Ball That is Lost or Out of Bounds (Alternative Playing a Provisional Ball)

When a ball cannot be found or is known or virtually certain to be out of bounds, you do not need to play a provisional ball. For two penalty strokes: find the spot where you believe the ball is lost or crossed the edge of the course boundary to go out of bounds and then determine the distance from that point to the flag. Go to the edge of the fairway and find the same distance. Take an additional two club lengths and drop the ball no closer to the hole within those two club lengths. You are now hitting four, the same as if you had hit a provisional ball.

Note: This option may not be used if you already hit a provisional ball under Rule 18-1