

## **PREFERRED LIES & WINTER RULES**

### **Effective from 2 October 2020 until further notice.**

#### 1. EMBEDDED BALLS

Note that the following is now a Rule of Golf, so no specific Winter Rule is required :

In *The General Area*, a ball embedded in its own pitch-mark in ground other than sand, may be marked, lifted, cleaned and dropped without penalty in the *relief area*. The *relief area* is one club length from the *reference point*, which is a point directly behind where the ball is embedded. (Play a provisional ball if there is any doubt where the ball may have landed). (Rule 16.3b).

#### 2. PREFERRED LIES

A ball lying on any closely mown area in *The General Area* may, without penalty, be lifted, cleaned and placed within 6 inches (150mm) of where it originally lay, but not nearer the hole and not in a penalty area or on a putting green. A player may place the ball only once and after the ball has been placed it is in play. Penalty for breach of Local Rule : the General Penalty ; Match play – Loss of Hole; Stroke play – Two Strokes. (See Rule 14.1, Rule 14.2b(2) and Rule 14.2e)

**Note 1** : “*closely mown area*” is any area of the course, including paths through the rough, cut to fairway height or less.

**\*Note 2** : Before lifting, the position of the ball must be marked. Penalty for failing to mark the ball or moving it in any other way such as rolling it with a club : 1 Penalty stroke.

#### 3. TRACTOR WHEEL MARKS

In *The General Area* a ball coming to rest on a tractor wheel mark may be marked, **lifted\***, cleaned and dropped without penalty as near as possible to the spot where it lay, but not nearer the hole.

#### 4. HOLLOW TINING

A ball coming to rest on an indentation caused by hollow tining on a putting green may be placed without penalty within two inches (50mm) of where it originally lay but not nearer the hole.

#### 5. PUTTING GREENS

5.1 Normal Greens – any areas which have been reseeded are classed as an *abnormal course condition* and under Rule 16.1d free relief may be taken by placing a ball not nearer the hole on the spot of the nearest point of complete relief. Note that this may not be on the putting green. If no such point is available the player may use the point of maximum relief.

5.2 Winter Greens – in order to protect the putting surface of winter greens players will regard all winter greens as Abnormal Course Conditions and must take relief. (Rule 16.1a).

Note : any green that has been replaced by a temporary putting green is a wrong green and free relief must be taken under Rule 13.1f.

#### 6. BUNKERS BEING MAINTAINED

Bunkers under maintenance will be marked as GUR and are to be regarded as in *The General Area*. Relief without penalty must be taken by taking the nearest point of relief, or by playing from designated dropping zones.

#### 7. AERATION HOLES/SLIT TINING OFF THE FAIRWAY

If a ball comes to rest in an aeration hole or a tuft created by the aeration process, the player may, without penalty, lift the ball and clean it. In *The General Area* the player shall drop the ball as near as possible to where it lay, but not nearer the hole.

8. TEE MATS – Tee shots **must** be played from tee mats if in use.