

Jackson County Golf Club (JCGC) Local Rules

Revision: June 19, 2025

The JCGC Board of Directors has adopted these Local Rules and modifications listed below in accordance with Rule 5c of the Committee Procedures of the USGA Rules.

The Purpose of these Local Rules is to:

- 1) Ensure that the Local Rules are clear and can be applied uniformly;
- 2) Encourage a reasonable Pace of Play based on the Course Operator's standard.

The Committee: (defined as "The person or group in charge of the competitions or the course") The Committee shall consist of the Course Operator (the management representative of the course being played), the Board of Directors of JCGC, and the Event Coordinator (as assigned to the event by the Board of Directors or the assigned substitute). If a conflict occurs among Committee members regarding a rule, its interpretation or application, the following decision priorities apply. The rules of the Course Operator shall take precedence over the others, then the rules of the Board of Directors shall take precedence, and then the rules of the Event Coordinator.

Violation of a Local Rule is the General Penalty (2 strokes) added to the hole being played, or before the start, to the first hole, or after completion, to the last hole.

The Event Coordinator shall prescribe specific temporary relief rules, limited to those described below, based on his or her knowledge of the course's current condition, only in the event that those conditions are considered abnormal for the course.

Handicap Indexes used for scoring will be as of the day of play per the GHIN system. The Coordinator will have a handicap listing showing handicaps for each set of tees for each player at the check-in station. Generally, the handicap indexes shown will be 2 days prior to the event.

Local Rules

Before the Competition

1. All players must register with the Event Coordinator at least 20 minutes prior to the earliest scheduled Tee Time unless prior arrangements have been made with the Event Coordinator.

2. Rule 5.2b is modified as follows: **If allowed by the Course Operator**, a player may practice on the course before a round in the area close to the first tee to be played, however, the player must not interfere with any players playing the course or delay the start of his/her own group due to the practice.

Note: At the discretion of the Event Coordinator, repeat offenders of Rules 1 and 2 may be assessed the General Penalty. If applied, the player must be notified prior to starting.

After the Competition

Deposit completed scorecards in a container near the last green unless the Event Coordinator announces a different location for turning in completed scorecards.

During the Competition

A. Maximum Score

In accordance with Rule 21.2, The Board of Directors has established the Maximum Gross Score per hole (including any penalty strokes) as two (2) times Par. Example for a Par 4 hole, the Maximum Score is 8. If a player fails to hole out or reaches the maximum gross strokes, including penalties, the player must pick up their ball and record the maximum score for the hole.

B. Pace of Play

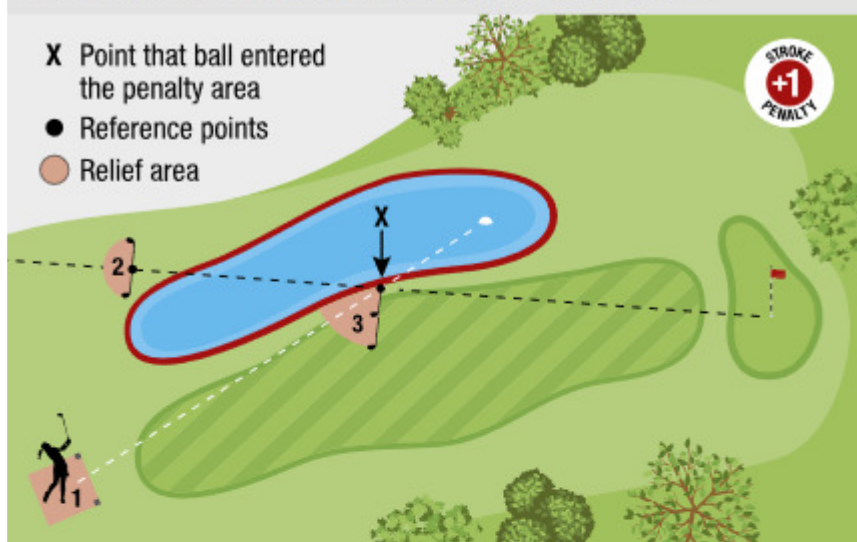
All players will play Ready Golf giving consideration to safe play. All players should play a provisional ball whenever there is reason to believe that their ball has been hit out of bounds or is lost. Rule 18.3a does not allow a provisional ball if you believe your ball is in a penalty area since relief is available with a penalty stroke. Ready Golf is the practice of all players being ready to hit their shot without delay and without waiting for another player that may be closer to the hole. There is no penalty for playing out of turn in Stroke Play.

