

PHMC Local Rules

GOLF'S NEW RULES: STROKE AND DISTANCE

A new Local Rule provides an alternative to stroke-and-distance relief for a ball that is lost outside a penalty area or out of bounds, effective January 1, 2019.

BALL OUT OF BOUNDS

LOST BALL

If the Local Rule is in effect, you can still take stroke-and-distance relief, but you now have the following additional option that comes with a penalty of two strokes:

A DETERMINE SPOT where your ball went out of bounds (left diagram) or is likely to be lost (right diagram).

B FIND NEAREST FAIRWAY EDGE no closer to the hole.

C DROP YOUR BALL IN SHADED AREA as defined on one side by a line from the hole through point A and on the other side by a line from the hole through point B, and not nearer the hole. The relief area is extended on both sides by two club-lengths.

This Local Rule is not intended for higher levels of play, such as professional or elite amateur level competitions.

R&A USGA

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The Pine Hills Men's Club will now institute the local rule of stroke and distance that has been implemented by the USGA.

If you hit the ball into the trees/woods and are unable to locate your ball after **3 minutes**, or hit the ball out of bounds, please be guided by the above illustration by the USGA. **If you are in doubt, hit a provisional ball prior to going to search for your ball.** A ball hit into the water does not fall under this rule. This link has a video explaining further: [Video for Stroke/Distance Procedure](#)

The purpose of this rule is when a provisional ball has not been played, significant issues with pace of play can result for a player needing to take stroke and distance relief for a ball out of bounds or cannot be found. The purpose of this local rule is to provide an extra relief option that allows a player to play on without returning to the location of the previous stroke. The player determines as close as possible where the ball was lost/OB and then drops the ball within two club lengths from the edge of the rough, in the fairway, no closer to the hole, with a 2 (two) stroke penalty.

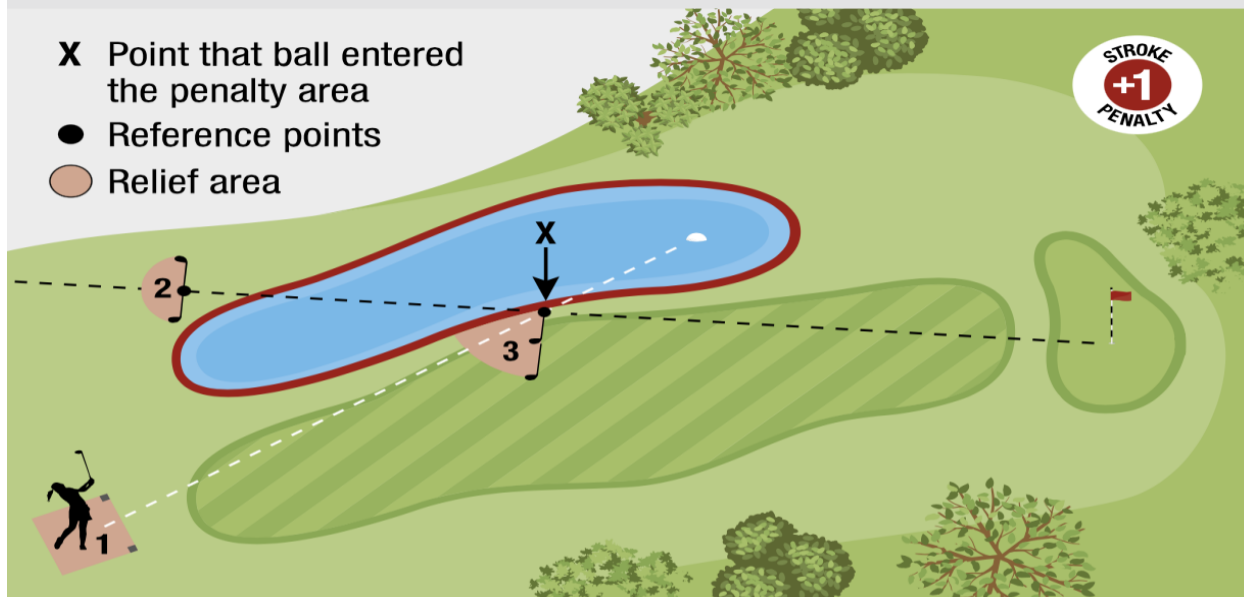
The PHMC encourages the player to use this rule and not to go back and replay their shot for a lost ball.

This local rule cannot be used for an unplayable ball, for a ball that is known or virtually certain to be in a penalty area or has played a provisional ball.

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Relief/Drop for Ball in Red Penalty Area

DIAGRAM #2 17.1d: RELIEF FOR BALL IN RED PENALTY AREA



When it is known or virtually certain that a ball is in a red penalty area and the player wishes to take relief, the player has **three options**, each for one penalty stroke:

- (1) The player may take stroke-and-distance relief (see point (1) in Diagram #1 17.1d).
- (2) The player may take back-on-the-line relief (see point (2) in Diagram #1 17.1d).
- (3) The player may take lateral relief (red penalty area only). The reference point for taking lateral relief is point X, which is the estimated point where the original ball last crossed the edge of the red penalty area. The relief area is two club-lengths from the reference point, is not nearer to the hole than the reference point and may be in any area of the course, except the same penalty area.

