

MINTHIS GOLF CLUB – LOCAL RULES

1. OUT OF BOUNDS (Rule 18.2)

Out of bounds is defined by the line between the course side points at ground level of white stakes. Out of bounds is also defined by boundary walls, fences and hedges.

2. PENALTY AREAS (Rule 17)

Penalty areas are defined by red stakes or red lines. The extents of concrete penalty areas are defined by the walls/concrete, the extent of all other penalty areas are defined by the line of stakes. If a ball comes to rest in the penalty area of the 15th hole (island green) the player has two options only: they may play the original or another ball from where the previous stroke was made (see Rule 14.6) or play from the designated drop zone.

3. NO PLAY ZONES

A no-play zone is marked with BLUE/YELLOW/RED stakes with GREEN tops and is a defined part of an abnormal course condition or a penalty area area where **play is not allowed and entry to this area is prohibited.**

For a no-play zone defined by BLUE stakes with GREEN tops, FREE relief MUST be taken from interference by the no-play zone under Rule 16.

For a no-play zone defined by YELLOW/RED stakes with GREEN tops, relief MUST be taken from interference by the no-play zone under Rule 17.1e.

4. GROUND UNDER REPAIR

Ground under repair is defined by BLUE stakes (without a GREEN top), WHITE lines and/or a GUR sign.

5. ABNORMAL GROUND CONDITIONS INCLUDING IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS (Rule 16)

5a) all concrete/artificially surfaced paths and adjacent edges

5b) course furniture including signs, ball washers and bells

5c) halfway house/toilet block

5d) obstructions on a players line of play that are within 2 club lengths of a putting green, and also within 2 club lengths of the ball

5e) staked trees and trees with stakes adjacent

5f) erosional damage in bunkers caused by running water washouts

5g) irrigation/drainage pipes and covers

6. MOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS (Rule 24.1)

Stones in bunkers, bunker rakes and all stakes on the course with the exception of boundary markers and out of bounds stakes.

8. INTEGRAL PARTS OF THE COURSE

All non-artificial surfaces access roads and paths is gravel, stoned or hardcore.

7. TEMPORARY LOCAL RULES

Please check the notice board for any temporary local rules.

8. EVACUATION PROCEDURE

Immediate suspension of play for a dangerous situation will be signalled by **one prolonged note** from an air horn. All other suspensions will be signalled by **three consecutive notes** from an air horn. In either case, resumption of play will be signalled by **two consecutive notes** from an air horn. Rule 5.7b

7. ETIQUETTE

For matters of safety, please have regard for your fellow players and greenkeeping staff at all times. As a courtesy, please repair ball pitch-marks, replace divots and rake bunkers.

PENALTY FOR BREACH OF LOCAL RULE: MATCH PLAY - LOSS OF HOLE AND IN STROKE PLAY – GENERAL PENALTY (2 STROKES)

FAQ 1: *What am I allowed to do if my ball lands on the stones in the hazard surrounding the island green?*

Applicable Rule(s): Local Rule 2 (Penalty Areas)

If a ball comes to rest in the penalty area of the island green hole the player has two options only: they may play the original or another ball from where the previous stroke was made (see Rule 14.6) or play from the designated drop zone.

Answer:

What the local rule means is that you have two options (and only two options), both of which incur a penalty of one stroke. You may:

1. drop a ball as near as possible to the spot from where you played the ball that ended up in the water. This is commonly known as “Stroke and Distance”, or
2. drop the ball in the dropping zone (see also FAQ 2), or

You do **not** have the option that is normally available with a water hazard, namely going as far back as you wish on a line keeping the point at which the ball last crossed the boundary of the hazard in line with the hole. **Nor do you have the option of entering the hazard and playing the ball as it lies.**

If it was your tee-shot that ended up in the hazard and you elect to use the “stroke and distance” option instead of using the dropping zone, you may play the new ball from anywhere within the teeing ground and may tee-up the ball. Note that the “teeing ground” is the rectangular area two club-lengths in depth, the front and sides of which are defined by the outside limits of the two tee-markers.

