

Rushden Golf Club – Local Rules – 2020 / 2021

A-4 Internal Out of Bounds

A ball coming to rest within the white posts or to the right of the white posts when playing the 1st hole or within the white posts or to the right of the white posts when playing the 8th hole surrounding the academy course is defined as out of bounds.

A ball coming to rest to the left of the white posts when playing the 3rd hole or to the left of the white posts when playing the 10th hole is defined as out of bounds.

A ball coming to rest past the white posts and to the right of the brook on the 6th hole including the 7th fairway is defined as out of bounds.

The white posts indicating out of bounds are treated as boundary objects during the play of holes 1, 3, 6 and 10, for all holes these posts are immovable obstructions.

B-1 Defining Penalty Areas - Penalty Areas (Rule 17)

All ditches, hedges (except where “out of bounds”) and ponds (with or without water) are defined as penalty areas.

All “PENALTY AREAS” are defined as “RED” penalty areas.

Relief is available as per “Rule 17.1d” except when playing the 9th and 18th Holes whereby if a ball is in the penalty area in front of the 9th Green and to the right of the 18th Green, including when it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found came to rest in the penalty area, the player may play the ball as it lies or:-

Stroke and Distance relief under Rule 17.1d(1).

Drop the original or another ball in the dropping zone within 2 club lengths of the drop zone marker, under Rule 14.3 adding 1 penalty stroke.

The player MAY NOT take relief under Rules 17.1d(2) or 17.1d(3)

B-3 Provisional Ball for Ball in a Penalty Area

If a player does not know whether his or her ball is in a penalty area the player may play a provisional ball under Rule 18.3.

In playing the provisional ball, the player may use the stroke-and-distance relief option (see Rule 17.1d(1), the back-on-the-line relief option (see Rule 17.1d(2)).

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:

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.

D-2 Status of Putting Green When Temporary Putting Green Is Used

Any putting green that has been replaced by a temporary putting green is a wrong green and free relief for interference must be taken under Rule 13.1f.

D-4 Prohibiting Play from Fringe of Wrong Green

When playing any hole, if a player must take relief under Rule 13.1f because his or her ball came to rest on the wrong green of any hole or that wrong green interferes with his or her stance or area of intended swing:

In finding the relief area to be used when taking this relief, the putting green of any hole is defined to include the area of fairway within two club lengths from the edge of the putting green.

This means that the nearest point of complete relief must avoid interference from this area in addition to the putting green.

E-1 Dropping Zone

If a ball is in the penalty area in front of the 9th Green and to the right of the 18th Green, including when it is known or virtually certain that a ball that has not been found came to rest in the penalty area, the player may play the ball as it lies or:-

Stroke and Distance relief under Rule 17.1d(1).

Drop the original or another ball in the dropping zone within 2 club lengths of the drop zone marker, under Rule 14.3 adding 1 penalty stroke.

The player MAY NOT take relief under Rules 17.1d(2) or 17.1d(3)

E-4 Relief from Aeration Holes

If a player's ball lies in or touches an aeration hole:

(a) Ball in General Area. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b. If the ball comes to rest in another aeration hole the player may take relief again under this Local Rule.

(b) Ball on Putting Green. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1d.

But interference does not exist if the aeration hole only interferes with the player's stance or, on the putting green, on the player's line of play.

E-10 Protection of Young Trees

The young trees protected by tree 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.

F-3 Ground Under Repair Treated as Part of Nearby Obstruction

White-lined areas of ground under repair and any paths they tie into are treated as a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1.

Where areas of damaged ground are right next to any paths they are treated as a single abnormal course condition when taking relief under Rule 16.1.

F-5 Immovable Obstructions Close to Putting Greens

Relief from interference by an immovable obstruction may be taken under Rule 16.1.

The player also has these extra options to take relief when such immovable obstructions are close to the putting green and on the line of play:

Ball in General Area. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b if an immovable obstruction is:

On the line of play, and is:

Within two club-lengths of the putting green, and

Within two club-lengths of the ball.

Exception - There is no relief under this Local Rule if the player chooses a line of play that is clearly unreasonable.

F-7 Relief from Seams of Cut Turf

If a player's ball lies in or touches a seam of cut turf or a seam interferes with the player's area of intended swing:

(a) Ball in General Area. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b.

(b) Ball on Putting Green. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1d.

But interference does not exist if the seam only interferes with the player's stance.

All seams within the area of cut turf are treated as the same seam in taking relief. This means that if a player has interference from any seam after dropping the ball, the player must proceed as required under Rule 14.3c(2) even when the ball is still within one club-length of the reference point.

F-8 Relief from Cracks in Ground

Cracks in the ground in parts of the general area cut to fairway height or less are ground under repair. The player may take relief under Rule 16.1b.

But interference does not exist if the crack only interferes with the player's stance.

F-9 Relief from Tree Roots in Fairway (Rule 16.1b)

If a player's ball is at rest in a portion of the general area cut to fairway height or less and there is interference from exposed tree roots that are in a part of the general area cut to fairway height or less, the tree roots are treated as ground under repair. The player may take free relief under Rule 16.1b.

But interference does not exist if the tree roots only interfere with the player's stance.

F-10 Damage by Animals (Rule 16.1b)

In the general area, areas of damage caused by animals are treated as ground under repair from which relief is allowed under Rule 16.1b.

But interference does not exist if the damage only interferes with the player's stance.

F-12 Animal Dung

At the player's option, dung from animals may be treated either as:

A loose impediment that may be removed under Rule 15.1, or

Ground under repair from which relief is allowed under Rule 16.1.

If dung is found on the putting green, the player may remove the dung from the line of play. If doing so improves the line of play or other conditions affecting the stroke, there is no penalty under Rule 8.1a.

F-16 Bunker Filled with Temporary Water

A flooded bunker on any hole is ground under repair in the general area. It is not treated as a bunker during the round.

If the player's ball lies in or touches this ground under repair or the ground under repair interferes with the player's stance or area of intended swing, the player may take free relief under Rule 16.1b.

All other bunkers on the course that are not filled with temporary water, are still bunkers for all purposes under the Rules.

F-17 All Roads and Paths Treated as Obstructions

All paths on the course, even if not artificially-surfaced, are treated as immovable obstructions from which free relief is allowed under Rule 16.1.

F-18 Treating Movable Objects to Be Immovable

All "out of bounds" and "young tree protection stakes" on the course 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.

Temporary / Seasonal Local Rules – Not in play currently

Preferred Lies - Local Rule – E3

When a player's ball lies in a “bunker”, a player may take free relief once by placing the original ball or another ball in and playing it from the relief area:

- Reference Point: Spot of the original ball.
- Size of Relief Area Measured from Reference Point: 6 inches

Limits on Location of Relief Area:

- Must not be nearer the hole than the reference point.
- Must be in the bunker, and
- The relief area within the bunker CANNOT be smoothed before placing.

In proceeding under this Local Rule, the player must choose a spot to place the ball and use the procedures for replacing a ball under Rules 14.2b(2) and 14.2e.