

CLUB ELIGIBILITY and EVENT REGISTRATION

1. Handicaps

Current, accurate handicaps are required for tournament participation. It is YOUR responsibility to post all scores in accordance with current USGA handicap rules (our event/tournament scores are posted by the Tournament Committee). Scores of rounds played in Minnesota between April 1 and October 31 must be posted. Baker Golf Club member handicaps are reviewed by the USGA and will be under local review by the Baker Golf Club Handicap Committee. The Committee shall have the authority to adjust handicaps for events as required and as part of this review process. You can either download the ghin app to your phone or post scores at ghin.com.

The Red Barn League adheres strictly to the Rules of Handicapping within the World Handicapping System. New members or those who have a lapsed USGA handicap or are new to the GHIN system are expected to establish an official USGA handicap by the end of May. With the new World Handicap System effective January 2020 it only takes a minimum of 54 scored holes to establish a handicap. Your lowest 8 of your last 20 scores is always used for players with 20 or more posted rounds.

Course Handicap = Handicap Index X (slope rating/113) + (course rating – par).

Max Hole Score = Net Double Bogey. Meaning if you don't get a stroke on a hole, your max hole score is double bogey. If you get 1 stroke on a hole, your max hole score is a triple bogey.

2. Illegal Clubs

Any club that has been ruled non-conforming by the USGA will not be allowed in Red Barn Golf League events. If a non-conforming club is found in any members' bag once s/he has played his/her first ball that member and or his/her team will be immediately disqualified.

3. Tees

Members who wish to play from the silver tees in 2025 should be aware of the following:

- A. Members qualify if their age plus course handicap at the start of the season totals 75 or greater.

B. Players who qualify for the silver tees may choose to opt out and play the white tees. (If you opted out in 2024 you will remain on the opt out list for 2025.) Please let the Tournament Committee know if you want to newly elect for silver tees in 2025.

C. Players who do not meet the age + course handicap threshold may petition the BGC Board to consider their request to play silver tees.

4. Rule Challenges

If there is any doubt on how to proceed or which USGA rule applies in any situation, play a second ball under the alternate rule assumption and record both scores. The Tournament

Committee or club professional on duty will rule on the correct procedure and determine which score to use.

LOCAL RULES

. The following definitions are from the USGA rule:

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.

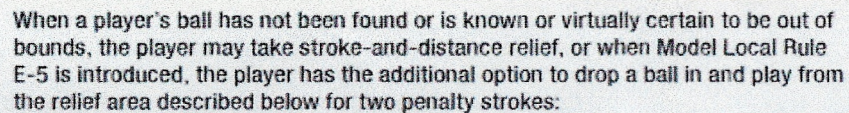
We are also providing two additional opportunities for our members to learn more about this rule.

First, you can cut and paste the url below in your browser. It is a link to the USGA's video on the application of the rule.

<http://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules-hub/rules-modernization/major-changes/golfs-new-rules-stroke-and-distance.html>

Because the application of the rule is less clear once you are beyond the area considered fairway, in other words you lose your ball on either side of or behind a green, we have also provided a second example below from Doug Hoffman, the Director of Rules and Competition for the Minnesota Golf Association.

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



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The 20 Most Important Rule Changes for 2019

(These are in addition to the local rule above)

1. *Search time* - reduced from 5 minutes to 3 minutes
2. *Ball moved during search* – replace without penalty
3. *Embedded ball* – free relief anywhere throughout the course
4. *Measuring a drop* – use longest club (except putter)
5. *Dropping* – drop from knee height rather than shoulder
6. *Taking stance on wrong green* – not permitted
7. *Ball unintentionally hits player or equipment* – no penalty
8. *Double hit* – no penalty, now counts as the 1 stroke
9. *Touching sand in bunker incidentally* – now permitted
10. *Loose impediments* – can be removed anywhere
11. *Dropping a ball out of bunker* – 2 penalty strokes
12. *Water hazards* – now called ‘penalty areas’
13. *Touching ground in penalty area* – no penalty
14. *Ball moves on green after being marked* – replace without penalty
15. *Ball accidentally moved on putting green* – replace without penalty
16. *All damage to green* – can now be repaired
17. *Positioning a club for alignment* – not permitted
18. *Caddie assisting with alignment* – not permitted
19. *Putting with flagstick in hole with ball on green* – now permitted
20. *Ball wedged against flagstick and side of hole* – now deemed as holed

For a complete guide to the new rule changes you can copy the following url and paste it into your browser.

<http://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/rules-hub/rules-modernization/major-changes/major-changes.html>

Other local rules used in competition by the Red Barn Golf League

- No relief can be taken from the “Barn” to the right of #1 green. The Barn is considered an integral object (not an immovable obstruction) and is considered as part of the challenge of playing Baker National. You always have the option of taking an unplayable lie with the 1 stroke penalty.
- On hole #14, #15 and #16, if there is a possibility that your tee ball has landed in the penalty area (hazard), you may play a provisional ball. (This local rule is an exception from the Rules of Golf and is added to improve pace of play). If you hit into the trees to the right side of #15, you are not entitled to use the drop area. You can either re-hit or use the local rule option in which case you will be hitting 4 following the drop.

- Yardage Measuring Devices are allowed during play under rule 4.3a. “If during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his or her play (e.g. elevation changes, wind speed, etc) the player is in breach of rule 4.3, for which the penalty is two strokes for the first offense and disqualification for the subsequent offense.” While green reading books/apps are legal (showing heat maps and directional arrows) apps like “Putt Line” (utilized in enhanced versions in apps like golf logic) which indicate putt’s distance, elevation change, break, speed, and optimal aim point are not legal in competitive play and are subject to the same penalties as above for rule 4.3a.