

LOCAL RULES – LITTLE HAY GOLF CLUB/COMPLEX

Version 24/12/06

1. GENERAL

These Local Rules of Little Hay Golf Club & Complex are intended to clarify the status of various hazards, obstructions and out of bounds areas and markings which exist at the Little Hay Golf Complex. They apply to all Little Hay Golf Club competitions and matches and are subject to periodic change. Any queries relating to these rules should, in the first instance, be directed to the Handicap Chairman.

2. IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS

- a. The following are defined as immovable obstructions and relief may be taken in accordance with Rule 16 **when the obstruction interferes with the player's stance or area of intended swing**:
 - i. All the course furniture, e.g. bench seats, ball washers and waste bins where fixed to the ground. Where a bin is free standing and can be easily moved, it should be treated as a movable obstruction and relief taken under Rule 15. In such an event, the bin should be replaced after the shot is played.
 - ii. Any fence which does not form a boundary of the course, e.g. the fence which extends into the area between the 6th green and the 7th tee.
 - iii. Any artificial path or surface e.g. those made of bark chippings, shells or stones around various greens and tees, but excluding all roads, which are out of bounds.
 - iv. Winter tee mats.
 - v. Any unstaked trees less than two club lengths high.
 - vi. Relief must be taken from staked trees. *(Note that close proximity to a staked tree, or a ball at rest on bare earth or rough ground at the base of a tree, are not in themselves grounds for relief. There must be actual interference to stance or swing from the tree and/or the stake.)*
 - vii. Fixed sprinkler heads. Relief without penalty may also be taken if the player's ball lies off the putting green, but not in a hazard and is at rest within two club lengths of a sprinkler head, which itself is on, or within, two club lengths of the putting green on the hole being played and the sprinkler intervenes **ON THE LINE OF PLAY** between the ball and the hole.
 - viii. Stakes or posts which mark a water hazard, if the player's ball comes to rest outside the water hazard. *(Note that white stakes or posts defining Out of Bounds are themselves out of bounds; a player is therefore NOT entitled to relief without penalty from these stakes.)*
 - ix. The direction indicator posts beyond the 12th green.
- b. Relief may be taken, with no penalty, from the point on the course nearest to where the ball lies provided that it:
 - i. is not nearer to the hole,
 - ii. avoids interference from the obstruction, and
 - iii. is not in a hazard or on a putting green.

The player must lift the ball and drop it within ONE club length of the point on the course determined under paragraph 2b, above. The ball may be cleaned when lifted under this rule.

3. PENALTY AREAS (Any Type of Hazard is now called a Penalty Area).

- a. There are currently two water hazards on the Little Hay 18-hole course: the (usually dry) pond on the 10th fairway and the drainage ditch which runs along the right hand side of the 4th fairway and continues across the left front of the green.
- b. The drainage ditch to the right of the 4th fairway is a lateral water hazard marked by red posts. The limits of this hazard lie within the ditch and between the outer extremities of the red posts at either end of the ditch. The ditch becomes a normal water hazard where it runs across the front of the 4th green and is marked by yellow posts. The limits of this water hazard lie within the ditch and between the outer extremities of the yellow posts at either end of the ditch.
- c. The pond on the 10th fairway is an ordinary water hazard, marked by yellow posts. The limits of this hazard are well defined, even in the absence of a marked line on the ground between the yellow posts.
- d. The posts which define the margin of the water hazards are themselves in the hazard. In the event that a ball comes to rest against such a post, the player is not entitled to relief without penalty. The player should either play the ball as it lies or proceed as described in paragraph 3hi, ii or iii, below.
- e. In the event that there is interference from the posts which define the margin of the water hazard, or the bushes growing within the pond on the 10th fairway, when a ball is at rest within the hazard, the player is not entitled to relief without penalty. The player should either play the ball as it lies or proceed as described in paragraph 3hi, ii or iii, below.
- f. If a ball is lost in any water hazard the player should proceed as described in paragraph 3 hi, ii or iii, below
- g. If a ball comes to rest in any water hazard, the player should either play the ball as it lies, or proceed as described in paragraph 3 hi, ii or iii, below.
- h. Relief from a water hazard may be taken as follows:
 - i. Under penalty of one stroke, play a ball as close as possible to the spot from which the last stroke outside the hazard was played, or
 - ii. Under penalty of one stroke, drop a ball behind the water hazard, keeping the point at where the ball crossed the margin of the water hazard between the hole and the point at which the ball is dropped, with no limit to how far behind the hazard the ball may be dropped, or
 - iii. **For lateral water hazards only:** under penalty of one stroke, drop a ball outside the water hazard not nearer to the hole, and within two club lengths of:
 - a. the point where the original ball last crossed the margin of the water hazard, or
 - b. a point on the opposite margin of the water hazard equidistant from the hole.