An extreme example of this could be that you are over-zealous in putting a ball that is on the green and manage to send it all the way across the green and into the water. You still have only two options, at the cost of a penalty stroke, you either use the dropping zone, or you place another ball on the putting green (you never drop a ball on the putting green) as close as possible to where the previous ball was when you putted it.

Please be aware that the drainage ditch on the 13th hole is not part of the water hazard that surrounds the green and as such the “normal” rules for dropping the ball apply. If a ball lands in here, the dropping zone is **not** an option.

FAQ 2:

If I drop a ball in a drop zone and it rolls outside the zone do I have to re-drop it?

Applicable Rule(s): Model Local Rule E1 (Dropping Zones)

The following points apply when dropping a ball in a dropping zone:

- The player does not have to stand in the dropping zone when dropping the ball.
- When a player is using a dropping zone, the relief area is defined by that dropping zone and the ball must be dropped in and come to rest in the dropping zone (see Rule 14.3).
- If the dropping zone is defined by a line on the ground, the line is inside the dropping zone.

Answer:

Yes.

FAQ 3:

In the past I've had conflicting advice, what is the correct procedure for taking a "free drop"?

Applicable Rule(s): Rule 16 (Relief from Abnormal Course Conditions (Including Immovable Obstructions), Dangerous Animal Condition, Embedded Ball)

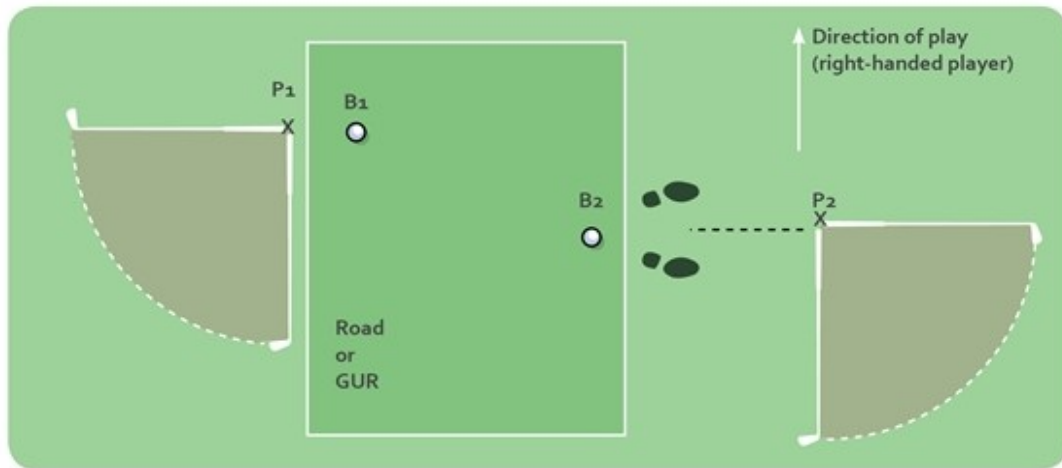
Nearest Point of Relief (*taken from the Rules of Golf*)

The "nearest point of relief" is the reference point for taking relief without penalty from interference by an immovable obstruction, an abnormal ground condition or a wrong putting green. It is the point on the course nearest to where the ball lies:

- (i) that is not nearer the hole, and
- (ii) where, if the ball were so positioned, no interference by the condition from which relief is sought would exist for the stroke the player would have made from the original position if the condition were not there

Answer:

The following diagram (courtesy of the R&A) illustrates the term "nearest point of relief" in the case of a right-handed player. It shows two ball positions (B_1 and B_2) on a road or in GUR and their respective nearest point of relief (P_1 and P_2) as an example. Instead of a road/GUR it could just as well be a staked tree or a sprinkler head or any immovable obstruction.



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|-------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| B_1 | = position of ball on road, in ground under repair (GUR), etc. | \bullet | = notional stance required to play at P_2 with club with which player would expect to play the stroke |
| P_1 | = nearest point of relief | | |
| P_1 shaded area | = area within which ball to be dropped, radius of one club-length from P_1 measured with any club | P_2 | = nearest point of relief |
| B_2 | = position of ball on road, in ground under repair (GUR), etc. | P_2 shaded area | = area within which ball to be dropped, radius of one club-length from P_2 , measured with any club |

The simple answer is that you drop within one club-length of the nearest point of relief (the grey area shown above) and the ball come to rest in that area. The ball is dropped from knee height.

