of his body, except that the player may hold the club or a gripping hand against a hand or forearm.

Note 2: An “anchor point” exists when the player intentionally holds a forearm in contact with any part of his body to establish a gripping hand as a stable point around which the other hand may swing the club.