

We have an approved Local Rule which provides an alternative to stroke and distance relief. This Local Rule is recommended for casual play and not for competitions involving highly skilled players. At Via Verde we do not have these types of competitions. For two penalty strokes, you can estimate the spot where your ball is lost or went out of bounds and then find the nearest fairway edge that is not nearer the hole than the estimated spot. You can drop a ball in the fairway within two club-lengths of that fairway edge point, or anywhere between there and the estimated spot where your ball is lost or went out of bounds.

Bunkers: When there is standing water (mud is not considered “standing water”) in a bunker you may take relief without penalty as long as you keep your ball in the bunker. You may take one club length and drop the ball. If the entire bunker has been deemed “unplayable” you may drop outside the bunker no closer to the hole. If the bunker is not deemed unplayable you may drop outside the bunker no closer to the hole with a penalty stroke.

Burrowing animals continue to cause some concerns. Simply put, if your ball or stance is on or in a burrowing animal hole or is on or in RECENT tailings you may take a penalty free drop within one club length no closer to the hole. I emphasize RECENT since the definition of what constitutes relief seems to have been expanded to include anything where grass isn't growing. Flattened areas of dirt with no grass that may have been the result of burrowing animal tailings from years past is not grounds for relief. It's just unfortunate. Play on. Additionally, the hillsides such as on hole #8, #12, #15 should not be viewed as 100% burrowing animal areas. The majority of the uneven areas are the result of shifting dirt due to erosion and people trying to walk on the hillsides. If your ball is unplayable, proceed according to the rules, otherwise you may hit from the hillside.

All the Board Approved local rules are in effect for all regular play and for all tournaments that are sponsored by the Men's Association.