There are conditions attached to dropping the ball depending upon where the original ball lay. e.g. the ball must be re-dropped if it:

1. rolls into and comes to rest in a hazard;
2. rolls out of and comes to rest outside a hazard;
3. rolls onto and comes to rest on a putting green;
4. rolls and comes to rest out of bounds;
5. rolls and comes to rest in a position where there is interference by the condition from which relief was taken;
6. rolls and comes to rest further than one club-length from the nearest point of relief;
7. rolls and comes to rest closer to the hole than the nearest point of relief.

Note that if you are taking a “free drop” in a bunker, the dropped ball must remain in the bunker. If there is nowhere in the bunker to drop (e.g. it is completely full of water) then you may drop outside the bunker, but at the cost of a penalty stroke.

If your original ball was on the course but not on the putting green of the hole being played you cannot drop the ball on the putting green.

One last important point – you cannot claim a “free drop” from interference by an immovable obstruction if that interference would occur only through use of a clearly unreasonable stroke, or an unnecessarily abnormal stance, swing or direction of play.

FAQ 4: *Some trees have stakes next to them, but aren't connected to them, can I still get relief?*

Applicable Rule(s): Local Rule 5e (Immovable Obstructions)

Answer:

Yes.

The relevant point in local rule 4 is:

5e) Staked trees **and trees with stakes adjacent** – relief must be taken.

FAQ 5: *If my ball lands in a bunker that is GUR do I have to drop the ball back in front of the bunker?*

Applicable Rule(s): Rule 16 (Relief from Abnormal Course Conditions (Including Immovable Obstructions), Dangerous Animal Condition, Embedded Ball)

Answer:

Not necessarily.

There is nothing special about a bunker that has been designated “ground under repair” as opposed to any other abnormal ground condition.

Quite a few people mistakenly believe that the point at which the ball entered the bunker needs to be taken into consideration. It doesn't, unless you can't find the ball.

You simply determine the nearest point of relief from where the ball lies in the bunker and follow the procedure described in FAQ 3.

FAQ 6:

Do I get relief if my ball is touching the wall of the drainage ditch in front of the 17th green?

Applicable Rule(s): Local Rule 2 (Penalty Areas)

Penalty areas are defined by red or yellow stakes or lines. The extents of concrete penalty areas are defined by the walls/concrete, the extent of all other penalty areas are defined by the line of stakes.

Definition ([Immovable] Obstructions)

The relevant part the definition is:

Any artificial object except for integral objects and boundary objects.

Examples of obstructions:

Stakes, **walls**, railings and fences (but not when they are boundary objects that define or show the boundary edge of the course),

Answer:

No.

The wall is part of the hazard and since the ball is touching the hazard it is by definition in the hazard and as such you do not get relief from any immovable obstructions.

If however your ball was not touching the wall and not in the penalty area and the wall would physically interfere with your stance or your swing then you can obtain relief without penalty. You should drop the ball following the procedure described in FAQ 3.

Also, note the wording in point c) of Local Rule 2. The stakes for this type of penalty area are not part of the penalty area itself, they are only there to tell you whether the hazard is a water hazard (yellow) or a lateral water hazard (red). So if your ball comes to rest behind the stakes but is not touching the wall or in the ditch then it is not in the penalty area and so it is highly likely that you will be able to claim relief without penalty.

One other point about the stakes – the stakes are movable obstructions (Local Rule 6) so they may be removed to play a shot from within the hazard, e.g. if your ball is on top of the wall and you elect to play it from there.

FAQ 7:	<i>a) Someone told me you can't hold the flagstick while tapping in a two inch putt, is that right?</i>
	<i>b) Someone I was playing with removed an out-of-bounds stake. When I told him that wasn't allowed he replaced it before playing his shot, what is the ruling on this?</i>
Applicable Rule(s):	a) Rule 4-3a (Unusual Use of Equipment. Allowed and Prohibited Uses of Equipment)
Applicable Rule(s):	b) Local Rule 6 (Movable Obstructions)
	b) Rule 8 (Improving Conditions Affecting the Stroke)

Answer:

a) Not necessarily.