C. The Course

1. All perimeter roads not within the Course are Out of Bounds.


2. Unless otherwise noted by the Course Operator or in these Local Rules, all areas of the Course that are not regularly maintained year round are to be considered a red Penalty Area as provided in the Definitions of the Rules (Penalty Areas are designated by the Committee and replace "Hazards" under the prior rules). The US Golf Association (USGA) clarifies further by stating that such designated red penalty areas are ones "where a ball is often lost or unable to be played". The Player has the option of playing the ball as it lies without penalty or one of 3 methods of relief as provided in the Rule 17.1.d. with one penalty stroke. These relief methods are illustrated on the following page. The boundary is defined as the obvious change in vegetation or maintenance between the two areas.

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.

Reference Point	Size of Relief Area	Limits on Relief Area
The estimated point where the original ball last crossed the edge of the red penalty area (point X)	Two club-lengths from the reference point 	The relief area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must not be nearer the hole than the reference point, and • May be in any area of the course except the same penalty area

3. The following unmarked areas are designated Out of Bounds:

Smoky Mountain Golf Club – Hole #9 – the non-grassy area to the right of the cart path at the bottom of the hill.

Smoky Mountain Golf Club – Hole #18 –outside the cart path adjacent to the fairway.

D. Relief

1. Out of Bounds – Under Model Local Rule E-5, when a ball is out of bounds and it is known or virtually certain that the ball is not in a Penalty Area, under penalty of 2 strokes, the player may, in lieu of returning to the point of the last stroke, take relief following the appropriate example below.

MLR E-5 DIAGRAM 2: BALL OUT OF BOUNDS

Legend:

- A** Ball reference point
- B** Fairway reference point
- Relief area

When a player's ball is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds, 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 Point	Size of Relief Area	Limits on Relief Area
A. Ball Reference Point: The point where the original ball is estimated to have last crossed the edge of the course boundary to go out of bounds (point A)	Anywhere between: <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 but still on the course), 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) 	The relief area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must not be nearer the hole than the ball reference point, and • Must be in the general area
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		

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.

E. Relief at the Option of the Event Coordinator

1. Leaf Relief - during periods of heavy leaf drop, the Event Coordinator may invoke the following “Leaf Relief Rule”: if your ball has not been found and it is known or virtually certain that it came to rest in a general area littered with leaves, you may take relief without penalty under this Rule. Drop a replacement ball where you believe your ball is likely to have come to rest.

2. Abnormally wet ground - during or following periods of heavy rain, the Event Coordinator may invoke the following “Wet Ground Relief Rule”: if your ball has not been found and it is known or virtually certain that it came to rest in a general area that is soggy and prone to plugging, you may take relief without penalty under this Rule. Drop a replacement ball where you believe your ball is likely to have come to rest.

3. Lift, Clean and Place - if it is expected that the General Area of the Course is muddy, **(the General Area of the Course is all areas except the Teeing Ground, the Green, Penalty Areas, and Bunkers)**, the Event Coordinator may invoke the following “Lift, Clean and Place Rule”: When a player’s ball lies in the general area, the ball may be lifted, cleaned and placed, without penalty. The player must mark the spot before lifting the ball (see [Rule 14.1](#)) and the ball must be placed within **one club length** of the marked spot, but no closer to the hole (see [Rule 14.2](#))

4. Unplayable Bunkers – If information from the Course Operator or experience at the Course makes it likely that many of the bunkers are unplayable due to damage or rain, the Event Coordinator may invoke the following “Unplayable Bunker Rule”: Without penalty, a player may remove his/her ball from the bunker and drop it within one club length of a line extending from the hole through the point in the bunker where the ball came to rest, as far back on the line as desired.

5 Recently Aerated Greens. When greens have been recently aerated and the Coordinator determines the greens are not back to their normal putting surface the following relief may be applied. If the ball is within two feet of the hole, based on the consensus of the group, the player may pick up and add one stroke in lieu of a final stroke. For example, if a player is lying 3 within two feet of the hole, the player may pick up and record a score of 4.

F. Other specific relief is as follows:

1. Mill Creek, Hole #3 –if a player hits into the lake on her/his second or greater shot, she/he may drop in the Drop Zone on the far side of the lake. Penalty is one stroke.

2. Sequoyah, – if a player hits her/his Tee Shot into a Penalty Area, she/he may move up as many tees as desired, adding 2 penalty strokes for each Tee Box moved forward. The Ball may NOT be teed up at a forward tee box.

The illustrations used in this document were extracted from The Official Guidebook to the Rules of Golf, Effective January, 2019.