

AWGA Local Rules, Exceptions & Relief Options

USGA rules will apply with the following exceptions:

Penalty Areas: All bodies of water are defined as penalty areas.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas (local rule): The courses have identified wooded areas and/or unmown grassy areas as environmentally sensitive areas (ESA) and may be marked as penalty areas. In the absence of a line or stakes, ESA boundary will be determined by the mow line. A ball that enters one of these areas laterally (from the side) may be played the same as a ball that has entered a penalty area EXCEPT you MAY NOT enter the ESA to search for your ball. If your ball can be identified from outside of the ESA, you may enter the area to hit your ball as it lies. If you are reasonably certain that your ball has entered one of these areas, the other penalty area options may be used with a **penalty of one stroke**.

Drop Zones for Penalty Areas on specific holes (local rule): If a ball comes to rest in a penalty area or ESA that is designed to be cleared (hit over), a drop zone may be used incurring a **penalty of one stroke**.

Designated drop zones are as follows:

- **Lake Arlington - #11** - center of the rough just green side of the boundary of the ESA (left).
- **Tierra Verde - #2, #3, #6, #10, #12, #13 and #18** – center of the rough just green side of the boundary of the penalty area; **#4 and #14** – right side of cart path just green side of the boundary of the penalty area; **#7, #8, #11** – Center of the rough just green side of the boundary of the ESA.
- **Texas Rangers - #3, #4 and #9** – center of the rough just green side of the boundary of the penalty area.

All stakes are deemed to be Immovable Obstructions (local rule). This is done to avoid pulling up a stake, thus loosening its position in the ground even if it is replaced. This includes cart path signs.

Putting: Putts must be holed out.

Rocky Areas in Rough (local rule): When your ball lies on the rocks in the rough, you may find the nearest rock free surface, not closer to the hole (not necessarily on grass) and place your ball there with no penalty. This relief is to protect your club, not to improve line to the hole. (For example, if the ball is behind a tree, it must remain behind the tree.)

Lift, Clean and Place (local rule): A ball lying in the general area (anywhere except penalty areas, ESA's, bunkers and tee box or green of the hole being played) may be marked, lifted and cleaned without penalty and placed within 1 grip length of where it originally lay, no closer to the hole. This relief is not intended to improve your stance or your line to the hole and should stay in a "like position". Lift, clean and place does not apply when in a penalty area.

Lake Arlington Special Conditions (local rule): The rail fence left of #2 fairway/green shall be played as an **immovable obstruction to right of fence** with free relief granted if it interferes with stance or area of intended swing, and played as **penalty area left of fence** with relief options below. The concrete drain between #7 green and #8 tee box shall be played as an immovable obstruction with free relief. The area to the **right of the cart path on #11** shall be played as a penalty area. If you wish to take relief rather than playing the ball as it lies, relief (with one stroke penalty) may be taken from the fairway side of the cart path as the boundary.

Provisional Ball (18): If a ball might be lost outside a penalty area or be out of bounds, another ball may be played from the original location to save time. Before the stroke is made the player MUST use the word "provisional" or indicate ball is being played provisionally.

If you are unsure of a ruling, play a second ball (informing your fellow competitors you are doing so), record both scores and check with the Rules Committee at the conclusion of play. Take a photo!

Penalty Areas (17) Relief: All bodies of water are defined as penalty areas. The player may either play the ball as it lies without penalty or play a ball from outside the penalty area by taking relief. If a player's ball is in a penalty area, including when it is known or virtually to be in a penalty area even though not found, the player has these relief options, each for **one penalty stroke**:

1. **Stroke-and-Distance Relief.** The player may play a ball from where the previous stroke was made.
2. **Back-on-the-Line Relief.** The player may drop a ball outside the penalty area, keeping the estimated point of entry to penalty area between the hole and the spot where the ball is dropped. The spot on the line where the ball first touches the ground when dropped creates a relief area that is one club-length in any direction from that point, no closer to the hole.
3. **Lateral Relief (Red Penalty Area).** The player may drop a ball in the lateral relief area **two club-lengths** from where the original ball crossed the red penalty area, no closer to the hole.
4. **Use Drop Zones Identified in Local Rules.**

Obstruction(15) (16) Relief: A player will have free relief (one club length) in the general area if the obstruction interferes with area of intended stance or area of intended swing (or line on green only, not line to green). No relief is given for items marking out of bounds. **All stakes are deemed immovable per Local Rules.**

Out of Bounds or Lost Ball (18) Relief: A ball is out of bounds only when all of it is outside the boundary edge (course-side of white stakes or white line). If a ball is lost or out of bounds, the player must take stroke-and-distance relief by adding **one penalty stroke** and playing a ball from where the previous stroke was made. Or **AWGA Local Rule E-5 option with a two-stroke penalty.**

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.

Unplayable Ball (19) Relief: A player may take unplayable ball relief anywhere except penalty area (Rule 19.2), adding **one penalty stroke**, using Stroke-and-Distance Relief, Back-on-The-Line Relief or Lateral Relief identified above. A player may take **unplayable relief in a bunker**, adding **one penalty stroke**, under options in Rule 19.2 **except the ball must be dropped in the bunker** for back-on-the-line relief or lateral relief. Or for a **total of two penalty strokes**, the player may take back-on-the-line relief outside the bunker.

Abnormal Course Conditions (16) Relief: Free relief is allowed anywhere on the course, except penalty areas, from interference by animal holes, ground under repair, immovable obstructions or temporary water. Relief area is one club-length from nearest point of complete relief in **general area**. In a **bunker**, nearest point of complete relief must be in the bunker or for **one stroke penalty**, relief may be outside that bunker, as far back on the line then within one club-length in any direction. **Embedded Ball** is free relief of one club length if part of the ball is below the level of the ground in the general area (excludes bunkers, penalty areas and ESAs).