

Buenaventura Senior Men's Golf Club Golf Rules
Golf Rules in Brief
(Revised: July 23, 2022)

INTRODUCTION

Golf is a game in which a ball is struck with a club from a prepared area, known as the "teeing ground", across fairway and rough to a second prepared area, which has a hole in it, known as the "putting green". The object of the game is to complete what is known as a hole by playing a ball from the teeing ground into the hole on the putting green in the fewest possible number of strokes. A "round of golf" consists of playing 18 such holes.

There are basically two forms of play, one which is decided by holes won and lost (match play) and the other which is decided by the total number of strokes taken to complete the round (stroke play).

There are three important principles to remember when playing golf:

Play the course as you find it. Play the Ball as it lies.

And if you can't do either, do what's fair."

To do what's fair you need to know the Rules. The following is a summary of the Rules of Golf, simplified where possible.

ETIQUETTE

Etiquette covers both Courtesy and Priority on the Course as well as Care of the Course. Whilst the following points are not Rules as such, they are an important part of the game.

- 1 Don't move, talk or stand close to a player making a stroke.
- 2 Don't play until the group in front is out of the way.
- 3 Always play without delay. Leave the putting green as soon as all players in your group have holed out.
- 4 Invite faster groups to play through.
- 5 Replace divots. Smooth footprints in bunkers.
- 6 Don't step on the line of another player's putt.
- 7 Don't drop clubs on the putting green.
- 8 Replace the flagstick carefully.

DEFINITIONS

The Definitions section of the Rules of Golf contains over forty Definitions which form the foundation around which the Rules of play are written. A good knowledge of the defined terms will help in the correct application of the Rules. These include:

Teeing Ground - the starting place for the hole, defined by two tee-markers.

Through the Green - the whole area of the golf course except the teeing ground and putting green of the hole being played and all hazards.

Hazards - any bunker or water hazard.

Putting Green - an area specially prepared for putting and containing a 4 1/2 inch diameter hole.

Out of Bounds - ground on which play is prohibited i.e. not part of the course. A ball is

out of bounds when all of it lies out of bounds.

Loose Impediments - natural objects such as stones, leaves and twigs provided they are not fixed or growing, are not solidly embedded and are not sticking to the ball.

Obstructions - any man-made object, except:

(1) objects defining out of bounds

(2) any part of an immovable man-made object which is out of bounds; and

(3) any construction declared by the Committee in the Local Rules to be an integral part of the course.

Casual Water - any temporary accumulation of water on the course which is visible before or after the player takes his stance (dew and frost are not casual water).

Ground Under Repair - any portion of the course so marked by the Committee. Also includes material piled for removal and a hole made by a greenkeeper, even if not so marked.

THE RULES OF PLAY

GENERAL POINTS

Before commencing your round:

(1) Read the Local Rules on the score card.

(2) Put an identification mark on your ball. Many golfers play the same brand of ball and if you can't identify your ball, it's lost.

(3) Count your clubs. You are allowed a maximum of 14 clubs.

During the round, don't ask for "advice" from anyone except your partner or caddie. Don't give advice to anyone except your partner.

During a hole you may not play a practice stroke.

TEEING OFF

Tee off between and not in front of the tee-markers. You may tee off up to two club-lengths behind the front line of the tee-markers.

Teeing off outside this area - in match play there is no penalty, but your opponent may ask you to replay your stroke; in stroke play you incur a two-stroke penalty and must then play from within the proper area.

PLAYING THE BALL

Play the ball as it lies. Don't improve your lie, the area of your intended swing or your line of play by moving, bending or breaking anything fixed or growing except in fairly taking your stance or making your swing. Don't press anything down or build a stance.

If your ball lies in a bunker or a water hazard don't touch the ground in the bunker, or the ground or water in the water hazard, before your downswing.

The ball must be fairly struck, not pushed or spooned.

Playing a wrong ball (except in a hazard) - in match play you lose the hole; in stroke play you incur a two-stroke penalty and you must then play the correct ball.

ON THE PUTTING GREEN

You may repair ball marks and old hole plugs on the line of your putt but not any other damage, including spike marks.

You may mark, lift and clean your ball on the putting green. Always replace it on the exact spot.

Don't test the putting surface by scraping it or rolling a ball over it.

Ball played from putting green strikes flagstick - in match play you lose the hole; in stroke play you incur a two-stroke penalty.

BALL AT REST MOVED

If your ball is at rest and it is moved by you, your partner or your caddie, except as permitted by the Rules, or if it moves after you have addressed it, add a penalty stroke and replace your ball.

If your ball is at rest and is moved by someone else or another ball, replace it without penalty to you.

BALL IN MOTION DEFLECTED OR STOPPED

Ball struck by you is deflected or stopped by you, your partner or your caddie - in match play you lose the hole; in stroke play you incur a two-stroke penalty and the ball is played as it lies.

Ball struck by you is deflected or stopped by someone else - play your ball as it lies without penalty, except (a) in match play, if an opponent or his caddie deflects the ball you have an option to replay the stroke or (b) in stroke play, if the ball is deflected after a stroke from on the putting green, you must replay it.