The ball may be cleaned when lifted.

4. GROUND UNDER REPAIR

- a. In addition to those parts of the course which may, from time to time, be marked as GUR (Ground Under Repair), the following should be considered ground under repair and relief without penalty may be taken in accordance with Rule 16:
 - i. When the GUR interferes with the player's stance or area of intended swing, or stroke on a putting green.
 - ii. Hole(s) not in play on a putting green where more than one hole is cut. Relief may ONLY be taken when a player's ball lies on the putting green and when relief is taken, the ball should be placed, not dropped.

Note that the tree nurseries to the left of the 8th and 18th tees are no longer to be considered as GUR. A ball coming to rest in one of these areas must be played as it lies, or relief for an unplayable lie, Rule 19, should be taken under penalty of one stroke.

- b. When a player's ball is lost in GUR, relief may be taken, with no penalty, from the point on the course nearest to where the ball crossed the margin of GUR, provided that it:
 - i. is not nearer the hole,
 - ii. avoids interference from the GUR, and
 - iii. is not in a hazard or on a putting green.

The player must drop a ball within ONE club length of the point on the course which fulfills the above i, ii or iii.

- c. Tree roots – if a player's ball is at rest in the general area and there is interference from tree roots, the tree roots are treated as ground under repair. Interference does not exist if the tree roots only interfere with the player's stance.

5. NO PLAY ZONE

- a. In addition to those parts of the course which may, from time to time, be marked as NPZ (No Play Zone), the following should be considered abnormal course conditions and relief without penalty **MUST** be taken in accordance with Rule 16.
 - i. When the NPZ interferes with the player's stance or area of intended swing,

The player must drop a ball within ONE club length from the reference point. The reference point being the nearest point of complete relief from the No Play Zone but not nearer the hole and in the same area of the course.

6. BUNKERS

Animal footprints (dogs, deer) in bunkers are ground under repair from which free relief is allowed under Rule 16.1. See section 4 above

In addition to the above: GUR signs are now being used. Where you find one in a bunker it means that the whole of the bunker to the top of the surrounding bank is GUR. Where you find one in an area obviously in need of repair, the GUR extends up to where good condition ground exists.

7. AERATION HOLES

On the putting green, a ball that comes to rest in or on an aeration hole may be placed at the nearest spot not nearer the hole that avoids the situation.

8. OUT OF BOUNDS

A ball is out of bounds (OOB) when it comes to rest:

- a. Beyond the boundaries of the course.
- b. On the Clubhouse precincts, including immediately surrounding paths, car parks, gardens, outbuildings and practice putting green.
- c. Beyond the white posts surrounding the Driving Range. (*Note that the fence surrounding the Driving Range, and the supporting stanchions, all lie OOB, therefore relief without penalty may NOT be taken if any part of the fence or stanchions interferes with the player's stance or area of intended swing.*) Also to the left of the 4th and 5th, on the footpath to the left of the 6th hole and the woods to the right of the 7th hole.
- d. On or beyond the footpath to the left of the 12th fairway.
- e. On the mown area of the Pitch and Putt course, to the right of the 10th, 11th and 12th fairways, when no white OOB marker posts are present.

- f. On or beyond all roads.
- g. Balls Lost or Out of Bounds: Alternative to Stroke and Distance: From 1st January 2019, golfers have the option to drop the ball in the vicinity of where the ball is lost or out of bounds (including the nearest **fairway, within 2 club lengths to the edge of the fairway**), **under a two-stroke penalty.**

This is only permissible in General Play rounds.

WHS do not allow this when scores are to be submitted for handicap adjustment i.e. Medal or Stableford competitions and, General Play Rounds which are to be added to a player's Scoring Record. In addition Little Hay Golf Club do not allow this in any of its board competitions.

For full explanation see R&A Rules E-5. Which are displayed on the notice board outside the ladies changing room.

9. SAFETY

Players competing in Little Hay Golf Club competitions and matches are not permitted to intentionally drive down the 9th fairway from the 18th tee. Players must accept full liability for any injuries caused by such an action.

10. PREFERRED LIES

A ball lying in part of the general area cut to fairway height or less may be lifted without penalty and cleaned. The rules do not require the ball to be marked in this case but it is advisable. Having lifted the ball, the player must place it on a spot within 150mm (6 inches) of and not nearer the hole than where it originally lay, that is not in a penalty area and not on a putting green. A player may place his ball only once, and it is in play when it has been placed.

This rule may be applied at any time of year if the committee decide that conditions make preferred lies appropriate and will appear at the top of competition start sheets.