

FHIC Local rules (06/10/2026)

Sand areas holes 6, 7ⁱ. The prepared area[s] of sand to the left and front of the tee boxes on hole 6 and to the right and front of the tee boxes on hole 7 are part of the general area and are not bunkers.

Standing stones and surround, 7 green/8 tee. To be treated as part of cart path: free drop, x club lengths, no closer to the hole.

Provisional ball, holes 13, 15 18ⁱⁱ If a player does not know whether their ball is in the penalty area on hole 13 (defined by yellow stakes), 15 (defined by red stakes), and 18 (areas defined by yellow and red stakes), the player may play a provisional ball under Rule 18.3 which is modified as outlined in the end note.

Preferred lies in fairways and drop areasⁱⁱⁱ Ball may be rolled no more than 6 inches, no closer to the hole. Ball should not be cleaned.

Bunkers^{iv}. Ball coming to rest in a (human or animal) footprint may be moved and placed just outside the footprint (cannot rake area), no closer to the hole.

Reminders/guidance

Conceded putts and 'gimmies'^v. Any putts longer than 12 inches should be putted out

Identifying balls^{vi}. Players should be able to fully identify their balls. They should communicate their ball information to opponents and playing partners, on the first tee, and at any point if/when another ball is brought into play.

Balls hit into (and potentially lost in) non-penalty areas^{vii}

There are many places on the course that are *not* red/yellow staked penalty areas where balls can be hit and prove difficult to find. Possible outcomes are detailed in the end note, but in summary

1. The ball is found and can be played as it lies.
2. The ball is found and identified, and is unplayable (as deemed by the player), then red area options apply (with a penalty stroke), 1) stroke and distance relief, 2) back-on-the-line relief, 3) drop within two club-lengths of where your ball lies, no closer to the hole (lateral relief).
3. If the ball is NOT found, the first option is the only one available: go back to the spot of the previous stroke and play again (stroke and distance relief). To avoid delays in play, please play a provisional ball if you think your ball might be in one of these areas.

ⁱ The definition of “bunker” specifies that a Committee may define a prepared area of sand as part of the general area or define a non-prepared area of sand as a bunker, by Local Rule. This local rule (Model Local Rule C-2.1) defines those prepared areas of sand on holes 6,7 as part of the general area.

ⁱⁱ B-3 Provisional Ball for Ball in a Penalty Area

Purpose. Under [Rule 18.3](#), a player is not allowed to play a ball provisionally if it is known or virtually certain that their ball is in a penalty area. But in unusual cases, the size, shape or location of a penalty area may be such that:

- The player cannot see whether the ball is in the penalty area,
- It would unreasonably delay play if the player had to go forward to look for the ball before returning to play another ball either under penalty of stroke and distance or another option under [Rule 17](#), and
- If the original ball is not found, it would be known or virtually certain that the ball is in the penalty area.

For such situations, to save time a Committee may choose to modify [Rule 18.3](#):

- [Rule 18.3a](#) is modified to allow the player to play a ball provisionally under [Rule 17.1d\(1\)](#), [Rule 17.1d\(2\)](#) or, for a red penalty area, [Rule 17.1d\(3\)](#).
- [Rules 18.3b](#) and [18.3c](#) are modified to state when such a provisional ball must or may be played or abandoned, as stated in the Model Local Rule.

In playing the provisional ball, the player may use the stroke-and-distance relief option (see [Rule 17.1d\(1\)](#)), the back-on-the-line relief option (see [Rule 17.1d\(2\)](#)) or, if it is a red penalty area, the lateral relief option (see [Rule 17.1d\(3\)](#)). If a dropping zone is available for this penalty area, (see [Model Local Rule E-1](#)), the player may also use that relief option.

Once the player has played a provisional ball under this Rule, they may not use any further options under [Rule 17.1](#) in relation to the original ball.

In deciding when that provisional ball becomes the player’s ball in play or if it must or may be abandoned, [Rule 18.3c\(2\)](#) and [18.3c\(3\)](#) apply except that:

- When Original Ball Is Found in Penalty Area Within Three-Minute Search Time. The player may choose either to:
 - Continue to play the original ball as it lies in the penalty area, in which case the provisional ball must not be played. All strokes with that provisional ball before it was abandoned (including strokes made and any penalty strokes solely from playing that ball) do not count, or
 - Continue to play the provisional ball in which case the original ball must not be played.
- When Original Ball Is Not Found Within Three-Minute Search Time or Is Known or Virtually Certain to Be in Penalty Area. The provisional ball becomes the player’s ball in play.

ⁱⁱⁱ This is normal Fenner Hill practice, but should be recognized and clarified as rolling the ball no more than 6 inches, not closer to the hole. Balls should NOT be cleaned as part of this. The application to drop areas applies when that area is in a fairway or in a rough. [Separately, if local conditions merit, “lift, clean and place” options may be implemented]

^{iv} Other imperfections in bunkers are bad luck. Players should NOT pick up the ball, rake, and replace. Consult with your fellow competitor before taking relief from a footprint.

^v In match play putts of any length can be conceded, obviously, but a reminder that such concessions cannot be refused. In other events, notably when scores are matched against the field (weeklies, Bill Gross events) putts of 12” or more should be putted out!

^{vi} Kind of obvious, really, but this can avoid some problems

^{vii} If it is found and can be played as it lies, no problem.

If ball is found and identified, and is unplayable (as deemed by the player), then with a penalty stroke, the first option is to go back to the spot of the previous stroke and play again (stroke and distance relief). The

second option is to go back as far as you'd like and drop on the line from the hole through the spot where the ball lies (back-on-the-line relief). The third option is to drop anywhere within two club-lengths of where your ball lies, no closer to the hole (lateral relief). (Note: Those two club lengths may not get the ball to where it can be hit!)

If the ball is NOT found, it is common to shrug, say "it's in there somewhere, I'll drop one" but the rule says "the first option is the only one available: go back to the spot of your previous stroke and play again (stroke and distance relief)." In essence, this is the same as hitting a ball out of bounds: FHIC does not use the optional local rule for o/b (2-stroke penalty, drop where it goes out) that would also apply here. Hence the advice to play a provisional ball

Examples of the areas at Fenner Hill where this can occur:

Hole 1. Bushes, trees to the left of the green

Hole 3. Wooded area to the right of the last 100 yards of the hole

Hole 4. Brushy area beyond the cart path to the left of the green

Hole 7/8 Bushes between fairways

Hole 9. Bush to the right before pond. Bushes to the left of the green (halfway to 18 green)

Hole 10 Bushy area to the left of the green, woody area at back of green

Hole 12/14 "THE bush"

Hole 15. Bushes to left of tee. Woods to the right near 17th tee.

Hole 17 Woods to the right of the drop area and initial part of the fairway

Hole 18 Trees to the left of the cart path within 150 yards of the tee. [This is probably the one area of the course where the rules are sometimes correctly applied!]. Bushes right of green