Ball struck by you is deflected or stopped by another ball at rest- in match play, no penalty and the ball is played as it lies except. In stroke play you incur a two-stroke penalty if your ball and the other ball were on the putting green before you played.

LIFTING, DROPPING AND PLACING THE BALL

If a lifted ball is to be replaced, its position must be marked. If a ball is to be dropped or placed in any other position (e.g., taking relief from GUR, etc.) it is recommended that the ball's original position be marked.

When dropping, stand erect, hold the ball at knee height and drop it. If a dropped ball strikes you or your partner, caddie or equipment it must be re-dropped without penalty.

There are eight instances where a dropped ball rolls to such a position that it must be re-dropped - see Rules of Golf Rule 20 - 2c

BALL INTERFERING WITH OR ASSISTING PLAY

You may lift your ball if it might assist any other player.

You may have any ball lifted if it might interfere with your play or assist any other player.

OBSTRUCTIONS

Check the Local Rules on the score card for guidance on immovable obstructions (e.g. surfaced roads and paths etc.).

Movable obstructions (e.g. rakes, tin cans etc.) anywhere on the course may be moved. If the ball moves it must be replaced without penalty.

If an immovable obstruction (e.g., a water fountain) interferes with your stance or swing, you may drop the ball within one club-length of the nearest point of relief not nearer the hole. There is no relief for intervention on your line of play unless your ball and the obstruction are on the putting green.

CASUAL WATER, GROUND UNDER REPAIR etc.

If your ball is in casual water, ground under repair or a hole or cast made by a burrowing animal e.g. a rabbit, you may drop without penalty within one club-length of the nearest point of relief not nearer the hole.

WATER HAZARDS

Check the Local Rules on the score card to establish whether the sea, lake, river etc. is a 'water hazard' or a 'lateral water hazard'.

Ball in watery hazard - play the ball as it lies or, under penalty of one stroke, (a) drop any distance behind the water hazard keeping a straight line between the hole, the point where the ball crossed the margin of the water hazard and spot on which the ball is dropped, or (b) play again from where you hit the ball into the hazard.

Ball in lateral water hazard - in addition to the options for a ball in a water hazard (see above), under penalty of one stroke, you may drop within two club-lengths of (a) the point where the ball crossed the margin of the hazard or (b) a point on the opposite side of the hazard equidistant from the hole.

BALL LOST OR OUT OF BOUNDS

Local rule intercourse out of bounds hole 18 only. Defined by a line of white stakes between hole 18 and 1

Maintenance buildings and fences are out of bounds. Hole 16 and 18

The out of bounds markers painted on the cart path between nine and one are outdated (ignore them).

This has been recently painted out and she don't want to be a problem.

Check the Local Rules on the score card to identify the boundaries of the course. If your ball is lost outside a water hazard or out of bounds you must play another ball from the spot where the last shot was played under penalty of one stroke i.e., stroke and distance. You are allowed 3 minutes to search for a ball, after which if it is not found or identified it is lost. If, after playing a shot, you think your ball may be lost outside a water hazard or out of bounds you may play a 'provisional ball'. You must state that it is a provisional ball and play it before you go forward to search for the original ball. If the original ball is lost or out of bounds you must continue with the provisional ball under penalty of one stroke. If the original ball is not lost or out of bounds, you must continue play of the hole with it and the provisional ball must be abandoned.

Stroke and Distance: New Rule

“When a player’s ball has not been found or is *known or virtually certain to be out of bounds*, the player may proceed as follows rather than proceeding under *stroke and distance*.

For **two penalty strokes**, the player may take relief by *dropping* the original ball or another ball in this *relief area* (see Rule 14.3):

Two Estimated Reference Points:

a. Ball Reference Point: The point where the original ball is estimated to have:

- Come to rest on the *course*, or
- Last crossed the edge of the *course* boundary to go *out of bounds*.

b. Fairway Reference Point: The point of fairway of the hole being played that is nearest to the ball reference point, but is not nearer the *hole* than the ball reference point.

For purposes of this Local Rule, “fairway” means any area of grass in the *general area* that is cut to fairway height or less.

If a ball is estimated to be *lost* on the *course* or last crossed the edge of the *course* boundary short of the fairway, the fairway reference point may be a grass path or a teeing ground for the hole being played cut to fairway height or less.

Size of Relief Area Based on Reference Points: Anywhere between:

- A line from the *hole* through the ball reference point (and within two *club-lengths* to the outside of that line), and
- A line from the *hole* through the fairway reference point (and within two *club-lengths* to the fairway side of that line).

But with these limits:

Limits on Location of Relief Area:

- Must be in the *general area*, and
- Must not be nearer the *hole* than the ball reference point.

Once the player puts a ball *in play* under this Local Rule:

- The original ball that was *lost* or *out of bounds* is no longer *in play* and must not be played.
- This is true even if the ball is found on the *course* before the end of the three-minute search time (see Rule

6.3b).

