

OCTOBER RULES TOPICS

What to do when a ball is lost or out of bounds.

At WWGA, there are two options for taking relief for a ball that is out of bounds or lost.

- **Stroke and Distance Relief.** This is almost always the smartest option. If you are not sure if your ball can be found or suspect it is out of bounds remember to play a provisional ball to help pace of play.

Here is a [short video](#) that explains how to take relief under this option as well as how to play a provisional ball.

- **Alternative to Stroke and Distance.** WWGA has adopted this local rule to give you an alternative to taking stroke and distance and can save time if you did not play a provisional ball, but at a hefty price – 2-Stroke Penalty.

Here is a [short video](#) that does a good job explaining how to take relief under this rule for a lost ball.

A few aspects of this rule you may not know.

- This Local Rule cannot be used for an unplayable ball, or for a ball that is known or virtually certain to be in a penalty area.
- If you already hit a provisional ball cannot use Alternative to Stroke and Distance (unless the provisional ball is OB or lost too!)
- For purposes of this Local Rule, “fairway” means any part of the general area cut to fairway height or less on the hole being played.
- 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.
- If the ball is lost or went out of bounds near the green, here is a [diagram](#) that can help you find the relief area.

Issues related to muddy conditions

- We had our first rainstorm, so a couple reminders about taking free relief.
 - You get free relief if your ball lies in standing water, or if standing water interferes with your stance or area of intended swing. However, if it is only muddy and no water is visible at the surface causing the interference, there is no free relief, and the ball must be played as it lies (unless you opt to take relief under penalty of one stroke for an Unplayable Ball).
 - Also, a soggy course can also result in deep ruts created by golf carts in muddy areas. Sadly, these ruts are not Ground Under Repair (GIR) unless they are marked as such. If not marked, then no free relief is allowed.

Scoring

One member (the scorekeeper) was keeping score on the official scorecard and reported that another player entered their own score on the scorecard without notifying or asking the member scorekeeper first. While well-meaning, it is better for the player just to tell the scorekeeper her score. The scorekeeper is responsible for the scores entered on the scorecard and certifies its accuracy with her signature, so it is important that she enters each score, or at least is aware of the scores entered.