1. All unmarked penalty areas will play as **“RED PENALTY AREAS”**. Drop procedure video: [Video on Red Drop Procedure](#) [Video on Back on a Line Relief](#)
2. The left side of the 6th hole, in the woods/trees will have white stakes for “Out of Bounds.”
3. Areas of the course that are under construction, including bunkers, will be played as “Ground under Repair”. On the front nine of the course where trees have been removed you have 3 options: **PLAY THE BALL AS IT LIES or SMOOTH AND PLACE or FROM THE SPOT OF THE BALL, TAKE FREE RELIEF OF 2 CLUB LENGTHS IN EITHER DIRECTION and PLACE THE BALL NO CLOSER TO THE HOLE.** The areas along the left sides of the 10th & 11th holes along with the area between the 11th & 16th holes, you can either **PLAY THE BALL AS IT LIES or FROM THE SPOT OF THE BALL, TAKE FREE RELIEF OF 2 CLUB LENGTHS, IN EITHER DIRECTION and PLACE THE BALL NO CLOSER TO THE HOLE.**
4. The drop area in front of the pond on the 17th hole can be used as an additional option.
5. USGA New rule on Unplayable Lie: [Video on Unplayable Lie](#)
6. Relief from Abnormal Course Condition: [Video on Relief from Abnormal Course Condition](#)
7. 3 Minute Rule for searching for a ball: [3 Minute Rule explained](#)
8. How to take Complete Relief: [Video on taking Nearest Point of Complete Relief](#)

PHMC Local Rules

BALL LOST IN A PENALTY AREA – VIRTUALLY CERTAIN DEFINED - PROCEDURE

The Rule for a ball lost in a penalty area:

Rule 17.1c: If a player's ball has not been found and it is known or virtually certain that the ball came to rest in a penalty area:

- The player may take penalty relief under Rule 17.1d or 17.2.
- Once the player puts another ball in play to take relief in this way:
 - The original ball is no longer in play and must not be played.
 - This is true even if it is then found on the course before the end of the three-minute search time (see Rule 6.3b).

But if it is not known or virtually certain that the ball came to rest in a penalty area and the ball is lost, the player must take stroke-and-distance relief under Rule 18.2.

Known or Virtually Certain defined as:

The standard for deciding what happened to a player's ball – for example, whether the ball came to rest in a penalty area, whether it moved or what caused it to move.

Known or virtually certain means more than just possible or probable. It means that either:

- There is conclusive evidence that the event in question happened to the player's ball, such as when the player or other witnesses saw it happen, or
- Although there is a very small degree of doubt, all reasonably available information shows that it is at least 95% likely that the event in question happened.

“All reasonably available information” includes all information the player knows and all other information he or she can get with reasonable effort and without unreasonable delay.

This situation most often occurs at Pine Hills and has its greatest impact on holes #2, #6 and #11. Since the ball's flight to enter the penalty area (water) is either over or through trees and has out of bounds nearby, the final result of the ball is not visible to the player, which makes it improbable to be virtually certain that the ball entered the penalty area. Therefore, the player must proceed under the lost ball rule. On hole #15 the ball's flight is in the line of sight of the penalty area (water) and can be declared in the penalty area. If the ball is hooking or slicing towards the woods or hits the tree it could be in the woods.

When a ball has been struck and/or deflected and cannot be found, a player may not just assume that his ball is in the penalty area simply because there is a chance that the ball may be in the penalty area. To proceed under Rule 17.1c, it must be “known or virtually certain” that the ball is in the penalty area (water). In the absence of “known or virtual certainty” that it lies in a penalty area (water), a ball that cannot be found must be considered lost or somewhere other than in the penalty area (water) and the player must proceed under Rule 18.2.

PHMC Local Rules

LEAF RULE

(When in effect)

If a player's ball is unable to be found (within three (3) minutes), the player has the following options:

1. The ball is considered lost and the player proceeds under the lost ball rule.
2. With a penalty of one stroke, the player determines as close as possible where the ball was lost and then drops the ball in the fairway within two club lengths from the edge of the rough. The majority of the other players in the group must agree you are dropping in a reasonable location.

The use of the leaf rule was implemented to allow fair play for a ball lost in the leaves that have yet to be removed and the ball should not be lost. Only a ball that cannot be located in the fairway or in the rough near the tree line with leaves present would qualify for the rule. **Balls hit into the trees/woods that cannot be located do not qualify for the leaf rule.**

The Leaf Rule cannot be used for a ball that may be lost, out of bounds, or in a penalty area (hazard).