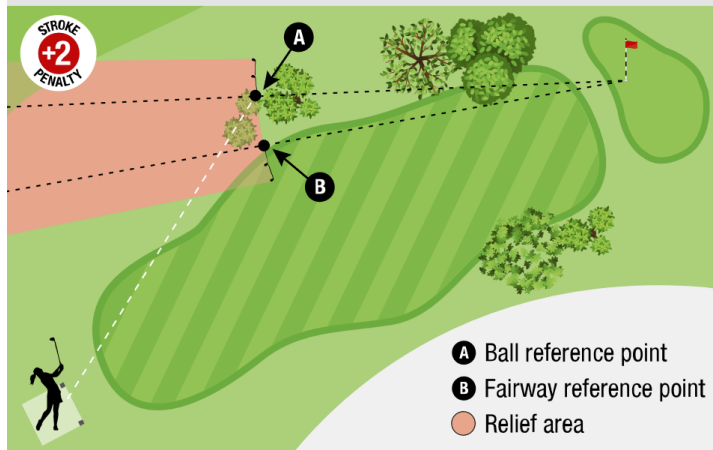
But the player may not use this option to take relief for the original ball when:

- That ball is *known or virtually certain* to have come to rest in a *penalty area*, or
- The player has played another ball provisionally under penalty of *stroke and distance* (see Rule 18.3).

A player may use this option to take relief for a provisional ball that has not been found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds.

Penalty for Playing Ball from a Wrong Place in Breach of Local Rule: *General Penalty Under Rule 14.7a.*”

MLR E-5 DIAGRAM 1: BALL NOT FOUND



When a player's ball has not been found, the player may take stroke-and-distance relief, or when Model Local Rule E-5 is introduced, the player has the additional option to drop a ball in and play from the relief area described below for two penalty strokes:

Reference Points	Size of Relief Area	Limits on Relief Area
<p>A. Ball Reference Point: The point where the original ball is estimated to have come to rest on the course (point A)</p> <p>B. Fairway Reference Point: The point of fairway of the hole being played (point B) that is nearest to the ball reference point, but is not nearer the hole than the ball reference point</p>	<p>Anywhere between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A line from the hole through the ball reference point (point A) (and within two club-lengths to the outside of that line), and A line from the hole through the fairway reference point (point B) (and within two club-lengths to the fairway side of that line) 	<p>The relief area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must not be nearer the hole than the ball reference point, and Must be in the general area

Player Notes:

As the relief area is likely to be very large, the ball could roll a considerable distance from the spot where it first strikes the ground and not need to be dropped again.

BALL UNPLAYABLE

If you believe your ball is unplayable outside a water hazard (and you are the sole judge), you may under penalty of one stroke, (a) drop within two club-lengths of where the ball lies not nearer the hole, (b) drop any distance behind the point where the ball lay keeping a straight line between the hole, the point where the ball lay and the spot on which the ball is dropped, or (c) replay the shot. If your ball is in a bunker you may proceed under (a), (b) and (c). However, if you elect to proceed under (a) or (b) you must drop in the bunker.

Refer to USGA Rule 19 unplayable ball

New Rule: The player has an extra option allowing relief outside the bunker using the back-on-the-line procedure, but for a total of two penalty strokes. (Rule 19.3b).

Reasons for Change:

It is not uncommon for a player to need to take unplayable ball relief in a bunker, such as when the ball is very close to the bunker wall or lip.

Playing from a bunker can be very difficult for some players, especially when the bunker has steep walls.

- This previously presented particular problems in stroke play because the player was required to finish the hole and so could not simply pick up and move to the next hole after multiple tries to play the ball from the bunker.
- Giving those players an option for taking relief outside the bunker allows them to keep playing rather than being disqualified.

This extra option results in a total of two penalty strokes, to make sure that:

- The penalty is consistent with the significant amount of relief being allowed, and
- This option does not become commonly used by players who are able to play from a bunker.

LOOSE IMPEDIMENTS

If your removal of a loose impediment causes your ball to move, your ball must be replaced on its original spot (which if not known must be estimated). By picking up your ball anywhere, except on the putting green or in the teeing area, you get a **one penalty stroke**.

MOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS

You may remove a movable obstruction without penalty anywhere on or off the course and may do so in any way. If your ball moves while you are removing a movable obstruction, there is no penalty and your ball must be replaced on its original spot (which if not known must be estimated).

CONCLUSION

A good score may be spoiled, or a match lost, due to a penalty incurred through ignorance or confusion concerning the Rules. A sound knowledge of the above summary should aid the golfer in tackling a "Rule's problem". Nevertheless, the complete Rules of Golf as approved by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews and the United States Golf Association, should be consulted where any doubt arises.

(1) Read the Local Rules on the score card.

(2) Put an identification mark on your ball. Many golfers play the same brand of ball and if you can't identify your ball, it's lost.

(3) Count your clubs. You are allowed a maximum of 14 clubs.

During the round, don't ask for "advice" from anyone except your partner or caddie. Don't give advice to anyone except your partner. During a hole you may not play a practice stroke.