

2026 LVC Rules Overview and Questions Submitted (only applies to this Tournament)

1. **GOOD/GOOD:** you can agree with your opponent on a one-hole agreement basis if you are going to each give each other the putts on a hole. You must ask on every hole. If your opponent says okay, then you both pickup. If your opponent says no, then you continue play of the hole.
2. **Environmental Penalty Areas (Red or Yellow stakes with GREEN Tops):** If your ball is IN the environmental penalty area, do NOT go in and look for it nor retrieve your ball. If you do either of these things, in Fourball you are out of that hole, and in Alternate Shot & Singles, you lose the hole. If your ball is NOT in the environmental area, but you are helping to look or are picking up another ball, you get a one stroke penalty.
3. **Red stake with a White top:** this is the boundary of the penalty area and the white top means dangerous area ahead (e.g., bulkhead)
4. **Provisional Ball:** You may hit a provisional ball if you believe your ball was hit Out of Bounds. You MUST announce that you are hitting a provisional ball, otherwise it is considered a one stroke penalty for taking stroke and distance relief. If it turns out that that your original ball is most likely or is found in a penalty area, your provisional ball must be abandoned. After hitting a provisional ball, if your ball is found anywhere other than a penalty area, you must abandon your provisional ball and continue playing your original ball.
5. **Care for the course – fixing divots:** You may NOT fix a divot or indentation that affects or changes the lie of your ball before hitting your ball, even for care of the course. You may take embedded ball relief if your ball is embedded in fairway height grass, but you cannot fix the hole made when your ball embedded until AFTER you hit your ball
6. **Cane Hibiscus #3 sandy area near cart path and ball in a rut:** You & your opponent decide if it is an abnormal course condition (not a naturally occurring feature meant as part of the challenge of the course), or just a poor lie due to a bad shot. If you don't agree, take a picture, play the ball the way you think it should be played, and allow your opponent to request a ruling before your match tees off on the next hole.
7. **Relief for a Lost Ball in General Area:** You have two options - either Stroke & Distance relief from where you last hit (1 penalty stroke) or use the local rule for relief up to two club lengths into the fairway (2 penalty strokes)
8. **Embedded (“plugged”) Ball below the surface of the earth:** embedded ball in the general area or on the green gets free relief if embedded in any pitch mark
9. **Ball Crosses Water & Rolls Back into Water:** For a ball that crosses the edge of the red penalty area on the far side of the water/area, hits the general area and rolls back into the water, you can take lateral relief on the far side of the penalty area. For a yellow penalty area, you must take relief on the near side of the penalty area since lateral relief is not available to you.
10. **Ball enters area of decorative bushes and plants:** If there is a blue stake, you should take free relief (one club length no closer to the hole). If there are no blue stakes you can play the ball as it lies or take unplayable ball relief (stroke & distance, lateral relief (2 club lengths), or back on line relief).
11. **Cart Path Relief:** relief from the cart path is FREE relief NOT best relief. If free relief is in bushes lining the cart path, too bad!
12. **Sprinkler Heads near Green:** we do NOT play the local rule where you get relief from sprinkler heads near the green if the sprinkler is in your line of putt from off the green
13. **Where to take relief:** Penalty Area and Out of Bounds Relief areas are always determined by where the ball crossed the penalty area of out of Bounds line, not where the ball comes to rest.
14. **Out of Bounds Relief:** You Cannot use back on line relief for an out of bounds ball. Your two options are either Stroke & Distance (1 penalty stroke) or 2 club lengths into the fairway (2 penalty strokes)
15. **Ground Under Repair:** you and your opponent should agree whether an area is ground under repair. You can play from within Ground Under Repair, unless otherwise posted on the course