You may hold the flagstick while you putt out without penalty provided that you hold it in the air and do not rest it on the ground. If you do rest it on the ground then you are in breach of rule 4-3 **the penalty for which is the general penalty (2strokes) for the first occurrence and disqualification for further breaches of this rule!**

b) He incurs a two-stroke penalty (or loss of hole if it was matchplay).

Objects defining out of bounds are fixed, not movable obstructions, and so may not be moved. The player was in breach of Rule 13-2 the moment he moved the post and there was nothing he could then do to avoid the penalty. The replacement of the post before the next stroke was irrelevant.

FAQ 8:

a) In greensomes what do you do if both players on a team drive their ball out of bounds?

b) In foursomes what do you do if player does an "air shot"?

Applicable Rule(s): Rule 22.3 (Side must alternate in taking shots)

In a threesome or a foursome, during any stipulated round the partners must play alternately from the teeing grounds and alternately during the play of each hole. Penalty strokes do not affect the order of play.

Answer:

a) You nominate one of the balls as the one you choose and if it is Player-A's ball then Player-B plays the next shot and vice-versa.

If in this instance it is a mixed greensomes and Player-A is a man, then his lady partner must play the next shot from the men's tee from which he played.

The Rules of Golf do not mention "greensomes" specifically, but greensomes is a special case of foursomes once both players have teed-off and nominated their chosen ball.

b) If Player-A did the "air-shot" then Player-B must play the next stroke and vice-versa.

An "air-shot" is a stroke, since the player intended to strike the ball, so the rule of alternate strokes means that the player's partner must play the next shot.

However, if Player-A deliberately did an "air shot" (e.g. to give his team some sort of advantage – say when playing over water), then he has not made a stroke and if Player-B takes the next shot he has played out of turn and would incur a 2-stroke penalty (or loss of hole in matchplay). In strokeplay, if before teeing off on the next hole Player-A did not play the ball from where Player B hit it, **their team would be disqualified**.

FAQ 9:

a) Are you allowed to remove leaves and sand from a putting green even if your ball is not on the green?

b) Are you allowed to remove sand on a green using the palm of your hand?

Applicable Rule(s): a) Rule 8.1b (Actions that are allowed)

b) Rule 13.1c (Improvements Allowed on Putting Green)

Answer:

a) Yes.

Leaves (stones, twigs branches, dung, worms, insects and the casts and heaps made by them) are natural objects and as such, provided they are not fixed or growing, solidly embedded or adhering to the ball, they are loose impediments.

Snow and NATURAL ice, other than frost, are either casual water or loose impediments, at the option of the player.

Dew and frost are NOT loose impediments.

Sand and loose soil are loose impediments on the putting green, but not elsewhere.

b) Yes.

If in removing loose impediments from the green you cause the surface to be roughened then, so long as it was not your intention to test the surface of the green, there is no penalty, provided of course that you did not press anything down.

FAQ 10:

If I go to the drop zone on the 10th hole, hit my ball, then after hitting it a second time it goes into the penalty area to the left of the fairway, where can I take relief.

Answer:

Since this area is marked with yellow stakes with green tops it is a no-play zone, and since it is almost certainly impossible to position yourself not nearer the hole on a line connecting the point where the ball crossed the boundary of the no-play zone and the hole, you have two options.

Option 1: take “stroke and distance” relief and play a ball from where you previously played the ball that is in the no-play zone.

Option 2: go back to the drop zone and play the ball from there.

Both these options incur a 1-stroke penalty.

FAQ 11:

What are my options if I hit my ball off the 8th tee into the protected area in front of that tee?

Answer:

The protected area is classed as ground under repair. You therefore get relief without penalty.

If the ball is found then locate the nearest point of relief from there. If you cannot find ball then locate the nearest point of relief from where it entered the area. Then follow the procedure detailed in FAQ 3. Don't forget, the nearest point of relief may not necessarily be between the tee and the protected area.

If the ball cannot be found then you have to know or be virtually certain that it is in the protected area in order to get relief.

Another option is to use "stroke and distance" at the cost of one penalty stroke. In this case you go back to the teeing ground, and "play 3 off the tee". In this case you have the option of teeing up the ball if you wish.