

## Things You Can Do

- Through the Green is now the **General Area**. It excludes all bunkers, all penalty areas across the whole course, and on the hole being played, the teeing area and green.
- Lost ball search is 3 minutes max.
- Water hazards are **Penalty Areas**, denoted by red stakes or lines. Some will continue to have yellow stakes or lines.
- Other areas of the course may also become Penalty Areas.
- No penalty for accidentally moving a ball during a search. Just replace it.
- Drop the ball from **knee** height, the ball must remain in the **Relief Area**.
- Putting with the flagstick in is OK, no penalty.
- Repair all damage anywhere on the green, including spike marks.
- When taking relief you can change your ball.
- Accidentally moving the ball on the green, no penalty. Just replace it.
- If, after marking, lifting then replacing a ball the wind blows the ball away just replace it. If the wind blows a ball away before has been marked and lifted it has to be played as it lies.
- No penalty for touching the line of the putt.
- Remove loose impediments from anywhere on the course.
- Ground a club in a penalty area and play from a penalty area, without penalty.
- Declared a ball unplayable anywhere on the course, except in a Penalty Area.
- Drop a ball near to the point where it went out of bounds, not nearer the hole, for a penalty of **General Penalty (Two Strokes)**. No need to go back for a stroke and distance penalty (A local rule must be in force for this to apply).
- No penalty for double hits or when the ball rebounds and hits you or when it hits your caddie or your equipment.
- You do not have to declare your intentions to others when lifting a ball.

## Things You Still Can't Do

- Ground your club in, or touch the sand in a bunker. **General Penalty (Two Strokes)**
- Your partner or caddie must not stand on or close to and extension of the line of putt behind the ball after the player has taken their stance. **General Penalty.**
- Declare a ball unplayable in a Penalty Area.

If you are aware that the only possible place your original ball could be is lost in is a Penalty Area, a provisional ball is not allowed, **Rule 18**.

Any ball played from the original spot is the ball in play.

For OOB another ball must be put play from the spot from where the original ball was played under Stroke & Distance Penalty. For balls in Penalty areas see **Rule 17**.

You will incur a **Penalty of One Stroke** if you touch, move or lift a ball anywhere on the course, **except** when the rules allow e.g. in the following situations:-

- When a ball is on the green.
- When preferred lies are in force (winter rules).
- When the ball is accidentally moved when searching.
- When there's a need to identify your ball.
  - You may lift the ball to identify it, but you must **mark** its spot first and you **MUST NOT** clean it more than necessary to identify it.
  - The ball must be replaced on the marked spot. You do not have to announce your intention to do this.
- **Lifting a ball unnecessarily, however, will incur a penalty of one stroke.**

**Note:** Lifting another player's ball anywhere on the course (**Match play only**) without consent of the player will get you a **penalty of one stroke**.

**Local Rule:** It has been proposed that a local rule will be introduced to allow lateral relief from Out of Bounds, similar to a penalty area, for a general penalty of **Two Strokes**, instead of stroke and distance penalty. Does not apply to balls lost in penalty areas.

## Measuring

- All relief measuring can be **Estimated**.
- When taking relief **under penalty** it's within **Two Club Lengths** from the Reference Point.
- When taking **free** relief i.e. from an immovable obstruction it's within **One Club Length** from NPR or reference point.
- In both cases the ball must be dropped from knee height and come to rest in the **Relief Area**.
- When taking relief back on a line from a Penalty Area, players may go back as far as they like from the reference point, dropping the ball within one club length, **either side** of the line.
- Stroke and distance penalties are One club length **either side** of the point where the ball was last played.
- When declaring a ball unplayable, under penalty, it's Two Club Lengths from where the ball was at rest.
- In **All** cases ball must **NOT** be dropped **NEARER** the hole.

## **Relief Areas**

1. For Unplayable lie it is 2 club lengths from where the ball was at rest, under penalty of one stroke.
2. For relief from an obstruction or abnormal ground condition it's 1 club length from the Nearest Point of Relief.
3. When taking relief back on a line or replaying a stroke it's two club lengths either side of the line or the point at which the ball was last played.
4. In all but No 3 the ball must not end up nearer the hole.